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HOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 1 • September 5, 1997

With Dedication Of Our Mother Of Africa Chapel, 'It's Our Turn'

CNS photo by Michael Hoyt

Adron Butler and Cora Elizabeth Alphonso of Albany, N.Y., visit the newly dedicated Our Mother of Africa Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Aug. 30. It is the last of 60 chapels to be dedicated at the shrine recognizing the veneration of Mary by various ethnic groups.

Members of the Diocese of Charlotte attend the National Black Catholic Congress and participate as new chapel is dedicated in spirit of "evangelization and renewal."

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the Aug. 30 dedication of the Our Mother of Africa Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, "now it's our turn," Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., said at a Mass marking the chapel's dedication.

It was the last of 60 chapels built over the years at the shrine recognizing how different ethnic groups venerate Mary. "Cardinal Hickey, I hope it's appropriate to say you've saved the best for last," Bishop Ricard said to an ovation from the estimated 6,000 worshipers at the Mass.

> *"Let us have the resolve to speak in faith and in love."*
>
> Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla.

Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington conducted the dedication ceremony at the chapel, which is located in a northwestern corner of the shrine's crypt level.

Attending was a group from the Charlotte Diocese whose members included the Very Rev. Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor; Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor; several clergy and a number of lay people.

"There was such a mood of closeness," said Jeanne Bowman, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. "Everyone seemed to draw together, and it was a wonderful experience to see that many people there."

The solemnity of the ceremony repeatedly gave way to joyous gospel music and tireless calls and responses between preachers and the people during the three-hour Mass.

The dedication was a crowning point during the Aug. 28-31 National Black Catholic Congress, which was held in nearby Baltimore. Though half of the worshipers were Catholics who came independently to the ceremony, parishioners of the Charlotte Diocese also attended the congress.

Bishop Ricard, who led the effort to build the chapel, called it in his homily "a monument to our faith ... which in turn represents our joys and struggles. It integrates the best themes of Western and African art."

For black Catholics, it means "the assumption of our rightful place among the sons and daughters of other cultures," Bishop Ricard said.

He warned that the chapel "can soon be forgotten..... It can be a relic of the long and distant past unless there's always the understanding that this chapel reflects the dimension of a faith that's alive."

Bishop Ricard said he wanted the dedication to take place "in a context of evangelization and renewal." Evangelization was the theme of the congress.

He told the story of a 12-year-old boy who approached him last year out-

See **Congress,** page 2

Catholics Around The World React To Diana's Sudden Death

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa and British Cardinal George Basil Hume were among those expressing their sorrow following the sudden death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In a Sept. 1 telegram, the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, said Pope John Paul was "deeply saddened" at the news of Diana's death the previous day, and "has offered prayers commending her to our Heavenly Father's eternal love."

Cardinal Sodano asked Cardinal Hume to convey the pope's "heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, assuring her that he shares the sorrow of the British people."

Diana, her friend Dodi Al Fayed, and a driver were killed after the car in which they were riding crashed as they sped away from a posse of photographers Aug. 30. A bodyguard survived.

In Calcutta, India, Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity nuns offered their condolences over the death of

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Catholics Worldwide Remember Princess Diana, from page

CNS photo from Reuters

A nun holding a rosary prays outside Buckingham Palace Aug. 31 following the death of Princess Diana in a car crash in Paris.

Diana, remembering their mutual concern for the poor.

"I am very sorry. All the sisters and I are praying for her and her family to know God's peace and comfort in this moment," Mother Teresa said during an impromptu press conference Aug. 31.

The nobel laureate nun spoke of the 36-year-old princess having great love for the poor and wanting to know more about the poor and handicapped, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Mother Teresa's close associate, Sunita Kumar, who spoke for the order, said upon hearing the news of Diana's death that the Missionaries of Charity immediately went into the chapel to pray, taking turns all day long. Kumar said Mother Teresa was overheard saying "ways of God" intermittently in her prayers.

In Westminster, England, Cardinal Hume was awakened by his staff with the news the morning of Aug. 31.

"I am greatly distressed at the news of the death of Princess Diana and the awful suddenness in which it came upon us all," the cardinal said. "My deepest sympathy goes out to all the royal family, and particularly to her two sons, to whom she was so devoted.

"She will be remembered with great gratitude by so many of those whom she endeavored to assist in so many ways."

Cardinal Hume was one of the religious leaders involved in the wedding of the then-Lady Diana Spencer to Charles, Prince of Wales, in 1981 at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Prince Charles and Diana divorced in 1996.

Since then, Cardinal Hume had met Diana on many occasions, accompanying her on visits to Catholic charities such as the Passage Day Center, a project to aid London's street homeless, and to the 1994 opening of a hostel run by the Depaul Trust for homeless young people.

In Ottawa, the Canadian flag on the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill was lowered to half-staff as Canadians joined millions around the world in mourning the death of Diana.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien called the mishap a "senseless accident" and noted that in the last few years, Diana had devoted "a lot of her time and energy for the causes that affect the weakest in society."

Governor General Romeo LeBlanc, the queen's representative in Canada, said all Canadians mourned the death of the princess.

"She was strong in her belief and her compassion, and her dedication to humanitarian causes were widely admired," said LeBlanc.

The death of the princess at the age of 36 left many people in shock and grief. Britain's principal television and radio stations abandoned their scheduled programs, devoting hour after hour to news of the tragedy.

On his way to Mass with his family in the northeast of England, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he was "utterly devastated" at the news. Blair, a practicing member of the Church of England, regularly attends Mass with his wife and children, who are Catholic.

"How difficult things were for her we can only guess at," he said, his voice cracking with emotion. "People, however, kept faith with Princess Diana. They liked her, they loved her."

Diana's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, a convert to Catholicism, made no public comments or statements on the death of her daughter. Shand Kydd's parish priest, Father Roddie Johnson, of St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban, Scotland, was interviewed on BBC radio Aug. 31.

"Any mother who has lost a daughter will understand what it is that Frances is going through," the priest said.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

Gregory the Great

As pope from 590 to 604, Gregory was energetic and charitable. He looked after victims of famine and plague and made contributions to the poor. Gregory is known for many writings especially "Dialogues" and "Pastoral Rule," which set guidelines for the ministry of bishops. Although he instituted liturgical reforms, it is not known for sure if he was responsible for the chant that bears his name. St. Gregory was named Father and Doctor of the Church. His feast is Sept. 3.

Saints & Scripture

© 1997 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of September 7-13

Sunday	Isaiah 35: 4-7 James 2: 1-5 Mark 7: 31-37
Monday	Micah 5: 1-4a or Romans 8: 28-30 Matthew 1: 1-16, 18-23 or Matthew 1: 18-23
Tuesday	Colossians 2: 6-15 Luke 6: 12-19
Wednesday	Colossians 3: 1-11 Luke 6: 20-26
Thursday	Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 6: 27-38
Friday	1 Timothy 1: 1-2, 12-14 Luke 6: 39-42
Saturday	1 Timothy 1: 15-17 Luke 6: 43-49

National Black Congress Meets, Chapel Dedicated In Washington, from page 1

side the Baltimore church where he had been living. The boy clutched the bishop's arms and told him: "I want you to pray for me. Right now."

Bishop Ricard, not wanting to be late for a confirmation ceremony, said he only briefly argued with the boy before he gave in to his request.

But children across the street, witnessing the episode, also ran to the bishop to ask for his prayers. Sensing that this could get out of hand, Bishop Ricard inquired why the youngsters simply didn't go into the open church if they wanted to be prayed for.

One of the girls told him sadly, "We ain't got no church clothes."

Bishop Ricard said that for all the parishioners' good points, they probably would have kept the children at arm's length simply because of their poor dress. "In so many ways, we don't fulfill the commandment of Jesus welcoming, loving, embracing, even among those in our midst," he said.

"If God spoke to me through those children, God will surely speak to us. Let us have the resolve to speak in faith and in love."

Freddie Dewalt, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church and a member of the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte, agreed with Bishop Ricard's statements. "We've got to let people know who we are and why we are," he said. "All the speakers (at the congress) dealt with trying to reach out to people — and what people we need to reach."

The dedication ceremony, interspersed with the spirituals "Wash Me," "Steal Away" and "This Little Light of Mine," was led by Cardinal Hickey, nearly three dozen other bishops — including 11 prelates wearing kente cloth vestments — and 12 "elders" chosen by congress leaders.

One of the elders, 97-year-old Marguerite Wilson of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, said the dedication ceremony nearly brought her to tears.

Almost as soon as the ceremony was concluded, hundreds of worshipers crowded in and around the newly dedicated chapel to look and to pray.

As the ceremony was being conducted, the Mass took on elements of a revival meeting led by the urgency of the gospel tunes and the exhortations of Precious Blood Father Clarence Williams, director of the office for black Catholics in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

"We're all here because somebody prayed for us — some mother, some grandmother, some auntie, some sister," he said to applause from the assembly.

Noting how a team of UCLA scientists determined that through DNA tracing "we are all descendants of one mother in Africa," Father Williams said the Our Mother of Africa chapel is for "every European, every South and North American, every Asian, everyone in the Pacific Rim, every Hawaiian Islander. Amen, church?" to which the assembly replied with a roaring "Amen!"

Give Generously To Catholic University Of America

The Diocese of Charlotte • P.O. Box 36776 • Charlotte, NC 28236 • (704) 377-6871

The Chancery

August 25, 1997

Dear Friends in Christ:

On the weekend of September 13-14, a collection for The Catholic University of America will be taken in all parishes of our diocese.

The Catholic University of America is our national research center for Catholic Theology, Philosophy and Law. The University is unique among the institutions of Catholic higher education in America, with its ecclesiastical degrees. Founded by the Bishops of the U.S. in 1887, the University is very grateful for our past support that enables it to continue its original charter from Pope Leo XIII.

The University has educated more bishops and priests than any other institute. These Church leaders, along with the many religious and laity that have CUA educations, minister in every diocese in the nation. Also, the University is unique, with its dual degree program in Canon Law and Civil Law that is so necessary to the functioning of our diocese. Through the efforts of the University, a national study is now under way to support Catholic grade and high schools.

The success of The Catholic University of America depends on us. Please be generous in your response to the diocesan collection.

Wishing you and yours God's abundant blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Rev. Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

1524 E. Morehead St. • Charlotte, NC • 28207

Engaged Encounter Ministry Seeks Support

Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson shares a meal with two prospective Engaged Encounter team members at a Charlotte cookout in August.

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — For decades, Catholic leaders from the Vatican to diocesan chanceries have praised and encouraged marriage preparation efforts for couples entering the sacramental bond of matrimony. As elsewhere throughout the United States and the world, the Diocese of Charlotte offers a supportive program for engaged couples allowing them to extensively explore the vocation they will soon undertake. A cornerstone of marriage preparation in the diocese is the Engaged Encounter weekend.

While much of the Engaged Encounter program focuses on face-to-face discussions between fiancés, a priest, support couples, and team couples play an integral role as well.

The ministry of the team and support couples is firmly rooted in the Diocese of Charlotte. The program welcomes more team and support couples in its quest to reach out to an ever-increasing number of engaged people planning to begin their life together.

"Just as there is a diversity of couples preparing for marriage, our Engaged Encounter presenting and support couples come from a variety of backgrounds," says Gerry Carter, diocesan director of Catholic Social Services' Office of Special Ministries.

"But there are common characteristics. We need couples who are willing to be witnesses to others, who are open to seeing the presence of God in their lives and who are able to share the challenges and disappointments of married life."

Support couples assist in a number of ways, from welcoming and registering participants on Friday evening to ordering supplies, from handling finances to writing prayer letters of support for the engaged couples. Much of their work may be behind the scenes, though it is a necessary component to the success of the program.

Team couples, who have been married at least two years, share stories and experiences with the engaged couples in a group setting. Their self-scripted talks provide the opportunity to offer personal insight to help other couples examine their own relationships privately.

With assistance from a priest who celebrates Mass and discusses the sacramental dimensions of marriage, team couples minister to the group through discussions on the gamut of wedding life issues: communication, finances, morality, children, joy, forgiveness.

Carter has planned several "get acquainted" meetings this fall for married couples who may feel called to aid others enter married and family life. Like a cookout held in Charlotte last month, these informal get-togethers are for anyone interested in assisting the ministry at any level. Couples share meals, fellowship and prayers with current Engaged Encounter couples and leaders.

The meetings are intended as informative gatherings, and couples can decide later whether they can help.

Engaged Encounter was founded in 1968 as an extension of Marriage Encounter, a communication-oriented program for happily married couples looking to enhance their lives. Like its predecessor, Engaged Encounter focuses on support — from both members of each couple, as well as a priest and team couples.

The program is endorsed by the Diocese of Charlotte.

By year's end, the Diocese of Charlotte will have sponsored eight Engaged Encounter weekends, conducted at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. Hundreds of couples will have dialogued on the depth of all aspects of their relationships and how their entering — and *becoming* — the sacrament of marriage will affect their individual and collective lives.

Due to the rapid growth in the diocese and the increase in marriages that coincides with it, Carter conveys the need for continued recruitment and training of new couples by pointing to an excerpt from Pope John Paul II's 1981 *Familiaris Consortio*: "The church must ... promote better and more intensive programs of marriage preparation in order to eliminate as far as possible the difficulties that many married couples find themselves in, and even more in order to favor positively the establishing and maturing of successful marriages."

For information on how you can assist the Engaged Encounter in any way, contact Marlo Wallace at Catholic Social Services in Charlotte, (704) 331-1720. Pastors who know potentially interested couples are also encouraged to call.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

There can be no civilized life in a society that sanctions wanton killing. There can be no civil society when the law makes the weak, the defenseless and the inconvenient expendable. There can be no real democracy if the law denies the sanctity of every human life. — Rep. Henry Hyde

The Diocese of Charlotte Respect Life Office
704.331.1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 6 — 7 p.m.
25th anniversary celebration of Catholic Hispanic Center
Charlotte

September 7-8
National Conference of Catholic Bishops Priestly Life and Ministry Board Meeting
Washington, D.C.

September 9
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Catholic Conference Center
Hickory

7 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Francis of Assisi Church
Mocksville

September 11 — 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Meeting of Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Social Service Agencies
Burlington

September 13 — 10 a.m.
Knights of Malta Investiture
St. Matthew Cathedral
Washington, D.C.

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Aug. 27.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

The great joy of the 12th World Youth Day in Paris is still very fresh in my mind and heart. I thank the president of the French Republic and the civil authorities for their welcome. In a special way, I am grateful to Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the archbishop of Paris, and Bishop Michel Dubost, the president of the organizing committee, as well as to all the French bishops and the many volunteers who made this event so successful.

In great numbers, young people from all parts of the world came to Paris to be together as members of the one church of Christ. The theme of their reflection was the passage from the Gospel of St. John in which the disciples ask Jesus: "Teacher, where are you staying?" and Jesus responds "Come and see" (cf. Jn 1:38-39). We must move ever closer to Christ — "Come!" —in order to discover in ever greater depth his true identity —"See!"

The 12th World Youth Day in Paris was an extraordinary event of faith and hope. Let us pray that the commitment of so many young people from every part of the world will bear much fruit in the church, herself ever young, as we approach the new millennium.

I am pleased to extend a special greeting to the Koyasan Shingon Buddhist delegation from Japan on their way to Rimini for the "Meeting for Friendship Among People": I express the hope that your visit will serve to increase understanding and respect among the followers of different religious traditions. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, Cyprus, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan, Canada and the United States, I invoke the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Guest Column

Antoinette Bosco

Catholic Church Works to Rebuild a Neighborhood

This summer the National Civic League named the Bronx one of the top 10 All-America Cities.

I moved to Long Island in the 1950s and most of the families I met there in the next several decades came from the boroughs of New York. Many of them wanted to get away from deteriorating areas of this great metropolis.

The area with about the worst reputation was the South Bronx. Starting around the late '50s, a drastic decline had begun there. Many buildings that had once been grand were burned out. The area had that abandoned, trashed look about it, as people who could afford to moved away.

> ***It is critical for the church to be involved in housing, where people can live in dignity.***

In one South Bronx neighborhood, Highbridge, a certain strength and hope remained, sustained by those who belonged to the parishes of Sacred Heart, St. Francis of Assisi and Christ the King, the Catholic churches that originally had served the Irish and Italian immigrants. Now the ethnic population is primarily African-American, Hispanic and Haitian, but the needs of the people are the same: dignified housing, health care, social and economic help and a community to be proud of.

Achieving these goals might sound like pie-in-the-sky talk, but it's not. An absolutely amazing renewal has taken place in Highbridge, thanks to a nine-year effort initiated and led by people who are part of the Archdiocese of New York.

In 1988, the Department of Neighborhood Housing of Catholic Charities, with the blessing of Cardinal John J. O'Connor, assembled a development team to revitalize this community. The team created the Highbridge Community Development Fund Corporation. Msgr. Donald Sakano, long involved with the housing needs of communities, was named president and chairman. This was a job close to his heart.

"Housing is more than shelter," Msgr. Sakano told me. "It's the starting point, where you wake up in the morning, and the context for family learning and finding faith in God. It is critical for the church to be involved in housing, where people can live in dignity. Because of the sacredness of human existence, it behooves us to improve conditions for people."

The church should develop "models for the human community," he affirmed. His goals for Highbridge community were to provide affordable, well-designed apartments where people would have adequate space to live comfortably, and to offer residents health services and an opportunity to improve their skills.

This June, Cardinal O'Connor led hundreds of residents in a procession through the neighborhood to celebrate the work that had gone into the community's incredible comeback.

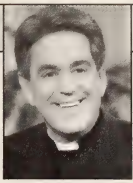
Rowena Daly, who helped organize the June event, said: "The renaissance of Highbridge is more than a story of bricks and mortar. Rather it is a story of formerly homeless families becoming homeowners, blighted buildings being renovated to yield nearly 1,000 new apartments, the construction of two-family homes on abandoned lots, the development of Our Lady of Mercy Medical Village, the expansion of a neighborhood federal credit union, and the establishment of social and economic programs to strengthen the community."

Close to $70 million was invested in this renovation project through the joint efforts of the Highbridge Community Development Fund Corporation, the New York Archdiocese and city, state and federal agencies.

But none of this would have happened without the ground-floor push from the Catholic parishes and Cardinal O'Connor, who supported the Highbridge effort enthusiastically. I felt such pride in knowing that the Catholic Church was the prime mover in this remarkable transformation of a neighborhood.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



On Being Converted

People who make a religious conversion always fascinate me. Whether one converts from one world religion to another, or from one faith communion to another within Christianity, there's always an element of mystery. At the same, one of the great gifts converts bring to their new religious community is their ability to find deep riches that those born into it often miss or simply take for granted.

My mom spent the first sixty years of her life as an Anglican. She never showed any interest in converting, but she took her promise to my Dad to rear my brother and me in the Catholic faith most seriously.

I am still amazed when I remember the hours she spent with us prompting us to learn by rote the entire Catholic belief system as contained in the old Baltimore Catechism. I swear she knew the details of Catholic dogma better than the two of us and our dad put together. But it wasn't the "rules and regulations" that made her decide to become a Roman Catholic.

We lived in a neighborhood that was 99% Catholic. I recall the countless mornings when my mom would bundle me up and walk me in the predawn hours to St. Joe's Church, where I regularly served as an altar boy for early weekday Masses. She'd sit in the back of church and wait for me to finish, walk me safely home for breakfast, and then pack me off to school. You would think that the pious practices of that prayerful community might have triggered a conversion. But no.

Then there was the sheer force of the McSweeney ancestral tribe, whose Irish temperament regularly heated up dinner table conversations with political and religious arguments that not even the pope himself could have settled. The loquacious conviction of these devout Irish could not persuade my mom to convert.

All through my days in the seminary preparing for the priesthood, she said not one word to me about converting. But at my ordination Mass, July 3, 1971, my mom did something that she had never done before. She left the pew and walked directly to the Communion rail. For a moment, I thought she had simply been overwhelmed by the experience of seeing her son becoming a priest. When she presented herself for Holy Communion, I hestitated for a second, but she winked at me with righteous delight, whispering "It's all right, I'm legal." I was the one who was overwhelmed, as I gave my mom her first Holy Communion.

G.K. Chesterton once observed, "The Church is a house with a hundred gates, and no two individuals enter at exactly the same angle." My mom, quietly and with no fanfare, took religious instruction for the Catholic faith three months before my ordination. She kept her motivation entirely a secret. But she did write a letter to a cousin that I still treasure.

She explained that during her conversion she was "not aware of anything different — I don't feel that my faith became any stronger as far as the basic truths of the Bible are concerned. I can only tell you that I felt the same happiness I feel when I come home after a long day at work. I know I am where I belong."

The fact is, throughout her life, my mom was always the best Christian in the family. Perhaps the real mystery is how, one way or another, through one gate or another, we manage to find our way home.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Faith in the Family," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Do Catholics Actually Believe in the Real Presence?

Q. *On a religious television program recently, the hostess said Catholic schools no longer teach that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist or that it is only a symbol.*

How can this be? If this is what our schools are teaching, why do we have them? She said surveys show most Catholics today do not believe in the Eucharist. I find that hard to believe.

A. I assume your report was accurate, since I heard from others as well, apparently after the same broadcast. I, too, find these "facts" hard to believe.

First of all, I don't know on what she bases her accusation, but there is nothing I've ever seen to support it. The schools in our parish and in every other parish I have worked with or know of are clear and thoroughly Catholic in their teaching about the Eucharist.

To make this kind of broad accusation, undermining and defaming Catholic schools around the country with such falsehoods, contributes nothing helpful to the faith and life of Catholic people.

As for the surveys, I'm not at all sure the eucharistic faith of Catholics is more deficient today than it was 50 years ago.

First, there were no such surveys at that time to measure against.

Second, no matter how fair surveys on this subject attempt to be, it is impossible to capsulize our beliefs about the Eucharist in a few brief questions.

It took the church 15 centuries to arrive at the language of the Council of Trent (Session 13) describing the true and substantial eucharistic presence of our Lord, and even that is being refined and clarified to this day.

Our belief in the real presence — "body and blood, soul and divinity," as the old catechism formula put it — needs to be carefully understood; it can be and has often been grossly misinterpreted.

In ancient times, and up to the present, people not of our faith often misunderstood what we mean by eating the body of Christ, and viewed it as some sort of cannibalism.

Thoughtful Catholics may not know all the technical theological terminology, but they know what they believe. They tend to be cautious of language that could be open to a caricature of our faith.

We are, after all, dealing here with a profound mystery no human words will ever adequately express.

And finally, it's simply a reality that some Catholics thrive on deploring what they see as a crisis of faith so they can lay the blame on whatever it is they currently don't like in the church — English liturgy, women lectors, Latin Mass, lay eucharistic ministers, and so on.

Many factors always affect the qual-

See **Dietzen,** page 13

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Stop Chasing Race Ghost

In late June *Dateline*, NBC's news magazine, ran a story on a community struggling with racial diversity. The program exposed the irrational fears of many whites who have fled the area to communities with more "favorable" racial makeups. That town, Matteson, Ill., is just south of Chicago and the place where we have chosen to raise our family.

Tom Brokaw, in the *Dateline* story, interviewed several white former Matteson homeowners and queried them on why they chose to leave. The predictable answers were about declining property values, increased crime rates, lower standards and performance in the schools, and the pervading sense of peril in the community. The perceived changes in the community are of course attributed to the increase of blacks who now make up about 50 percent of the residents. Pervading perceptions notwithstanding, Brokaw reported that statistics don't bear out those claims.

Though our town was singled-out as a dysfunctinal community, the NBC report revealed an unhealed sore on the suburban landscape of metropolitan Chicago and communities across America. African-American families have gained access to portions of the American Dream. Yet vestiges of white supremacy preclude middle-class America from enjoying racial diversity, particularly when there's *too* much of it.

Peering over each other's manicured lawns, watching our increasing real estate worth, and relishing the statistics that put our schools among the best in the state, suburbia has accepted conventional wisdom that we are all created equal. So at what point does racial diversity become too much? Does not all this make us a good and desirable community with regard to the *racial balance*?

As a family on a particular side of the racial divide, we are pained by others' measuring our presence as a negative commodity. Sometimes our response to that pain is resentment and anger.

So here we are in a diverse community, divided by race, fearful and angry, hurting and afraid. Of what?

Race? Why? When all around us we experience the growing isolation in our technology-made self-sufficiency. That's our common enemy! Suburban insularity robbing us of community, cheating us out of our neighborhoods, tricking us into thinking we're living the good life.

Frankly we couldn't care less about the race of our neighbors. Stronger neighborly ties would assure us that our children are safe no matter at what end of the block or corner of the subdivision they may be playing. It's a part of the American Dream that eludes us all — black and white. And it's the gift that only we can give to each other.

The NBC report has made us in Matteson self-conscious of our race-sensitivity. It's made us uncomfortable. Something unthinkable has been exposed. Our values of diversity don't ring true anymore. Maybe, just maybe, we'll do something about it. The best way for us to overcome the racial divide is by crossing the neatly manicured lines of our lawns, to gather in each others' kitchens, to break bread, tell our stories and bridge the gap with our humanity. Let's stop chasing the ghost of race and deal with the real enemy — our insular selves!

Activist Begins New Role With National Organization

FUQUAY-VARINA — Leigh Eason knows firsthand the tragedy of unexpectedly losing a loved one. Her uncle, a North Carolina state trooper, was murdered by an escapee from an Ohio prison in 1971 during a routine traffic stop.

"My uncle was raised with me, so it was like losing a brother," she said.

Despite the heinous crime and the lack of remorse shown by the accused, Eason felt then and still feels today the death penalty is not an option for anyone, not even the man who took her family member's life. "The person who murdered my uncle received the death penalty, and at a young age I got to see what the death penalty can do to a family. It sows seeds of vengeance and a lack of forgiveness and reconciliation," she said.

"The death penalty is not a good option, at least not one that helps us thoughtfully, mindfully carry out the principles of Christ," Eason added.

With her personal experience to build on, Eason helped form People of Faith Against the Death Penalty (PFADP) in North Carolina and held the title of project director for the past two years. She recently left that position, however, to join the national abolitionist effort "Envisioning a World Without Violence." She serves as assistant coordinator for the Philadelphia-based interfaith group run by the Religious Organizing Against the Death Penalty Project of the American Friends Service Committee. Their goal is to awaken the religious community to the injustice of the death penalty and to impassion people of faith to work for its abolition.

According to Eason, another objective of the committee is try to determine why 70 percent of the people in the pews still favor the death penalty, despite the opposition expressed by Pope John Paul II and the major church councils of all denominations.

"Lives don't belong to the state; they don't belong to us. Lives belong to God," she said.

The organization will soon begin conducting workshops in the Charlotte Diocese to educate people on the death penalty. The four sessions will include use of the book and movie *Dead Man Walking* by Sister Helen Prejean. Study groups will be formed around the movie and book to see how the average person reacts to the death penalty, Eason added.

"We hope to compile data from different denominations in the U.S. and help leaders in Christian education know what points people are missing in their faith education that lead them to work for the death penalty," she noted.

The diocese's Office of Justice and Peace has been involved with the N.C. anti-death penalty group and will work with the new regional committee Eason is overseeing.

"Leigh will be an excellent resource for us," said Joanne Frazer, director. "The sessions (on the death penalty) will offer the actual curriculum and process at the parish level and provide a good forum for discussion."

Sister Prejean will also be one of the featured speakers at an ecumenical conference addressing the death penalty from a religious perspective Nov. 14-16 in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the new study groups on the death penalty, contact Joanne Frazer, Office of Justice and Peace, (704) 331-1736. For information on the ecumenical conference in Washington, D.C., contact Frazer or Leigh Eason, (919) 557-0191.

Archbishop Meets Unionist Leader As Part Of Consultations

CNS Photo from Reuters

Archbishop Sean Brady, left, greets Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble at the Cardinal's Palace in Armagh, Northern Ireland, Sept. 1. They made no public statements regarding Northern Ireland following their first official meeting.

ARMAGH, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Archbishop Sean B. Brady of Armagh met the Ulster Unionist Party leader at the Cardinal's Palace to discuss whether the party will participate in scheduled peace negotiations.

David Trimble's visit with Archbishop Brady and other members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy at an archdiocesan building forms part of an ongoing consultation process adopted by the unionist party before a final decision is made on whether to enter Sept. 15 peace talks.

However, no statement was issued Sept. 1 after the one-and-half-hour meeting as a mark of respect for Diana, Princess of Wales, who died in Paris the previous day after an automobile crash.

"I am saddened and shocked by the death of Diana and extend my sympathies to her family and sons. We remember great work for so many people so graciously and generously given and that will continue to inspire people (in) these dark days of grief that lie ahead," Archbishop Brady said.

The Ulster Unionist Party, the largest unionist party in Northern Ireland, was to hold similar meetings with Protestant leaders, businessmen and the Orange Order, a Protestant fraternity.

Unionists, mainly Protestants, want Northern Ireland to remain a province of Great Britain. Nationalists, mainly Catholics, want Northern Ireland united with the Irish Republic.

Although Trimble has played an important role in the ongoing peace process, which aims to end decades of violence in Northern Ireland, his party now faces a dilemma, since British authorities admitted Sinn Fein, the political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, to the peace table.

It is the first time Sinn Fein will attend peace talks. Leading members of the Ulster Unionist Party voiced strong opposition to negotiating with Sinn Fein and said the IRA's cease-fire, declared in July, is little more than clever political maneuvering.

The Democratic Unionist Party, lead by the Rev. Ian Paisley, a Protestant minister, has condemned the government's decision and refuses to attend talks while Sinn Fein is present.

An agreement signed last month between the British and Irish governments on decommissioning should pave the way for multiparty talks to focus on constitutional, economic and social issues.

However, for most unionist parties, disarmament of the Irish Republican Army and Protestant paramilitary groups is essential before any serious negotiation can get under way.

"The assumption that there will be talks on substantive matters in September is a rash assumption because we are still engaged in the opening plenary session, item two, namely decommissioning. When the talks open again, the subject matter will be decommissioning, and there cannot be any move off that issue without there being an agreement by us," Trimble said at an earlier news conference.

Sources close to Archbishop Brady say his opinion regarding the talks remains unchanged, and he believes that all political parties should negotiate together for a peaceful settlement.

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Entertainment

Hoodlum

Film Explores Dynamics Of Crime In Depression-Era Harlem

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Hoodlum" (MGM) is the loosely fact-based story of a Depression-era black gangster, Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson, who dared to go up against mighty Dutch Schultz for control of the lucrative numbers racket in Harlem.

In 1934 Harlem's numbers racket was discreetly run by Madame Stephanie St. Clair, known as Queen (Cicely Tyson). Seeing an opportunity, ruthless gangster Dutch Schultz (Tim Roth) decided take over her territory.

Fresh out of Sing Sing, Queen's loyal numbers runner, Bumpy Johnson (Laurence Fishburne) wasn't about to let that happen, even when Schultz, backed by dirty politicians, cops and judges in his pocket, got the Queen arrested and jailed.

With Johnson holding the fort for Queen, and his cousin (Chi McBride) as his right-hand man, they held Schultz at bay, to the point where rival mobster Lucky Luciano (Andy Garcia) insisted the two enemies bury the hatchet lest special prosecutor Thomas Dewey (William Atherton) be forced to come down hard on the whole syndicate.

Insinuated into this power struggle is a romantic subplot involving Johnson with fictional Harlem community activist Francine (Vanessa Williams), who despises his criminal lifestyle — but grows to like the material goodies he showers upon her.

As trigger-happy Johnsons star rises — the community seeing him as heroic compared to bloodsucker Schultz — the gangland warfare between them escalates, claiming innocent victims alongside gunned-down thugs.

Francine becomes appalled by Johnson's bloody confrontations and leaves him. Bumpy's cousin as well regrets aligning with someone who has helped make the streets of Harlem run with blood.

Even as Johnson meets with Luciano to do in Schultz, whatever gain Johnson makes as king of the numbers rackets must come at huge personal loss.

Director Bill Duke turns in a lengthy, ambitious film that takes its time in finally concluding that a life of crime isn't worth it.

Until this point, when Johnson realizes all that he has lost in human terms, he is lionized in the film as the fearless African-American who stood up to powerful white gangsters and kept crime profits in Harlem, a sort of latter-day Robin Hood.

The Queen as well is seen as the quintessence of elegance in her finery and in her fine digs, suggesting crime surely does pay.

Lucky Luciano is another character who is depicted as quite the gentleman as if he was a university president rather than a ruthless murderer.

No such treatment is given to foul-mouthed Dutch Schultz, however, who is seen just as the crass killer he was.

But often the film walks a fine line in tending to glamorize criminals before they have to face the music, often by means of sudden, violent and gory deaths.

Writer Chris Brancato does go for more than a mere shoot-'em-up, however, exploring some of the societal dynamics in Depression-era Harlem that motivated people to play the numbers or risk imprisonment working for the Queen to earn more than menial work paid.

But the key scene in which Johnson and his cousin are to blow up Schultz's warehouse isn't credible, as Schultz's goons would have been sure to recognize their No. 1 enemy immediately.

The production design, recreating 1930s Harlem in Chicago, is very handsome, with vintage cars, clothes and furnishings all giving an authentic feel to this tale that the press kit is careful to label as a work of fiction, although Johnson, Dewey, Schultz, Luciano and Queen did exist.

Some may see the film as a kind of African-American version of "The Godfather," and, while accomplished, it lacks that film's undeniable emotional resonance.

At over two hours, it does introduce a sizable and interesting slate of characters and the performances are generally on target.

Fishburne does well at keeping seething emotions hidden behind a poker-face during key scenes, and his dismay at what his violence has wrought at movie's end does suggestive a redemptive note. One is likely to leave "Hoodlum" wondering if that was the case with the actual Bumpy Johnson.

Due to an ambiguous depiction of crime, recurring gory violence, brief sexual encounters, continual rough language and much profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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CNS photo from Hollywood Pictures

Demi Moore stars at Lt. Jordan O'Neil, the first female candidate for the elite Navy SEALs, in "G.I. Jane." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Grave Indiscretion" (1997)

Gloomy drama with comic undertones is set in a decaying 1940s English manor whose owner (Alan Bates) falls prey to the manipulations of a cunning butler (Sting) after a guest at the estate is murdered. Director John-Paul Davidson's tale of seduction and betrayal is lethargically paced and its dreary one-dimensional characters are of little interest. Several sexual encounters with nudity, some violence, minimal profanity and recurring rough language.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Love Jones" (1997)

Slow-moving story of a young African-American couple (Nia Long and Lorenz Tate) who have sex on their first date, then go through several break-ups before realizing it's love, not lust they feel for each other. Writer-director Theodore Witcher explores the emotional immaturity of two young people but their self-absorbed lives are of only minimal interest and the outcome is predictable. Restrained sexual encounters with fleeting nudity, recurring rough language and an instance of profanity.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R —restricted.

"Margaret's Museum" (1997)

Offbeat tale set in a 1940s mining town in Nova Scotia where a feisty young bride (Helena Bonham Carter) whose father had died in the mines reacts strongly when her new husband (Clive Russell) and younger brother (Craig Olejnik) become miners as well. Director Mort Ransen captures a community's financial dependence on a sin gle industry and the human consequence of this for one family, but the climax is not for the squeamish. Brief nudity, sexual innuendo, recurring profanity and some rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"The Swan Princess: Escape from Castle Mountain" (1997)

Animated sequel to the 1994 original continues the story of the fairy tale prince and princess (voices of Douglas Sills and Michelle Nicastro) who here are threatened by a villainous wizard after a magic ball containing evil powers which is hidden in their castle. Directed by Richard Rich, there is nothing very imaginative about the story, the cartooning or the songs, though its fantasy elements will keep young children entertained. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.**

The Parish's Overlooked, Invisible Members

By FATHER HERBERT WEBER
Catholic News Service

A group of five women, all of whom had returned to the church after several years away, sat in a room discussing their situations. Four had stopped attending church at the time of their divorces.

Chris made a point of saying she still sensed that she no longer fit in at church. As if she were wearing a capital "D" for "divorce" on her forehead, she felt somehow unworthy and not up to the spiritual expectations required of regular churchgoers. Worst of all, she suspected that if she did not attend church, it really would not matter to the rest of the community. No one would notice her absence.

Although the circumstances of the other three divorcees varied slightly, they all agreed with Chris. One of them, Ellen, added that she doubted there was room in the church for those who didn't fit the two-parent household. Even when she did attend church or saw other divorced persons there, it was as if their life situation was one of those things "not mentioned in polite company." She felt invisible or, at least, overlooked.

Various groups of folks are nearly invisible in the church. Often they are "invisible," as Chris said, because they do not fit a certain expectation.

A man whose arrest led him to admit to physically abusing his children said that although he went to church and although he suspected he needed help, he felt that his problem was one that could not be discussed. Why? Because "church-going people just don't do things" like abuse their families.

This man not only felt invisible but concluded he had to remain so because there could be no place for him in the church.

Sometimes invisibility stems not from one's behavior, but from one's status. As the people of the Catholic Church in the United States more and more have entered the middle class, the poor sometimes feel they no longer belong. Likewise members of the gay community often feel they need to go elsewhere to find acceptance. And young single adults frequently say that their needs are overlooked.

The tragedy in not noticing these and other members of our faith community is twofold. They are left out, not given the acceptance that could draw them to a Christ-loving sense of belonging.

"It is the responsibility of all members of the church family to come to know those who don't feel as if they belong," says Father Herbert Weber, a pastor. "Listening is the key."

And the rest of the community is impoverished, losing out on the fullness that comes from including all members of the human family. All suffer when parts of the church are overlooked, excluded or ostracized.

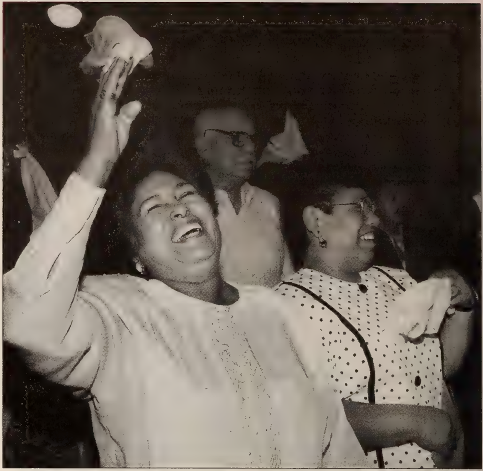
As the Vatican Council II document titled "The Church in the Modern World" says, "The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well."

The church has to identify with all people to be faithful to Jesus' call.

In order for the church to respond to those who feel overlooked, several steps can be taken by a parish community.

First, awareness is necessary. From the pastoral leaders in the parish to the person in the pew, there has to be a growing consciousness that many parish members are hurting, feeling broken or otherwise struggling.

Second, awareness has to lead to acceptance of the persons involved.



CNS photo by Michael Hoyt

After Ray lost his wife and didn't feel like going to church because he couldn't face going alone, several friends took turns calling him and asking him to join their families for Mass and breakfast. Ray soon realized that there was still a place for him in the church.

If is more difficult but just as necessary for the faith community to reach out directly to those who are nearly invisible. I have found that the reaching out often starts not at Sunday Mass, but through careful programming during the week. Sponsoring an AA group at the church or a group for the divorced and separated indicates that the church knows such people exist and have great needs.

I once ran a program for parents of young children, based on the realization that many of these parents often were absent from church or, when they did attend, were distracted because of the child in their arms.

That particular gathering turned out to be a dynamic opportunity for some young parents to stay connected.

Finally, all members of a parish have to continue listening to those who may feel left out. Although many examples of the "invisible ones" have been listed, there are bound to be others. It is the responsibility of all members of the church family to come to know those who don't feel as if they belong. Listening is the key.

Once the "overlooked" become the "included" in the church, then both they and the parish as a whole will be enriched. It will more truly reflect, as St. Paul calls it, the body of Christ.

Father Weber is pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Mansfield, Ohio, and a freelance writer.

Food For Thought

The "invisible" members of a parish include people whose real-life situation is unknown to others. In many parishes today, one example of this is provided by refugees who left home to save their lives or to escape injustice.

I may notice that a family next to me at Mass is new in the parish. Have they come from Latin America? From Asia? Their English is that of learners. But the circumstances surrounding their departure from home remain invisible to me. Nor do I know how they feel about their new "home."

Does it matter? I think so.

People forced to flee intolerable circumstances suffer a great loss. A 1992 paper by two Vatican agencies said that the places which gave meaning and dignity to these refugees' lives "are lost. Also lost are the places which recall the events of one's own history. Lost is the possibility to pray at the graves of one's parents."

Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, the Pontifical Justice and Peace Council's president, has said that some refugees feel "wanted by no one" and that they lack control over their destinies.

It appears that some "invisible" members of a parish desperately need to find a welcome there.

David Gibson, Editor,
Faith Alive!

Faith In The Marketplace

The home — domestic church — is "something like" the parish community. How is the parish "something like" a home?

"Like a home, a parish extends hospitality. There's a sense of belonging, even when there's diversity, and there's a hope that being together can bring good out of any situation." — Audrey Stech, Bon Air, Va.

"The neighborhood parish gives a kind of support system for people, especially in raising children. The parish becomes a kind of compass point, a place of perspective." — John Fleury, Glastonbury, Conn.

"My parish is an extended family to me. I know I can call someone and find answers or help, and I too would help them." — Henrietta Du Mortier, St. Simons Island, Ga.

"Where people are accepting of others' differences ... parish life can feel something like a home." — Pat Kane, Cranston, R.I.

"My family is always there for me ..., and — when you get involved — a parish community ... is joined with you during the hard times ... (and) times of joy." — Anne Busch, Willoughby, Ohio

An upcoming edition asks: What is your advice for families facing a crisis? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FAITH alive!

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In A Nutshell

- A parish's invisible members include those who are overlooked, forgotten, newly arrived or not even accorded the distinction of being officially written off.
- What is tragic about this? Some feel left out, as though they don't belong. And the rest of the community loses out on the gifts of those who do not feel welcome.

A Community That Found Itself

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

The visiting priest drove through the streets of the town with a couple of parishioners looking for Hispanic neighborhoods. It didn't take them long. They talked to shop owners and the cashier in a Mexican restaurant, as well as the office manager in a lawyer's office that advertised "Se habla Español."

They posted signs that announced the date and time of an upcoming Mass in Spanish, to be followed by a special meeting to discuss the concerns of Spanish-speaking Catholics.

A few days later the pastor and the visiting priest were flabbergasted and delighted to see more than 200 people show up for the Mass and the meeting.

The celebration of the Eucharist that day was exactly that, a celebration. The assembly blended long-time town residents of Mexican-American heritage and recently arrived immigrants from Mexico.

The people greeted each other. They sang lustily. They prayed with devotion and joy.

Both priests beamed. The younger, visiting priest was gracious enough not to say to the pastor, "I told you so." The pastor was big enough to say it instead: "Father, you said there were a lot of Hispanics in town and, by golly, you were right!"

It was a great start; but a start was all it was. There was a great deal of work to be done to capitalize on this extraordinary development.

With the help of the visiting priest, who stayed in town for a while, the Spanish-speaking community developed itself enthusiastically. Committees were formed to gather names, to develop publicity, to assess needs within the community. And the needs of the people were many.

People took to the new opportunities and responsibilities with a vengeance — organizing social activities, planning devotional services, setting up religious education for youth, establishing networks of care for members of the community in need: the sick, the bereaved, those with financial or legal problems, the unemployed.

The story hasn't had a fairy-tale ending, though. Some of the initial enthusiasm wilted in the face of objections and delays and ordinary human frailty. There were people who wanted to blend the Spanish- and English-speaking communities, and others who wanted to make sure these communities maintained separate identities.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, there were English-speaking parishioners who felt invaded: "Do they have to use our hall?" "There won't be enough toys in the nursery room!" "This is America; all the signs should be in English."

There were conflicts over limited resources, including space for meeting and the pastor's time. The different languages and cultures remained a barrier to communications and connection.

Still, the journey continued. The parish had been enriched by the "discovery" — through an outreaching vision of what the church is — of the Hispanic community it had previously not seen.

Worship is livelier today. There also are more people to share the work of Christian service to those in need; new friendships have enlightened social relations in the town; new ministries have begun.

Through it all, the church's mission of proclaiming the Gospel of God's love has been enhanced by the witness of a community finding itself — a community really discovering in a new way who its people are.

Luby is director of the Division of Christian Formation, Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas.

> **"The people greeted each other. They sang lustily. They prayed with devotion and joy.... It was a great start; but a start was all it was," writes Dan Luby about a parish that discovered some of its hidden members.**

Making nobodies *Somebodies*

By FATHER JOHN J. CASTELOT
Catholic News Service

Diversity was one of the most remarkable characteristics of Jesus' followers. Even more remarkable was their unity.

In an extremely class-conscious society, Jesus shocked the "better people" by seeking out and welcoming the most unlikely ones: unlettered fishermen, tax collectors, aliens, women, children, lepers.

All these "nobodies" he made "somebodies," conscious of their dignity and worth.

Had it not been for him, they simply would have been allowed to fall through the cracks without leaving a trace. To most minds, it would have been small loss!

Reflecting on this later, St. Paul asked his readers to consider what life in Christ means:

"Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many powerful.... God chose the lowly and despised of this world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something.... It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:26-30).

Paul meant that "in Christ Jesus" they existed and had dignity.

In another letter Paul pointed out:

"All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27-28).

What was true of the first Christian communities is true of every parish. No one is unimportant, beneath consideration:

In Jesus' day lepers, victims of any unsightly, apparently incurable skin disease, were the lowest of the low. Cut off from all human society, they were treated like walking corpses, avoided like the plague.

Imagine the horror of the crowd when Jesus reached out and actually touched one of these non-entities (Mark 1:41)!

Society still has its "lepers," who are consigned to oblivion, forgotten, lost. There are people like this in every parish, people not accorded even the distinction of being officially written off.

But to ignore them is shameful.

There are always people who get attention because of their obvious leadership qualities and talents. But how about those who attract no notice, who are simply ignored? They are parishioners too, human beings touched by Christ's love.

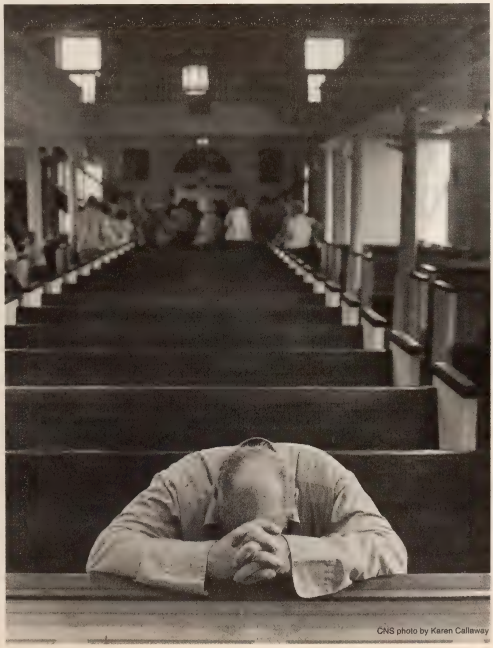
Often they long for recognition, inclusion.

Young people especially fall into this category. For a variety of reasons they hesitate to become involved but are quietly calling out for notice as people with inherent dignity — talents to be tapped, insights to be shared.

We must take the initiative, reach out and touch young people. They are not the "church of tomorrow;" they are the church of today.

It is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of them be lost (Matthew 18:14).

Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.



CNS photo by Karen Callaway

People In The News

Dylan To Perform For Pope At Italian Eucharistic Congress

By JOHN THAVIS

ROME (CNS) — Bob Dylan, whose songs of protest, love and spiritual change made him a folk-rock superstar, will join in a concert for Pope John Paul II in Italy this fall, organizers announced in late August.

CNS

Singer-songwriter Bob Dylan is scheduled to perform at a concert for Pope John Paul II in Italy this fall.

The performance, scheduled for Sept. 27 in the central Italian city of Bologna during a national eucharistic congress, is being billed as the first "rock concert" for the 77-year-old pontiff.

Some 300,000 youths are expected to attend the music vigil, with the pope giving a speech and remaining in attendance for at least part of the concert. Dylan, who enjoys immense popularity in Italy, will be joined by three well-known Italian rock and pop stars.

Dylan was chosen because his music is "true and beautiful," and "the church welcomes whatever is true and beautiful and good," said Msgr. Ernesto Vecchi, a vicar of the Bologna Archdiocese.

"Bob Dylan is one of the best representatives of a highly poetic and spiritual rock music, and I believe he has recently moved closer to Christianity," Msgr. Vecchi said.

It will be Dylan's first European performance following his hospitalization last spring for histoplasmosis, a potentially fatal heart infection.

Dylan rode to fame in the 1960s and '70s with hits including "Like A Rolling Stone," "The Times They Are a-Changin'" and "I Shall Be Released." His enigmatic lyrics often rang with prophetic references to biblical themes.

In 1979-80, he made several albums with Gospel-style songs that highlighted his own interest in Christianity. The song "Gotta Serve Somebody" became a hit, but not all his audiences liked lyrics that asked, "Are you ready to meet Jesus?" and Dylan's new preaching style during concerts.

Born Robert Allen Zimmerman to Jewish parents in Hibbing, Minn., in 1941, he left the area at a young age. With his guitar, harmonica and a talent for songwriting, he quickly became one of the hottest stars in a nationwide folk music revival.

Millions Wish Mother Teresa A Happy 87th Birthday

CNS photo from Reuters

Mother Teresa receives a garland from a Missionary of Charity on the occasion of her 87th birthday Aug. 26 in Calcutta. Mother Teresa is well but still needs medication and constant attention, according to sources from her order.

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Mother Teresa turned 87 Aug. 26 with millions of admirers, including world leaders, wishing her a happy birthday.

This year, Mother Teresa's birthday saw singing, joyful faces in contrast to last year's prayerful atmosphere, when she spent the day in a hospital intensive care unit.

The Missionaries of Charity founder is well, but still needs medication and constant attention, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Recovering from a cough, Mother Teresa joined a thanksgiving birthday Mass at 6 a.m. She sat in a wheelchair in her usual place before the altar, near the door of the Missionaries of Charity motherhouse chapel in Calcutta.

She said prayers in a loud and clear voice and walked slowly but unaided in the offertory procession with a Missionaries of Charity nurse beside her.

After the Mass, remaining seated in her wheelchair, she gave her blessing to all in the chapel and greeted photographers and others waiting outside on the stone courtyard to catch a glimpse of her on the first-floor balcony.

Messages from world wished the Nobel laureate nun a long life. Schoolchildren and people of various religions came to greet Mother Teresa and receive her blessings.

Seated in her wheelchair and aided by a member of her order, she handed out Miraculous Medals and a card that invokes prayer for peace, love and service.

Two girls, ages 3 and 5, visited Mother Teresa Aug. 25 and sang "Happy Birthday" to her. As she blessed the girls, she told them to "pray and pray also for me."

A Missionaries of Charity nun told UCA News that Mother Teresa had made a "remarkable recovery" from heart and lung problems and malaria last year. The illnesses culminated in an angioplasty, her third, after acute heart failure last November.

"It is a miracle," the sister said. "We all need her, and we pray for her long life."

The fourth Missionaries of Charity general chapter was postponed from last October, but began in January as Mother Teresa's health improved.

It made Missionaries of Charity history by electing Sister Nirmala Joshi to succeed Mother Teresa as superior general, a position she had held uncontested since founding the congregation in 1950.

Despite her persistent heart condition, Mother Teresa visited Rome May 15 to receive Pope John Paul II's blessing. She also traveled to New York and Washington to attend professions of Missionaries of Charity nuns.

Before returning to Calcutta July 20, she received the prestigious U.S. Congressional Gold Medal June 6 for her impact on the lives of people "in all walks of life."

She also received the Indo-American Society Award for excellence for her contribution to promoting better understanding and a spirit of service and sacrifice throughout the world.

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Phone (803) 327-2097 8 am-12 noon
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Glenmary Guild Gets Works From Charlotte Diocese Artists

CINCINNATI — The artwork of three parishioners from the Diocese of Charlotte will be featured in the 18th Annual Glenmary Guild Country Raffle Sept. 14 at the Glenmary Knights of Columbus Hall in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The donated items of Gloria Weiss of Andrews and Barbara Revis and Martha Blevins of Jefferson are among more than 40 original works that will highlight the raffle. More than $9,000 in artwork and cash has been donated.

Weiss, whose paintings have been displayed throughout North Carolina during the past several years, has given one of her pieces for inclusion in the raffle. She is a member of Holy Redeemer Church in Andrews.

Revis, a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson, crafted a Raku-style vase. A physical therapist and native North Carolinian, she is an active member of her parish.

Blevins' contribution to the raffle is a counted cross stitch piece. She is also a native of the Tar Heel State who is busy with parish life at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Both western North Carolina parishes are currently under the care of the Glenmary Home Missioners, a Catholic society of priests and brothers providing spiritual and material support to communities in 12 states and 16 dioceses in Appalachia, the South and the Southwest.

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India's Independence Celebrated In Boone

BOONE — About 100 Boone area residents gathered in Pat Jones Hall at St. Elizabeth Church Aug. 17 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of India's independence from Britain. The event featured an authentic Indian dinner, prayers of Christian and Hindu graces, and Indian music. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the work of Father Thomas Selvaraj, from Madras, India, who has spent the past two summers serving as parochial vicar of Church of the Epiphany in Blowing Rock. Father Selvaraj's outreach in India includes a working women's hostel and plans for a women's shelter. Pictured from left are Father Conrad Hoover, pastor of St. Elizabeth and Church of the Epiphany; Father Selvaraj; and Mr. and Mrs. Dinesh Dave.

St. Joseph Parishioners Attend Annual Tekakwitha Conference

BRYSON CITY — Father Tom Field, pastor of St. Joseph Church, and parishioners Mary Herr, Bill Sanders and Rynda Saunooke attended the 58th annual Tekakwitha Conference last month at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.

More than 1,200 Native American Catholics representing almost 100 tribes were among the participants in this year's conference, whose theme was "Building Bridges: All Nations United Through Faith." St. Joseph Church has seven Native American families in the parish, most of whom are members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The conference honors Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, the daughter of a Christian Algonquin mother and a non-Christian Mohawk chief, who lived from 1656 to 1680 in what is now upstate New York. She survived a smallpox epidemic when she was four years old, but her face and eyesight were scarred and the disease left her weak the remainder of her days.

Blessed Kateri devoted her life to teaching prayers to children and helping the sick and aged. She died at the age of 24 following an illness, and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in June 1980.

Throughout the week-long conference, Masses were celebrated by Bishop Richard Sklba of Milwaukee, Father Ed Cook from the Congregation of the Great Spirit in Milwaukee, and Bishop Donald Pelotte of Gallup, N.M. Liturgies included Native American dancers, and prayers.

Participants attended a variety of workshops focusing on inculturation and liturgy, cross-cultural dynamics, ministry formation programs for Native Americans, Scripture and traditional stories, and indigenous issues.

Vice Postulator Father John Paret gave an update on the status of the canonization of Blessed Kateri, known as Lily of the Mohawks. Several cases exploring miracles attributed to Blessed Kateri's intercession are pending. If canonized, she will become the first recognized Native American saint.

Plans for the 1998 Tekakwitha Conference are underway. All parishes in the Southeast with Native American parishioners are invited to help plan and attend next year's gathering, to be held Aug. 5-9 in Memphis, Tenn. For information, contact Ruth Allen Knight, 1541 Welsh, Memphis, Tenn. 38117, (901) 684-8135.

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8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23 — 12 noon
Sunday, Oct. 26, 1997
Father Carl Arico

Centering prayer incorporates the best of Christian Monastic Prayer and the contemporary thirst for "the pause that refreshes." Carl Arico, evangelist of this movement, shares the experience of this contemplative form of prayer with practitioners and beginners. Participants arrive on Thursday to begin their own process of winding down. Father Arico will begin on Friday at 4 p.m. There will be periods of silence.
Pre register by October 10
$150

New Appointments To Belmont Abbey Board of Trustees

BELMONT — Gastonia attorney Lin B. Hollowell and Cindy Grim, senior vice president of NationsBank, have both been elected to a three-year term on the Belmont Abbey College Board of Trustees.

Hollowell is a lifelong resident of Gastonia and has been practicing law since 1963 with the firm of Stott, Hollowell, Palmer & Windham, L.L.P. He is a member of various legal organizations and earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Duke University.

Hollowell is immediate past president of the Salvation Army Advisory Board of Gaston County; a member of the Board of Directors of the Gaston County Chamber of Commerce; and a member of the Gastonia Rotary Club. He and his wife, Sybil, are members of First United Methodist Church of Gastonia and are the parents of three children: Sheldon H. Tucker of Baltimore; Lin Hollowell III of Tampa; and Allison H. Johnson of Atlanta.

Grim is the utility finance division executive for NationsBank, responsible for all corporate finance activities for electric and gas utilities and independent power producers. She joined NationsBank in 1978.

Grim graduated from Charlotte Catholic High School and North Carolina State University, where she graduated magna cum laude. She is a lifelong Charlotte resident and has been active in the United Way and Arts and Science Council and served as a member of the Board of the Charlotte Catholic High School Foundation.

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Adoration

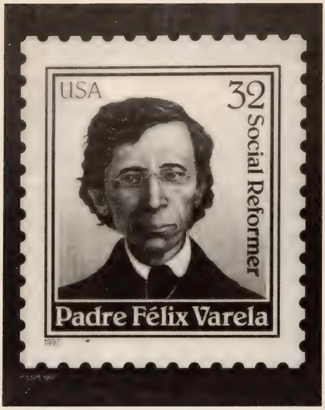
ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence hosts Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 6 a.m.-p.m. and invites all local parishes to help fill available hours. Call (704) 252-6042 for information.

BELMONT — Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is at the Belmont Abbey chapel. For information, call Marie Siebers, (704) 399-2701.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual Eucharistic adoration is at St. Gabriel Church. Contact Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for details.

Eucharistic Adoration is at St. Matthew Church each Friday after the 9 a.m. Mass until the 9 a.m. Mass on Saturday. Call Pat Gundaker, (704) 366-9687, or Bernice Hansen, (704) 846-2958, for details.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Joe or Mary Lanham, (910) 454-4551.



This stamp featuring Father Felix Varela, a Cuban philosopher and defender of human rights, is being issued by the U.S. Postal Service in September. Father Varela died in 1853 in St. Augustine, Fla.

CNS

Belmont Abbey Awarded $25,000 Grant

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College has been awarded a $25,000 grant by the Koch Foundation, Inc., of Gainesville, Fla. to help launch the first year of an ambitious five-year plan to add to the spiritual presence already alive at the Benedictine college. Some aspects of the plan include regular programs for faith development which instill the value of reflection, prayer, and witness of the good news of the Gospel; expanded pastoral counseling services for Catholic and non-Catholic students, community youth and adults seeking assistance; internship programs for college students to work with local youth in mentoring and religious education; and assistance by college students to aid the elderly, the disabled, and the poor.

According to statistics, Catholicism is the fastest growing religion in North Carolina. The population of the Diocese of Charlotte has increased by almost 50 percent in the last seven years. Dr. Betsy Sechler, director of campus ministry, said the program reflects the mission of Belmont Abbey College.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Liturgy/Coordinator of RCIA: Would you like to serve full-time beginning immediately in a welcoming and prayerful community as the primary developer and coordinator of parish liturgical life and the RCIA? Vatican II community; 1,800 families located in central North Carolina. Work with clergy, director of music ministries, and other staff members. Qualifications: master's degree or equivalent; knowledgeable of the rites and rituals of the church; empowering, collaborative and pastoral; musical skills welcome. Salary commensurate with degree and experience. Send resume to: **James W. O'Neill, OSFS; St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410.**

Director of Music: Franciscan parish (1,500 families) seeks part-time professional with liturgical music experience. Potential grows to full-time. Requires organ, keyboard and vocal skills, working with youth and adult choirs. Salary: $15,000-20,000. Send or fax resume to: **St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Charlotte, NC 28227. Fax: (704) 536-3147.**

Adult Ed Coordinator: Creative, well-organized individual to coordinate adult ed programs and annual parish mission for parish of 3,700 families. College degree required. Computer skills a plus. Part-time position. Salary negotiable. Send resume and salary requirements to: **Susan Kramiewski, St. Gabriel Faith Development, 3028 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.**

Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Needed to enable a total youth ministry within the faith formation office of the parish. BA in theology or ministry, love for young people, devout Catholic. Submit resume to **Dr. Tom Richard, St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28115.**

Registered Nurse: At least two years experience to serve in part time position (20 hours/week with benefits) for St. Gabriel Church. BSN preferred. Varied hours including some weekends. Responsible for working with St. Gabriel Health Ministry in planning, implementation and evaluation of holistic health care for individuals. Position requires creativity and organizational skills. If interested, please contact: **Sally Jackson, Presbyterian Healthcare Human Resources Department, (704) 384-4832, 1600 E. 5th St.**

Voters Face Debates Over Assisted Suicide Law

The Oregon Medical Association, advertising in the state's largest newspaper, urges citizens to vote in favor of Measure 51, which would repeal the 1994 Death With Dignity Act.

By ED LANGLOIS

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — As Oregonians prepare to vote on a proposed repeal of their law allowing physician-assisted suicide, they are facing a new round of discussion and debate on the meaning of their unique legislation.

In a 1994 referendum voters narrowly approved the Oregon Death With Dignity Act, making it legal for doctors to provide lethal drugs to terminally ill patients who request them. This November they face a new referendum, Measure 51, which would repeal the 1994 law.

In mid-August the Oregon Medical Association took a full-page advertisement in the state's largest newspaper urging citizens to vote yes on Measure 51.

The ad says the 1994 law — which has never taken effect because of pending court challenges — "has serious medical deficiencies that will negatively affect the care we provide to seriously ill patients."

The ad appeared in the Aug. 17 edition of the *Oregonian*, a Portland daily with statewide circulation.

The medical association advocated "compassionate and competent" care at the end of life. It said the 1994 law is not needed for physicians to prescribe drugs to relieve pain in terminally ill patients even when those drugs may hasten death.

"OMA acknowledges patients' legitimate right to autonomy at the end of life, but does not accept the proposition that death with dignity may only be achieved through physician-assisted suicide," the advertisement said.

The OMA's support for repeal of the law marks a significant shift from its position of neutrality in 1994.

A new revision of the "Oregon Health and Law Manual," which appeared in August, extended the debate into another area. Sections of the lawyers' manual, originally published in a loose-leaf binder, are revised as needed by the Oregon State Bar Health Law Section to reflect changes in state laws. The new volume carries a point-by-point legal analysis of the Death With Dignity Act which suggests that the 1994 law may permit death by lethal gas or a self-administered intravenous infusion.

Titled "Life and Death Decisions," the article was written by three attorneys, two of them leading advocates of the 1994 law.

It notes that the law expressly prohibits lethal injection by another party. It says the law does not appear to limit the options to oral ingestion of poison, however. It says the law also appears to allow use of a lethal rectal suppository or a lethal skin patch.

It adds that the law says nothing at all about "devices," so interpretation may be needed to decide if a physician's ability to prescribe a lethal drug would include the ability to provide a device such as a delivery system for inhaling a poison gas.

If a patient is connected to an intravenous tube, it says, "one might reasonably interpret a prescription for an 'infusion' as distinct from an 'injection,' and therefore within the scope" of what the law allows.

"The critical question is whether the medication, by whatever route, is self-administered," it says.

In previous debates over Oregon's law, activists on both sides of the issue talked about the use of prescribed poison pills, usually barbiturates.

Assisted suicide advocates who framed the 1994 law inserted the clause against lethal injection because they believed a fear of doctors committing euthanasia by needle had played a major role in the defeat of proposed assisted suicide laws in Washington and California.

But studies from the Netherlands have come to light since 1994 showing that as many as one-fourth of patients who take lethal doses by mouth suffer drawn-out deaths. The Netherlands still has criminal laws against euthanasia but has codified official guidelines which, if followed, virtually guarantee immunity from prosecution. Dutch doctors who practice euthanasia give a lethal injection if an oral poison acts too slowly.

Derek Humphry, leader of the Oregon-based Euthanasia Research and Guidance Organization, told the Oregonian that the public is "ready for whatever works best."

But in a recent letter published in the Oregonian, Dr. Gregory Hamilton of Portland urged repeal of the law, citing the case of Dr. James Gallant, a Corvallis physician who may face murder charges for allegedly giving a lethal injection to an unconscious 78-year-old woman in March 1996.

Hamilton is a co-founder of Physicians for Compassionate Care, a coalition of doctors opposing assisted suicide.

"If Oregonians don't repeal Measure 16 (the 1994 law) this November by voting yes on Measure 51," he wrote, "we may soon have Dutch-style deaths in this state, with assisted suicide leading to euthanasia for the terminally ill, then euthanasia for the chronically ill, then euthanasia for the psychologically distressed, then from voluntary euthanasia to involuntary euthanasia."

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Holy Angels Receives International Grant

Faye Herring, president of the Pilot Club of Gastonia, presents a grant to Regina Moody, executive director of Holy Angels. The funds will be used to purchase a surf chair.

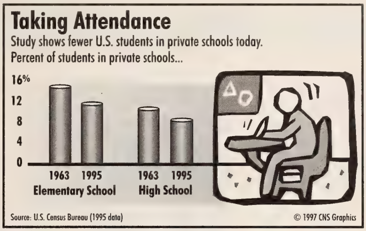
BELMONT — Holy Angels recently received a $1,050 grant from the Pilot Club of Gastonia and Pilot International Foundation. The funds were given for the purchase of a "Surf Chair."

The surf chair will go where no other wheelchair can go, taking Holy Angels residents down to the warm, sandy beach at Camp Hope, right into the waters of the South Fork River and around the shaded nature trail — areas never before easily accessible to them. The brightly colored surf chair features balloon tire wheels that go easily and comfortably over soft sand and into the surf. Residents will now have the opportunity to experience the great outdoors as never before.

Members of the Pilot Club of Gastonia have been involved with Holy Angels for nearly seven years. Holy Angels volunteer and Pilot Club past president Claudia Williams introduced the club members to the mission and ministry of Holy Angels. Other projects include the Pilot House (next to the PUSH Place) and an adaptive kitchen.

The Pilot International Foundation, founded in 1975, is the charitable arm of Pilot International, a volunteer service organization for business and professional leaders. Since 1977, the Foundation has disbursed more than $1 million in grants to eligible applicants for programs that improve the quality of life for people with brain-related disorders and disabilities.

Holy Angels, a non-profit corporation founded more than 40 years ago by the Sisters of Mercy, provides residential, educational, healthcare and recreational services and programs for children and adults who have mental retardation, multiple disabilities and are medically fragile.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (1995 data)

© 1997 CNS Graphics

The number of students enrolled in private schools has dropped since 1963. Eleven percent of elementary students and 8 percent of high schools students attended private schools in 1995.

Dietzen, from page 5

ity of people's faith, in the Eucharist as in everything else. Fortunately, our Eucharistic Prayers at Mass plainly express what the Eucharist is and why.

From the words of consecration to the calling down of the Holy Spirit and the many acts of thanksgiving, when these prayers are proclaimed intelligently and listened to carefully, the true faith is present and alive.

Likewise, when the faithful make their act of faith at Communion by saying "Amen, I believe it" after being offered "the body of Christ," they declare quite clearly what they believe.

It is worth remembering that for centuries, when the Mass was once before in a language people could understand, long before Catholic schools or CCD classes, the Eucharist, with the Liturgy of the Word, was a primary place where faith was planted and nourished.

A free brochure, in English or Spanish, outlining marriage regulations in the Catholic Church and explaining the promises in an interfaith marriage is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

EMMAUS RETREAT: AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

Join other men of the area at Living Waters in Maggie Valley for a Spirit-filled weekend Friday, Sept. 19, 7 pm — Sunday, Sept. 20, 2 pm. Come relax, reflect and see what the Lord wants to do for you. Father Ray Berg is Spiritual Director. Call Tom Sparacino, (704) 255-0095 or Mark Mukosiej, (704) 665-2722

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Diocesan News Briefs

Social Services Cajun Dinner

ASHEVILLE — Catholic Social Services hosts a Cajun dinner on Sept. 14 from 1-4 p.m. at the CSS building, 35 Orange St., to fund its bilingual counselor program. Cost is $8 for adults, $2 for children 12 and under. Call (704) 255-0146 for ticket information.

Silver And Golden Celebration

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin presides at the 18th Annual Silver and Golden Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church. All couples celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage in 1997 are encouraged to contact your parish office to register for the celebration, which includes Mass and renewal of marriage vows.

Separated, Divorced, Remarried Support

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann parish offers a support group for separated, divorced and those remarried outside the church on Sept. 10 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the activity center. Call Kathy Wooley, (704) 376-1503, or Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720, for details.

David Haas Concert

CHARLOTTE — Grammy-award winning composer David Haas presents a concert of contemporary Christian music Sept. 12 and 13 at Christ Lutheran Church. For details, call (704) 366-1595.

German-American Oktoberfest

CHARLOTTE — The German-American Club of Charlotte presents its 30th annual Oktoberfest Sept. 27 at the National Guard Armory, 4200 Yorkmont Rd., from 7:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. The event features the Jerry Gootmon Sauerkraut Band, the presentation of the UNCC German Language Scholarship, a traditional German dinner and a chance to win a trip to Germany. Tickets are available for $20 per person in advance, $25 at the door. Students aged 13-17 with a student ID are admitted for $15. Children under 12 are admitted free, and meal tickets for them are $7. Send checks or money orders to The German-American Club, P.O. Box 470421, Charlotte, NC 28247. Call Donald Kahrer, (704) 948-0351, Eva-Marie Sagovac, (704) 553-0346, or Don Coble, (704) 948-0351, for more information.

RAIN Golf Tournament

CHARLOTTE — The annual Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) Golf Tournament is Sept. 29 at Raintree Country Club. Foursomes and individuals are invited to register for 36 holes of golf, food, prizes and more. For more information, call the RAIN office, (704) 372-7246.

Alzheimer Support Group

CHARLOTTE — The Alzheimer Support Group meets the second Monday each month at St. Gabriel Church. The next meeting is Sept. 15 from 2:30-4 p.m. Suzanne Bach will continue a "Reminiscence Group" activity for people with memory loss. For details, call (704) 331-1720.

Parishioner Recieves Eagle Scout Award

Charles Brogan

SYLVA — Charles Christopher Brogan, a parishioner of St. Mary Catholic Church and member of Boy Scout Troop 999, recently received the Eagle Scout award for his assistance in repairing one mile along Nolan Divide Trail in the Deep Creek area of Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Brogan and fellow Scouts constructed more than 20 water breakers in greatly eroded areas. He is a senior attending Smoky Mountain High School and the son of Chuck and Mary Brogan of Whittier.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a program for couples who want to improve their troubled marriage, works to build relationships between husbands and wives. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program, but it is open to people of all faiths. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230. The program begins Oct. 17.

Annual Fall Festival

DENVER — The Holy Spirit Church Seventh Annual Septemberfest is Sept. 13 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., rain or shine. The event features a wide variety of food, crafts and family entertainment including bingo, a petting zoo, horseback rides and games for all ages. Holy Spirit Church is located on Hwy. 16 one mile north of Hwy. 73 in Denver.

Ecumenical Retreat

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace, St. Paul the Apostle and St. Pius X Catholic churches are among the 15 churches co-sponsoring "Christ's Healing Ministry," an ecumenical retreat, Sept. 26 and 27 at First Lutheran Church, 600 West Friendly Ave. Worship gatherings and small group sharing will be included. The advance registration fee is $5 and $10 if registering at the event. Retreat leader is Barbara Shlemon Ryan, a registered nurse and author actively involved in healing ministry for more than two decades. To register, call the First Lutheran Church office, (910) 292-9125.

Vicariate CRISM Event

GREENSBORO — A Day of Reflection for senior Catholics in the Greensboro Vicariate is Sept. 16 at St. Paul the Apostle Church from 9:30-3 p.m. Events include Mass, rosary and catered lunch. Call (910) 294-4696 for details.

Ecumenical Fall Event

HENDERSON — LARCUM of Henderson County, an ecumenical association of Lutheran, Catholic and United Methodist churches, presents the "We're All Church — Generations for Christ" event for youth and adults Sept. 28 from 3-8:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. Highlights include workshops for youth and adults, a concert, a worship service and an evening meal. Cost is $5. For more information, call Van C. Kussrow, (704) 693-1490.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — Help build Living Waters Endowment Fund. Attend a $100-a-plate dinner at the center Oct. 12. Call (704) 926-3833 for information.

"Drink the Living Water" is a Sept. 24-10 nature retreat directed by Father William Fickel, SSS, and Sister Patricia Froning, OSF, focusing on an active, interactive experience with nature and liturgy in a prayerful, healing atmosphere. Cost is $250, $460 for couples.

RCIA

MONROE — RCIA classes begin Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in the multi-purpose room of the education building for people interested in learning more about the faith, becoming Catholic or, for Catholics who have been away from the church, renewing their faith. Call (704) 289-2773 for details.

BMHS Receives Grant

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness recently received a $5,000 grant from Wachovia Corporation. The grant was used to cover expenses of its Home School Association fund raising auction. The auction, held in April, raised $50,000 for BMHS.

Bereavement Support

WINSTON-SALEM — A grief support group meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at St. Leo the Great Church for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. Contact Joanne Parcell, (910) 924-9478, for more information.

"Lourdes" Retreat

LINVILLE — A retreat for men and women led by Father John Williams is Sept. 23 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Bernadette Church on Highway 105 across from Grandfather Country Club. Call (704) 733-9508 or (704) 264-2754 for reservations by Sept. 16.

Catholic Youth Conference

The National Catholic Youth Conference is Nov. 20-23 in Kansas City, Mo. For details or to register, call your parish youth minister or the Charlotte Office of Youth Ministry, (704) 331-1711. A $100 deposit is required.

Contemplative Prayer Group

CHARLOTTE — A contemplative prayer group open to all people regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation or HIV/AIDS status meets every second and fourth Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. at St. Peter Church. Gather at the rear entrance to the sanctuary. For details, call David Brown, (704) 535-3684.

Around The Diocese

Inquirers Welcome At Secular Franciscans Meetings

ASHEVILLE — The Order of Secular Franciscans meets to share in commitment to the apostolic life of the Gospel the second Saturday of each month at the Basilica of St. Lawrence's St. Justin Center. For information, call Helen Turek, (704) 684-1533.

HICKORY — The Fraternity of Brother Francis meets the second Sunday each month from 2-4 p.m. Inquirers are welcome. Call Bill Brockhoff, (704) 464-5113, or Herman Thoni, (704) 294-0347, to confirm the date and location of the next meeting.

Spiritual Support For Widowed, Separated, Divorced Catholics

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services offers a support group for widowed, separated and divorced persons the second Tuesday each month from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Catholic Center. Call Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720 for more information.

SYLVA — A program of spiritual renewal for widowed, separated and divorced persons in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate is Oct. 19 from 12:30-2 p.m. at St. Mary Church. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert are provided. For details, call Belle Harcourt, (704) 586-0463, during the day or Mary Brogan, (704) 497-9452, in the evenings.

Join In Forming The Life Chain

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Life Chain is Oct. 12 from 1:30-3 p.m. To prepare, congregations are asked to observe three days of prayer and fasting. A prayer service will be held Sept. 25 at St. Giles Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m., a pro-life Mass will be celebrated Sept. 26 at 12 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral, and a prayer service will be conducted Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Derita Baptist Church. Call (704) 598-0032 for more information.

GREENSBORO — The annual Life Chain event in Greensboro is Sept. 28 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. along Battleground Avenue. For details or to offer assistance, call Kameren Lowery, (910) 288-9709, or Bronwyn VanDerwerker, (910) 665-0851.

The Catholic News & Herald *welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.*

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo from Reuters

Volcano Damage — The Soufriere volcano looms in the background of the ash- covered capital of Plymouth on Montserrat in late August. Churches on the neighboring island of Antigua were assisting residents fleeing the devastation.

A Carnival is Coming to Charlotte...at St. Ann's
5-10 p.m. Friday Sept. 19
10 a.m. - 10 a.m. Sat. 20
St. Ann's Parish Carnival
Sept. 19-20

Giant Slide
Face Painting
Huge Ferris Wheel
Clowns
Fire Engines
Cake Walk
Festival Food
Games
Rides
Crafts
Raffle
Music and MORE!

St. Ann Catholic Church
Park Road & Hillside
Charlotte, NC

'Sir Purr" and "Chubby Checker" Autograph session on Saturday
Fun
For
Every one
CHARLOTTE CHECKERS

Poll Shows Growing Support For Public-Financed School Choice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. public schools still enjoy strong public support, but the number of Americans who approve government financial support or vouchers for students wanting to attend Catholic and other private schools continues to grow, according to a new survey. Forty-four percent of those interviewed favored — while 52 percent opposed — "allowing students and parents to choose a private school to attend at public expense." When the words "government expense" replaced "public expense" in a parallel question, the public divided equally, with 48 percent in favor and 48 percent opposed. Results of the 1997 survey, "The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," were released Aug. 26.

Catechists Urged To Renew Appreciation Of Holy Spirit

CHICAGO (CNS) — Catechists must have a renewed appreciation of the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit as the celebration of the year 2000 approaches, a speaker told a gathering of Chicago catechists Aug. 15. "Sometimes the Holy Spirit seems like the forgotten God. ... The Holy Spirit doesn't always get the same 'billing' as the Father and the Son," said Maria Harris, an author, lecturer and religious education consultant in New York City. "But when the jubilee comes, it's time for — as our Holy Father says — 'a renewed appreciation for the Spirit,'" she added in a talk to the second annual Chicago Catechetical Conference sponsored by the archdiocesan Office for Religious Education. The conference drew some 700 religious educators.

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Service of Others

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The Diocese
of
Charlotte

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(704) 926-0106
Fax: 704-926-0855
E-mail: ELH@DNET.NET

Archbishop Decries Death Sentence Passed In Kansas

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — Archbishop James P. Keleher of Kansas City strongly affirmed the church's opposition to capital punishment after a Kansas jury's first recommendation in 25 years for the death penalty. "Violence done in the name of justice is not truly justice," said Archbishop Keleher. "This decision only brings us closer to a culture of death, a culture where life appears cheap and meaningless." The decision involves Gary Kleypas, 41, who was found guilty of murder, attempted rape and aggravated burglary in the stabbing death of Carrie Williams, a 20-year-old student at Pittsburg State University.

Campaign For Human Development Awards Grants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Campaign for Human Development has awarded another $330,000 in grants to groups working to implement last year's changes in national welfare law at the state and local level. Nine groups across the country will benefit from the new round of grants, which range from $25,000 to $55,000. Coupled with the $169,150 given to 14 groups in May, this brings to nearly $500,000 the amount given to this effort by CHD, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program. The new grants are intended to support long-term efforts such as monitoring the impact of changes, advocating corrective measures to last year's law, and promoting opportunities for just wages and work.

Religious Educators Lagging On Internet Use, Survey Says

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — Few Catholic educators consider the Internet a valued resource for religious education — partly because of their own inexperience with the communication tool and partly because of the cost of incorporating the technology into classrooms. That's the major finding in a national survey of more than 2,000 Catholic school principals, directors of religious education, parishioners and media conducted by the University of Dayton for the ACTA (Adult Catechetical Teaching Aids) Foundation. A summary of the study is published in the summer issue of The Living Light, a quarterly journal published by the U.S. Catholic Conference's Department of Education.

Pope Deplores Massacre Of Hundreds In Algeria

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II deplored the "unjustifiable spiral of violence" in Algeria after a massacre left as many as 300 civilians dead. "With a soul dismayed by such ferocious barbarity, I entrust the many victims to divine mercy, imploring the Lord to comfort the loved ones disheartened by pain," the pope said in his Angelus address Aug. 31. Witnesses said guerrillas rampaged through the southern outskirts of the Algerian capital, Algiers, on the night of Aug. 25, decapitating many of their victims and leaving their heads on display as a warning to survivors.

Parish Profile

St. Joseph Church

St. Joseph
326 S. Park Street
Asheboro, NC 27203
(910) 629-0221

Vicariate: **Greensboro**

Pastor: **Father Joseph W. Mack**

Masses: **Sat.— 5:30 p.m.; Sun. — 8:45, 11:15 a.m.; Spanish — Sun. 1 p.m.**

Number of parishioners: **679**

Number of households: **267**

ASHEBORO — The Catholic community of Asheboro attained parish status in 1948, although early traces of a Catholic presence date back more than a half-century earlier.

During the 1880s, two sergeants of the British Army and a native of Ireland composed the first Catholic congregation in the Asheboro area. The servicemen, having completed their time of duty, settled in western-central North Carolina in search of gold-mining fortunes. The Irishwoman became a key figure in the establishment of a chapel.

For several years, visiting priests from neighboring communities celebrated Masses in the chapel, a former law office in town. When the servicemen died and Mrs. Bartrow, the third Catholic, moved away, so ceased a Catholic population in Asheboro for the next several decades.

Between the World War I years and the 1930s, local reports of itinerant priests visiting Asheboro by train suggest a Catholic citizenry, however scant, in the area. A railway car converted into a chapel carried the preachers, who were said to have spent a week at a time ministering to Catholics and discussing the faith with others.

Beginning in April 1935, priests from High Point — among them Father Michael J. Begley, who would later become founding bishop of the Charlotte Diocese — celebrated weekday Masses in private Asheboro homes. Residents traveled to High Point or Greensboro for Sunday liturgies. When gasoline rationing during the World War II years began affecting travel opportunities, Asheboro Catholics gathered in the courtroom of the City Building for Masses.

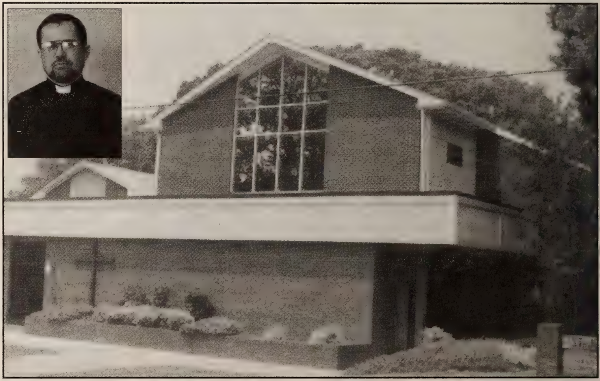
In September of 1947, the present church site was purchased. A chapel was set up in a house on the property, and Father D. Edward Sullivan, pastor of Holy Rosary parish in Lexington, served the Asheboro community. The congregation thereby became a mission of the Lexington parish.

Father Sullivan celebrated the first Mass in the chapel on Christmas Eve in 1947. In March of the following year, the parish was established and Father Sullivan was appointed pastor. Bishop Joseph Waters of Raleigh dedicated the parish under the patronage of St. Joseph in September of 1948.

Masses continued in the chapel until 1954, when a red-brick church was constructed next to the original structure. More improvements and expansions came in 1978, when a rectory was built and a second floor was added to the church. The parish was in the care of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales at the time.

During the early 1980s, St. Joseph parish ministered to about 22 Catholic families in Liberty to the northeast. That number has increased with time, and the mission community has assimilated into the parish.

Father Joseph W. Mack has served St. Joseph's since 1993, ministering to the almost 700 registered parishioners, and to some 335 Spanish-speaking Catholics in the region as well. The parish has an active Knights of Columbus council, Ladies Guild and Right to Life program, which in July assisted in the dedication of two pro-life memorials on the church grounds. Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the ceremony, sponsored by Asheboro Knights Council 10891.



SPAIN

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November 3 - 12, 1997

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Don't miss out. Please clip and send this response and we will add you to our trip roster. But remember, diocesan trips do fill quickly. This trip will be limited in size to about 50 and deposits of $300 per person will be requested this summer.

Price for this Spanish experience is $2,175 per person and includes -- airfare from Charlotte, first class hotels, two meals daily and touring.
(Departure taxes, transfers, and tips included.)

Sí, I am planning to join this trip.
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Joann Keane
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Diocese of Charlotte
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NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 2 • September 12, 1997

Do small things with great love

Photo by Joann Keane

Mother Teresa
of Calcutta

Born
August 26,
1910

Died in the
Lord
September 5,
1997

Helen Alvaré Brings Message Of Hope And Challenge To Vision To Lecture Series

By JULIE DOWNS
The New Catholic Miscellany

MONCKS CORNER, S.C. — After a day of talking policy and legal issues at the University of South Carolina, Helen Alvaré entered the peaceful, tree-lined grounds of Mepkin Abbey Sept. 4 and addressed a topic suitable to the surroundings: spirituality.

"I feel like an electric guitar amidst acoustic guitars," Alvaré joked, thinking of the faxes and phones ringing in her far-away office in Washington, D.C., where she serves as the spokesperson for the director of Planning and Information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. The address in the monastery's chapel, titled "Respect for Life: Spiritual Reflections," was the last stop in a series of lectures and events for Alvaré in South Carolina, a fitting capstone to a packed and hectic two-day schedule.

"I want to slow down a little. Reflect with you and not talk at you," Alvaré told the audience of 80 people, the majority of whom were pro-life workers.

Five specific issues outlined her casual, conversational address that was interspersed with personal stories ranging from the humorous (her truck and its changing pro-life bumper stickers) to the profound (a priest whose eight-year prayerful vigil outside an abortion clinic convinced one of the workers to abandon her job). She left her fellow pro-life advocates with a message of hope on their "long journey" and a challenge to live the pro-life vision.

"People watch who you are as pro-life activists more than they listen to what you say," she said.

Her first issue was the temptation to despair in the face of the *Roe vs. Wade* decision and the support of the opposition from "elite" sections of society. She urged those in the audience to allow themselves to surrender, in much the same way a pregnant woman is asked to surrender her fears about an unexpected pregnancy.

"Accept your imperfections, accept your limitations, surrender to that ... Surrender is a big part of the pro-life movement," she said.

Alvaré said her office is often overwhelmed by messages from people who believe they have *the* answer, bringing her to a second temptation: "The temptation to 'my way.'"

"One of the greatest gifts of the right-to-life movement is the diversity of gifts," Alvaré said. She discussed the value of combining those gifts and ideas, as opposed to adhering to the "my way" philosophy. Learning to do that requires developing an ability to listen, her third point, even to those of the opposing side.

"What you hear is not a lot of people with the conviction that it is O.K. to kill — they get to that as a part of a logical chain in their mind. Listening to those people, understanding how they think is the key," she said, "and evangelization is fundamental to breaking that 'logical chain.'

"If people have a relationship with God they will not get to the end of the chain that it is O.K. to kill," she added.

Addressing sexual mores today was Alvaré's fourth point. Abortion is a human rights issue, she said, but in many people's minds it remains a sexual one. And while many have the misconception that the Catholic church's pro-life advocacy is an attempt to police private lives, she said the church should not back away from addressing sexual morality.

"If we do not step up to the plate and say something, someone else will fill the air time. But it should be done from a positive perspective," she added, encouraging people to see their sexuality as a gift from God. "That is why we talk about it ... so you can be uplifted by it and not ruined by misuse."

The fifth, final and most important issue she addressed was urging pro-life workers to "live the vision" in all areas of their lives. She relayed her experience on the PBS program *Crossfire*, where she calmly withstood interruptions and blustering attacks and received the most positive feedback she had ever gotten, simply for not losing her temper. She urged her audience to live their lives as witnesses to their cause by "exuding peace and confidence in what you believe."

She concluded with a story about a man who traveled to the sea to deliver a handful of shells to a friend who was homesick for the beach. "The long journey was part of the gift," he told her. Alvaré closed by acknowledging and empathizing with their work, their dedication and frustration on this "long journey".

"The journey is a gift to ourselves. It is a gift to God. It is a gift to all," Alvaré said.

Reprinted with permission from The New Catholic Miscellany.

Readings for the week of September 14 - 20

Sunday	Numbers 21: 4-9 Philippians 2: 6-11 John 3: 13-17
Monday	Hebrews 5: 7-9 John 19: 25-27 or Luke 2: 33-35
Tuesday	1 Timothy 3: 1-13 Luke 7: 11-17
Wednesday	1 Timothy 3: 14-16 Luke 7: 31-35
Thursday	1 Timothy 4: 12-16 Luke 7: 36-50
Friday	1 Timothy 6: 2-12 Luke 8: 1-3
Saturday	1 Timothy 6: 13-16 Luke 8: 4-15

Photo by JIMMY ROSTAR

From left, Adrian Maldonado, Lazaro and Cintia Verdura, Luis and Sara Wolf, and Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty pause to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Catholic Hispanic Center's founding in Charlotte. Also shown is an artist's rendering of plans for a new facility for the center.

Catholic Hispanic Center Celebrates A Quarter-Century

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Hispanic Center community of Charlotte gathered Sept. 6 to commemorate 25 years of existence during an evening highlighted with memories, hope and a message from its diocesan shepherd.

The event, taking place in St. Gabriel Church's parish center, offered those in attendance an occasion to reflect on the true nature of faith.

"Yes, we have faith that binds us together," said Bishop William G. Curlin, addressing the congregation following a dinner he blessed. "We have certain religious and cultural traditions. We have our celebrations and all the visible signs of our Catholic identity.

"But we must also at the same time identify the Christ inside of us and in those around us. That's what church is all about. My message tonight is simply this: Please, let Jesus live in you."

For members of the Hispanic Center, the bishop's statements were reminders of the true catholicity of the local and worldwide church. The center was founded in 1972 to unite Hispanic Catholics and welcome them into the larger community through programs, liturgy, catechesis and support. It has operated on the landscape of diocesan multicultural ministry outreach ever since.

Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty has served as diocesan director of Hispanic ministry since 1995 and works closely with the people of the Charlotte center.

Following 16 years of priestly ministry in Panama and Mexico, Father Finnerty said he has been equally delighted working in western North Carolina. "The first thing I found was a really healthy (Hispanic) community, a community that had very saintly priests and people who were very much centered on the person of Jesus Christ," he said.

"I think that's one of the things that's really helped us to grow in these last two years, too, to become even more united and look for other ways to spread our faith more and more."

The festivities, adorned with colorful balloons and festive table centerpieces, included a photographic video montage chronicling the center's first quarter-century. The presentation was met with applause, laughter and a sense of appreciation.

"This is an opportunity to realize that the diocese has been involved with the Hispanic community for 25 years," Father Finnerty said, adding that as the composition of the community has changed from primarily Cuban to Mexican and Central American, Hispanic Catholics have "been stalwarts in the community and in many of the parishes in the diocese."

Father Finnerty also took time to thank all those who have supported and been interested in serving the Hispanic community during the past two-and-a-half decades. He gave special recognition to Luis Wolf, administrator of the center, for his years of dedication and diligence. "I've been very, very impressed with him — with his honesty, his simplicity, the way he's been very respectful of others in the whole community," Father Finnerty said of Wolf.

A fund drive is underway to construct a new building to house the center. Adrian Maldonado, master of ceremonies for the event, presented a plaque to the community honoring the center's past, present, and future. The plaque will hang in the new center.

"It's like a dream," said Rev. Mr. Edwin Rodriguez of the plans. "My child and my wife and I have all grown inside this center, so this is very important for us."

The permanent deacon has worked at the center for 10 years, and prays that a successful capital campaign will lead to a new facility. "The Lord is behind us all the time," he said. "I've got a big faith in God, and I believe we're going to have it."

Four Arrested In Protest Over Nuclear-Powered Space Probe

By MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Four demonstrators were arrested in a Sept. 8 protest at the White House against the Cassini space probe, which is scheduled for an October launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Catholic and other peace groups have been protesting the launch because the probe will have a 72.3-pound plutonium payload designed to boost it on its mission to Saturn to study the planet and its rings.

They say the possibility of disaster from an accident with plutonium, which has been described as the most toxic substance known, is great enough to merit scuttling the launch.

The White House was chosen as the Sept. 8 protest site because demonstrators say President Clinton has the authority to cancel the launch.

Protesters tried without success to deliver petitions against the Cassini launch bearing 40,000 signatures to White House guards. After the arrests, the petitions were delivered to the Executive Office Building nearby.

The four arrested were part of a larger group of about 60 who demonstrated following a press conference at which Cassini opponents detailed their objections.

Alan Kohn, who quit as emergency preparedness operations officer at the Kennedy Space Center over the issue, said the prospect of plutonium exposure to millions of people is not worth the risk.

He detailed a scenario if the rocket crashed on the launching pad, scattering plutonium far wider than the two square miles contended by NASA.

"Husbands would be looking for wives. Wives would be looking for husbands. Mothers would be going to school looking for their children. There would be crashes, gridlock. Nobody would be able to escape," Kohn said.

Dr. Janice Kirsch, an oncologist and hematologist who also opposes Cassini, called the risk of plutonium dispersion "a game of malignant roulette" and "a lethal lottery I find unconscionable." She said one pound of plutonium is sufficient, if scattered widely enough, to induce cancer in millions of people.

They dismissed NASA's contention that plutonium is the only way to proceed for the launch.

Cassini opponents argue that solar energy panels should be used, but NASA says the use of plutonium is necessary since the craft is already overweight and the distance of Saturn from the sun makes the use of solar panels a problem.

NASA points to a safety record showing no problems for 23 missions over the past three decades that have used plutonium-based energy. But Cassini's cargo will contain the largest amount of plutonium ever carried on an exploratory space satellite.

Michio Kaku, professor of theoretical physics at City University of New York, said the mission could be split in two, with the two probes that are both solar powered.

"We don't need to send a Cadillac into space. We can send two compacts," Kaku said, adding that the probe is 130 pounds overweight and urging a downsizing of the mission. "If it's good enough for Wall Street, it's good enough for NASA," he said.

Kaku said that if a student of his submitted NASA's rationale for using plutonium on the flight, "I would flunk him immediately."

Kaku and others at the press conference scoffed at NASA's claim that there is a one-in-a-million chance of an accident with Cassini, saying that three of 26 nuclear-powered U.S. space flights have met with accidents, as well as six of 41 Russian flights.

The four arrested at the White House for demonstrating without a permit were: Max Obuszewski with the Baltimore Peace Network; Anne Tucker of Pax Christi D.C.; Art Laffin of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker in Washington; and Ellen Barfield of Baltimore. They were immediately released.

James
Dutra

CNS photo from Reuters

Mission designers address the press in front of the Cassini spacecraft at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida in late August. The probe is the subject of protests because of a radioactive power source.

Dominican Sister Carol Gilbert, who took part in the protest, told Catholic News Service, "I think a lot of people still don't know about it (the launch)."

While she did not get arrested that day, she did get arrested at an August anti-Cassini protest at NASA headquarters in Florida.

"Everybody knows about O.J. Simpson. Everybody knows about Princess Di. Everybody knows about JonBenet (Ramsey)," added Sister Gilbert, who lives at Jonah House in Baltimore. "There's a responsibility the media has to try and tell the truth."

She said citizens opposing Cassini could write a letter to Clinton or sign a petition. She acknowledged that few would take the measures adopted by demonstrators, including a planned Oct. 4 protest at the launch site. A 92-year-old Virginia woman will lead a group of senior citizens opposing the launch.

Sister Gilbert also acknowledged that prayer is important in the effort. "Not just the prayers that we say in the churches, but with our bodies. Our bodies as well as our words," she said.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East | Charlotte, NC 28203 | (704)334-2283

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

"People who really and truly love each other are the happiest people in the world. We see that with our very poor people. They love their children and they love their families. They may have very little, in fact they many not have anything, but they are happy people."

— *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

The Diocese of Charlotte • Respect Life Office
704.331.1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will
take part in the following events:

September 13
National Conference of Catholic Bishops
Representative at Funeral for Mother Teresa
Calcutta, India

September 18 — 1:30 p.m.
Bishop McGuinness High School Mass
Holy Family Church
Clemmons

September 20 — 11 a.m.
Confirmation
St. Mary Church
Greensboro

2 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Mary Church
Greensboro

September 21 — 8:30 a.m.
Confirmation
Christ the King Church
Kings Mountain

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Mary Is "Model Of Virtues" For Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Sept. 3.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary we are now looking at Mary as the model of the church's holiness. In Mary, the church has already reached perfection, appearing "without spot or wrinkle" and having been made "holy and without blemish" (Eph 5:27). But the individual followers of Christ are not sinless, and they must strive to increase in holiness by overcoming sin and evil. In this task they raise their eyes to Mary, who shines forth as "the model of the virtues" ("Lumen Gentium," 65). Mary is the model of faith for the church, she is the model of hope and of love. Through her motherhood and her association with Christ's sacrifice on the cross, and by her maternal presence in the early church, she cooperated in the work of our salvation, and she continues to sustain the Christian community and all believers in their generous commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am pleased to extend special greetings to the English- speaking pilgrims and visitors present at today's audience, especially those from England, Malta, Uganda, Malaysia, the Philippines and the United States. May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always!

Pope To Concentrate On World's Families In Rio De Janeiro

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's four-day visit to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will focus almost exclusively on the family. His Oct. 2-5 schedule revolves around an international theological-pastoral congress on family life and the Second World Meeting of Families.

Pope Officially Accepts Final Latin Edition Of Catechism

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has officially accepted and promulgated the definitive Latin edition of "The Catechism of the Catholic Church." During a Sept. 8 ceremony with cardinals and bishops at his summer residence south of Rome, the pope said that with the completion of the Latin edition, the catechism should be "better and more widely known, welcomed, spread and, above all, made a precious instrument for the daily work of pastoral activity and evangelization." Changes made to the text during the drafting of the Latin edition also will have to be made to the translations in dozens of other languages that already have been published.

Coming of Age

Christopher Carstens

Keeping Out of Trouble

Here's a line I'll bet you've heard at least once. "If your friends were jumping off the cliff, would you go with them?"

Stupid, right? If you watched your pals throwing themselves into the air and being smashed on the rocks below, there's no way you'd follow them.

So, when your parents pull that old line, you think: "Dad, get real. Do you think I'm stupid or what?"

Still, there is a point here. Teen-agers do some things that are silly, some things that are irritating to the grown-ups around them and, now and then, they do some things that are downright dangerous.

There's no point agonizing over the first two categories. If you can't be silly now and then when you're a kid, then we all should just give up the entire idea of ever having fun at all. As for being irritating, that's just going to happen. When your music is hip-hop or alternative, and your parents play '70s "light rock," there's going to be some irritation back and forth.

> *Lots of teens worry that if they don't go along with their friends, they'll end up friendless. It doesn't usually work that way. ...They'll still be your friends, and they'll respect your independence.*

Still, the third category is a real problem — the dangerous stuff teens let themselves get talked into. For example: Somebody has some crystal meth at a party. They say it's a great high.

Or, you're driving home from the ball game on a quiet country road. Somebody asks if your car can hit 100.

Or there's sex. He says he loves you and it's all right. She promises that she's taking birth control. He says you're the only one he's ever been with, so there's no way he could have AIDS.

OK, it's not jumping off a cliff, but some real dangers lurk in these choices. Teen-agers tend to feel bulletproof, as though nothing can hurt them. And it's really tough when your friends are doing something, and they say, "Come on, it will be cool."

There's a three-step plan for keeping yourself out of the big problems. It isn't magic, and sometimes it isn't easy — but it's the only thing that works.

First, respect your intuition. If you find yourself thinking, "This isn't a good idea," or if you get that nervous, fearful, "something bad is about to happen feeling," listen to it.

I've spent too many evenings in the ER with teens who admitted knowing they were making mistakes before anything bad happened. Listen to your fears — they'll protect you. Nobody ever ended up in an emergency room for coming home a little early.

The second step is tougher: Tell your friends you won't go along on this choice. In a pinch, the only words you need are, "I don't want to." Stick to your guns. There's no need for explanation. Just keep saying, "I don't want to." Those are powerful words that no argument can overcome.

Finally, if it is clear that your friends change their plans, that they really are going to jump off this particular cliff, get out of there.

Lots of teens worry that if they don't go along with their friends, they'll end up friendless. It doesn't usually work that way. In fact, someday when they're bruised, they'll tell you, "You were smart." They'll still be your friends, and they'll respect your independence.

You lose friends by lying to them. You lose friends by failing to keep your commitments. But you'll hardly ever lose a friend by saying, "Look, I really don't want to do that. You guys go on without me."

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017; or on the Internet at cgcarstaccessl.net.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

A Word To All Preachers

Not long ago, I sat down on the set of our weekly television series, *Christopher Closeup,* to chat with Walter Burghardt, S.J. I was feeling a little uneasy.

You see, my guest was recently named one of the "twelve most effective preachers in the English-speaking world," according to Baylor University's two-year survey. But he reassured me instantly. Walter Burghardt is also a gentleman.

This extraordinary orator is known for his concern for social justice issues. He understands the healing and persuasive force of identifying with his audience through imaginative storytelling. When I asked him what made great preachers great, he answered with this story:

"An Hasidic Rabbi in the Ukraine told me that he had learned the meaning of love from two peasants. He was in a town in the countryside and there were two peasants at a table, drunk and gloriously in their cups. Each had his arm around the other. At one point Ivan tells Peter how much he loves him. But Peter replies, 'Ivan, do you know what hurts me?' Ivan said, 'Oh, how should I know what hurts you?' Peter answers, 'Well, if you don't know what hurts me, how can you say you love me?'"

This, Walter explained, is essential to effective preaching. Every congregation asks its preacher, "If you don't know what hurts me, how can you say you love me?"

This month in Cincinnati the Catholic Coalition on Preaching is sponsoring the Third National Conference on Preaching. It's theme, "Enkindle in Us the Fire," focuses on renewing a passion for the preaching ministry. I applaud their efforts. Matthew summed up the essence of spreading the Good News with the words, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks."

Over the years I have come to the conclusion that the world is not simply divided into preachers and preached at. Priests, ministers, rabbis may have more specialized training than others, but certainly not a corner on truth or love. Oliver Goldsmith, the great writer and a minister's son, said, "You can preach a better sermon with you life than with your lips." I don't think he was speaking only about religious leaders. Each one of us can live out a powerful — and transforming — message.

Just before she walked out on stage each time she appeared at the Metropolitan Opera House, a famous singer would whisper the words "I love you" to her audience. It was her way of reminding herself of her real purpose: to convey a portion of God's joy and beauty to others.

It is that same deep and sincere love of people that should motivate us when we speak to others. Whether your audience consists of one person or a thousand, you will more readily win their hearts and their heads if your goal is to enrich their lives. So let love and enthusiasm direct your works.

St. Francis de Sales believed that "the test of a preacher is that the congregation goes away saying not 'What a lovely sermon!' but 'I will do something.'"

So, for all those who understand what hurts others, all those who truly love others, all those who inspire others to "do something" — I have just two words: Congratulations, Preacher!

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Make Your Voice Heard," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

What Difference Does Cremation Make?

Q. *Your columns are a big help in understanding our Catholic teachings. Now I need to clear my conscience regarding cremation.*

I'm a 41-year-old mother of three, and wife of 15 years. I want to donate my organs when I die to save the lives of others and then be cremated.

My husband and children disagree. His reasoning is that I should return to God the way he sent me, all in one piece with nothing missing.

I say it doesn't make any difference once you're dead. You can have a funeral Mass, even after cremation.

Are they right to oppose my wish? Does the church have anything to say about this?

A. Let's take the two parts of your question separately. First cremation.

For years now, the church has taught that cremation is permissible, unless it is requested for reasons opposed to Christian belief. (For a long time cremation was seen as a way of rejecting belief in the resurrection.)

Two heavy concerns need to be thoroughly considered, however. First, the Catholic Church strongly professes the preference for burial of our natural body rather than cremation.

The reason is clear. Our bodies are not, as some tend to think, merely the shell of our "real self," our soul, a shell which can be discarded in any way we wish.

Christian belief, and the reality, is that our bodies are as much a part of our human selfhood as our souls. Whatever we know and feel comes to us originally through our bodies, our senses and our feelings. These bodies are an essential part of what we are as human beings, men and women.

This is so true that, according to traditional Christian philosophy and theology, our soul is not a human soul, even in eternity, without a relationship to a body.

St. Paul explains, in 1 Corinthians 15 and elsewhere, that this is what the resurrection is all about. Our bodies will be transformed, but we will still be ourselves, body and spirit, after we rise to new life with Christ.

Obviously, cremation does not make resurrection impossible. As I have explained several times previously, however, it may reflect a serious misunderstanding — a minimizing — of the truth that "in baptism the body was marked with the seal of the Trinity and became the temple of the Holy Spirit," and that this is why "Christians respect and honor the bodies of the dead" (Introduction to the Catholic ritual for Christian funerals).

In other words, our bodies are profound symbols of our faith in Christ. Someone recently wrote beautifully, "When we touch and kiss and bless and process the bodies of our dead, we are 'teaching' ourselves not only that we will miss this loved one but also that this body, though dead, is still part of Christ's body.

"This body, seemingly lifeless, will one day be filled with new life" (Modern Liturgy, September 1997).

See **Dietzen,** page 9

Spirituality for Today

Father John Catoir

What Does Spiritual Joy Feel Like?

Life is filled with pain and sorrow. Just knowing that life is difficult makes it more bearable. The idea that we should always be happy, content and satisfied is a myth. No one is free of suffering.

Nevertheless, it is important for Christians to remember that the word "Gospel" means "good news." We are not alone; we are not abandoned. In the midst of all the turmoil, confusion and pain, Jesus tells us to cheer up. He knows that in this world we will have our troubles, but he has overcome the world.

We always will have to carry the cross that fate hands us, but this does not cancel our chance for joy. How is it possible? This question always fascinates me. What exactly is the relationship between joy and sorrow?

It must be obvious to you that the joy Jesus speaks of is not the same as the joy of the senses. When you are having a good time, escaping from the trials and burdens of life, you tend to forget everything. This escape may seem like joy at the time, but it is more a distraction. Escapes may work for awhile, but sooner or later you have to come back to reality. When you do, all the problems you tried to forget are still there waiting for you.

The joy of which Jesus speaks is not an escape, rather it is a silent awareness of the Lord's loving presence. It is the sweet sense of something greater than yourself.

How is it possible to experience joy and suffering at the same time? Perhaps this example will help. When a mother loses precious sleep in order to care for a sick child, she may feel the discomfort of sleep deprivation. However, at the same time she is filled with gladness. Just being there to care for her beloved child gives her a special glow. She exudes a kind of grave happiness.

Jesus once alluded to this kind of joy when he said, "Not by bread alone does man live." He had missed a meal and was probably hungry and thirsty, but he experienced something of a different order. It was the spiritual joy of doing his Father's will.

This joy is a spiritual sensation which is not based in the emotional life. It may awaken a deep emotional resonance in the soul, but it is rooted more in the mind. It is directly related to the knowledge of God's loving presence within the soul.

In such a state of awareness one is able to pray:

"Oh Holy Spirit, soul of my soul, I bow before you. Thank you for being with me in this trial. Help me to accept everything that you allow to happen to me. Console me, protect me, guide me in the days ahead. With the help of your grace I promise to conform my will to yours. Strengthen me in all I do."

You can make up your own words. Such a prayer of surrender coming from the heart is the pathway to deep spiritual joy.

I think the Lord meant to tell us something about joy when he said, "My yoke is easy, my burden light.... He who would lose his life for my sake will find it.... Seek first the kingdom of God and all things will be added to you."

Miracles Of Mexican Folk Art At Hickory Museum

HICKORY — An exhibition of rare 18th and 19th century Mexican religious folk paintings is on view at the Hickory Museum of Art through Oct. 29.

The "Miracles of Mexican Folk Art: Retablos and Ex-Votos" display is a unique and vivid celebration of Mexico's vibrant artistic and religious heritage.

This exhibit features 36 religious votive paintings made during the Mexican post-colonial period between 1780 and 1910. Each painting depicts Christian religious personages that were held in strict devotion.

Several events are planned to accompany the "Miracles of Mexican Folk Art" exhibition. Father Joseph Waters from Holy Trinity Church in Taylorsville will speak on saints of the Catholic Church Sept. 25 at 7:00 p.m. Father Waters served the Catholic Church in Mexico for several years before coming to North Carolina. He will explain the edification and beatification processes of saints and will address their roles in Mexico today.

On Oct. 4 from 12-3 p.m. the Museum will host a Mexican Culture Fest Family Day featuring Mexican music, folk costumes and dancing. Alejandro Ferratiz will perform with his lariat and sombrero. Food booths will feature Mexican specialities. Art activities include making paper skeletons, flowers and banners in preparation for the Day of the Dead which is celebrated Nov. 1 and 2. The event is sponsored by the Hickory Museum of Art Guild. Following the activities, the Tablas Teatro de Arte, Spanish theater group, will perform "Three Spanish Comedies" in the museum auditorium at 3:00 p.m.

Admission to the Mexican Culture Fest and the play is free.

To arrange a group tour call Laurie Corral, (704) 327-8576. Miracles of Mexican Folk Art may be viewed from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Visitors coming by Interstate 40 should take exit 125 and follow the brown Arts and Science Center signs. For information on the "Miracles of Mexican Folk Art" or other exhibitions at the Hickory Museum of Art, call (704) 327-8576.

Cardinal Bernardin Honored Posthumously By Catholic Charities

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Catholic Charities USA honored the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago with its Vision 2000 Award at its annual conference in West Palm Beach.

Pat Johnson, chairman of the Catholic Charities board of trustees, presented the award to Cardinal Bernardin's sister, Elaine Addison, at the conference's opening session Sept. 5.

"The cardinal was at the forefront of the civil rights movement, a spokesperson in the church for economic justice and peace, and a strong proponent of Catholic identity and mission effectiveness in terms of Catholic Charities and health care," said Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, president of Catholic Charities USA, in announcing the award.

Cardinal Bernardin, who died in November 1996, was honored for his service to Catholic Charities in Chicago, Catholic Charities USA, and his commitment to the values of empowerment and inclusiveness outlined in Vision 2000, Catholic Charities' strategic plan for the millennium.

The organization cited the cardinal's leadership of a campaign with the U.S. bishops to raise $550,000 for an endowment for Catholic Charities USA in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as well as his collaboration with Catholic Charities locally in a variety of ways.

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Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 1910-1997

Mother Teresa Widely Acclaimed As Living Saint

CNS file photo from Reuters

Mother Teresa Of Calcutta — Mother Teresa, missionary to the poor and sick and founder of the Missionaries of Charity order, died Sept. 5 in Calcutta. She was 87.

CALCUTTA, India *(CNS)*

Mother Teresa, who died of cardiac arrest Sept. 5 at her order's headquarters in Calcutta, has been widely acclaimed as a living saint.

The 87-year-old nun had founded the Missionaries of Charity and won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.

Even after health problems led her to resign as head of the Missionaries of Charity in 1990, her order re-elected her as superior anyway, and she continued traveling at a pace that would have tired people half her age.

The tiny, wizened nun in her familiar white and blue sari has traveled the world to deliver a single message: that love and caring are the most important things in the world.

"The biggest disease today," she once said, "is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference toward one's neighbor who lives at the roadside, assaulted by exploitation, corruption, poverty and disease."

A favorite motto she lived and preached was "Do small things with great love."

But the "small things" she did so captivated the world that she was showered with honorary degrees and other awards, almost universally praised by the media and sought out by popes, presidents, philanthropists and other figures of wealth and influence.

Despite calls on her time from all over the globe to found new convents, speak at international gatherings or receive some new honor for her work, she always returned to India to be with those she loved most — the lonely, abandoned, homeless, disease-ravaged, dying, "poorest of the poor" in Calcutta's streets.

During a monthlong tour of the United States in 1982, she was asked at a press conference in Charleston, S.C., about the popular conviction that she was already a saint.

"Please, let me die first," she answered.

When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, Dec. 10, 1979, she accepted it "in the name of the hungry, of the naked, of the homeless, of the blind, of the lepers, of all those who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society."

In her acceptance speech, she condemned abortion as the world's greatest destroyer of people.

"To me, the nations who have legalized abortion are the poorest nations," she said. "They are afraid of the unborn child, and the child must die."

During a June 1988 visit to the U.S., she told pro-lifers in St. Louis, "If I had power I would open a jail, and I would put every single doctor (who performs abortions) in the jail for killing — killing life, killing a child, a gift from God."

Seven years earlier in New York, she proposed a characteristically direct and simple solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancy.

"If you know anyone who does not want the child, who is afraid of the child, then tell them to give that child to me," she said.

Sometimes criticized for not using her considerable influence to attack systemic evils such as the arms race or organized exploitation and injustice, she simply responded that was not her mission, but one that belonged to others, especially to the Catholic laity.

"Once you get involved in politics, you stop being all things to all men," she said in an interview in 1982. "We must encourage the lay people to stand for justice, for truth" in the political arena.

Often when criticized about her approach to social issues, Mother Teresa told of a man who suggested she could do more for the world by teaching people how to fish rather than by giving them fish.

"The people I serve are helpless," she said she told him. "They cannot stand. They cannot hold the rod. I will give them the food and then send them to you so you can teach them how to fish."

In recent years, she began work with sufferers of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. She opened shelters in New York, Philadelphia and Washington for people with AIDS.

She founded houses in Cuba and the Soviet Union — countries not generally open to foreign church workers.

See **Living Saint,** page 8

Bishop Curlin, Diocese Honor Life Of Mother Teresa

CHARLOTTE — An ecumenical group of more than 700 packed St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Sept. 8 to honor Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

During the memorial Mass, Bishop William G. Curlin reflected on the Catholic nun's life, one dedicated to helping the poorest of the poor. Following is the text of Bishop Curlin's homily:

Cardinal Newman once wrote on the occasion of the death of a beloved friend: "There are feelings in my soul so deep that I find difficult to express them in words." I can identify with his sentiments this evening as we gather to remember in prayer one whom we revere and love as a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

Last week we were stunned by the shocking news of the death of Princess Diana. Our hearts go out to her two sons. Then suddenly without warning, we heard the news of the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Both deaths, coming so close together, seemed too much to bear. England mourns its loss. Tonight we come as a family, not to weep but to rejoice, for death has brought Mother Teresa the victory of eternal life promised by Jesus Christ to all who die in His love.

I do not feel the need to recount the whole history of Mother's life but only the highlights of her life. We have read of her childhood and her later entrance into the religious community of the Sisters of Loreto. It was as a member of this community that she went to India to teach in one of their schools.

It was during my first visit to Calcutta that Mother Teresa described an almost mystical experience. She was traveling on a train and watching the endless line of poor people standing along the tracks. Suddenly she heard a voice within her telling her to dedicate her life to the service of the poorest of the poor. With the permission of her religious superiors, she left the security of her religious community and entered the world of Calcutta's poor. There she discovered an elderly woman abandoned in a pile of garbage. She later found a dying man whose body bore the attacks of rats. Both had nowhere to go and no one to help them. Mother Teresa boldly challenged the city authorities to do something to help such desperately ill people. She begged for a place where she might offer them a home and, more importantly, offer them love. The rest of her story is history!

Photo by Joann Keane

Bishop Curlin shares a smile with Mother Teresa during her visit to Charlotte.

This evening I would like to speak of the mission of love that empowered the life of Mother Teresa. For on many occasions, when admired for her social ministry of caring for the world's poor, she would immediately respond: "We are not social workers. We are contemplatives who live in God's presence. It is His love within our hearts that drives us into the service of the poor." I quote her words: "As Jesus was sent by His Father, we too are sent by Him filled with His spirit to be witnesses of *His Gospel of love and compassion* in our apostolate among the poorest of the poor all over the world."

You and I live in a world of poverty! I do not refer only to material poverty but to a worse poverty — the poverty within the human heart. On several occasions Mother Teresa described *the absence of God within the soul* as the greatest illness on earth. It destroys all hope to live. It robs us of the ability to reach out to those around us when love demands *taking risks* in helping others.

For Mother Teresa there was no child, woman or man on earth that was unlovable. When criticized for embracing lepers and people with AIDS, she reminded us that we and not God created "untouchables". Too often we are tempted to turn our back on people who are "not like us." We distinguish between good and the bad — and act accordingly. *Some people are treated like clean or soiled linen.* But Mother Teresa followed the teaching of the Man from Galilee, who taught us that He lives in every person on earth, especially "the least of our brethren."

Our world needs to embrace the philosophy of Jesus. Too often we see evidence of divisions that tear apart the human family. For some there is the temptation to attack those whose lives are not in accord with our own. If Jesus had made that distinction, the woman caught in adultery would have died by stoning and Magdalene's tears in washing Jesus' feet would never have won her pardon. Mother Teresa taught us the distinction between pity and compassion. We can pity someone and still hold them in contempt. Compassion invokes feelings that demand action in helping our neighbor.

I remember Mother telling me of the anger and threats she received when she first opened her home for the dying in Calcutta. One day an official came to close her home. When he saw her bathing lepers and dressing their wounds, he told the angry mob outside her home: "I will close her home when some of you bathe the lepers and dress their wounds." Ten years later I recalled those words when I visited families in a community where Mother Teresa wished to establish a home for people dying with AIDS. Compassion for the dying was sometimes lacking. The same was true when trying to establish a shelter for homeless women and children. "Not in our neighborhood" was the response by some.

Recently Mother Teresa was questioned for opening a home for prostitutes. In support of her home, she spoke of the demands of love. Everyone, no matter who they are or whatever their illness, is a child of God. She reminded us that "Do not judge and you will not be judged." She dared to be a mother to all who are motherless on earth!

Great faith is not required for a kind deed. It is not too difficult to perform an act of charity, but to spend a lifetime of day-after-day binding up the world's wounds requires heroic love. Mother Teresa possessed heroic love!

Where did she find her strength and courage? She believed that from the moment of baptism Jesus lived within her. She nourished that interior life of the Spirit through prayer, Eucharist and the sacramental life of the Church. She professed that God "wrote love letters to His poor on earth using her as His pencil." Hers was a simple faith that accepted and lived the Gospel without compromise! She believed that our hands and hearts are the hands and heart of Jesus when we use them in service to our neighbor — be they friend or stranger. She understood the words of Chesterton: "The Gospel hasn't failed. We have failed to try it as Jesus taught it." There was never any compromise in Mother's loyalty to the teachings of Christ. She never tested the winds of popularity. She feared no criticism nor sought any popularity. The Gospel of love given us by Jesus Christ was her life.

Pope and Teresa — Pope John Paul II greets Mother Te

Some have already questioned if her ministry to the poor will now fade away. Will her sisters, who serve the poor in almost every nation, now decline without her leadership and inspiration? Some years ago, I asked her the same question. She gave a simple response: "We only exist to serve God's purpose. When we have finished the work He gave us to do, we will fade away. Our mission to the poor is dependent upon God and not upon ourselves."

Mother Teresa has left us. Her religious community of sisters will continue her work here under the leadership of her successor. In Charlotte we are blessed with the presence of her sisters prepared to continue her mission. Yet, what is needed is our own pledge to continue Mother's service to the poor and needy. We cannot ask her sisters to do what we refuse to do.

The Charlotte community often boasts of its increasing prosperity. Yet, major problems exist within our community — we cannot hide nor disguise them. Many families are in crisis. Parents fear the destruction of young lives by alcohol or drugs. Racism continues to divide us as a community. Prejudice rejects

the Vatican in this undated photo.

those born in other nations. Even public officials debate the equality of citizenship. We might be tempted to shrug our shoulders and say: "Why bother? What can one person do?" I disagree. All we need do is look at the singular life of Mother Teresa of Calcutta and see how the world has been changed for the better. One person filled with faith and love can make a difference!

In England there is already talk of erecting a public monument in memory of Princess Diana. What memorial will we erect to the memory of Mother Teresa? I respectfully recommend that we make ours a *living monument of love and compassion.* We should seize this moment and pledge that we will carry on her mission of charity.

Tonight we read Beatitudes written 2,000 years ago. Allow me to quote the same beatitudes as written by Mother Teresa:

Jesus is the love to be loved.
Jesus is the peace to be given.
Jesus is the hungry to be fed.
Jesus is the thirsty to be satiated.
Jesus is the naked to be clothed.
Jesus is the homeless to be sheltered.
Jesus is the sick to be healed.
Jesus is the lonely to be loved.
Jesus is the leper to be washed.
Jesus is the little one to be embraced.
Jesus is the old to be served.

And so we pray: "Mother Teresa, may the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem. May choirs of angels welcome you and lead you to the bosom of Abraham, where Lazarus is poor no longer may you find eternal rest. Amen."

The Voice Of Mother Teresa

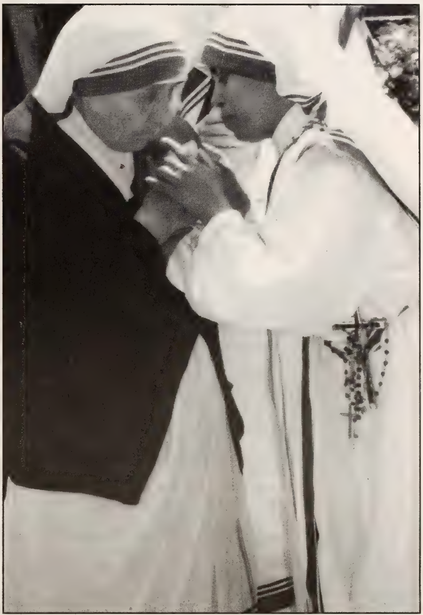


Photo by Joann Keane

"One of the most demanding things for me is traveling everywhere — and with publicity. I have said to Jesus that if I don't go to heaven for anything else, I will be going to heaven for all the traveling with all the publicity, because it has purified me and sanctified me and made me really ready to go to heaven."
— National Prayer Breakfast, Washington, February 1994

"Love, to be true, has to hurt. I must be willing to give whatever it takes not to harm other people and, in fact, to do good to them. This requires that I be willing to give until it hurts. Otherwise, there is no love in me and I bring injustice, not peace, to those around me."
— National Prayer Breakfast, Washington, February 1994

"Please do not kill the child. I want the child. I am willing to accept any child who would be aborted and to give that child to a married couple who will love the child and be loved by the child."
— National Prayer Breakfast, Washington, 1994

"And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love, and we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts."
— National Prayer Breakfast, Washington, 1994

"There is so much suffering, so much hatred, so much misery, and we with our prayer, with our sacrifice are beginning at home. Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the action that we do."
— Oslo, Norway, December 1979, after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize

"It is not enough for us to say: I love God, but I do not love my neighbor."
— Oslo, Norway, 1979

"And today the greatest means, the greatest destroyer of peace is abortion."
— Oslo, Norway, 1979

"Let us keep that joy of loving Jesus in our hearts, and share that joy with all that we come in touch with. And that radiating joy is real, for we have no reason not to be happy because we have Christ with us. Christ in our hearts, Christ in the poor that we meet."
— Oslo, Norway, 1979

"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty."
— Los Angeles, October 1973

"How do you love God? By sharing with others, the hungry, the naked, the unwanted, the sick, the dying."
— Graduation ceremony at Niagara University, Niagara Falls, N.Y., May 30, 1982

"I do not know much about politics, but I do know if the politicians would spend more time on their knees in prayer the world would be a better place."
— News conference in New York, May 30, 1982,

"Love is not words. It is action. Our vocation is to love."
— Newark, N.J., June 29, 1982

"The most precious gift of God is a child, for he is the image and likeness of God. With abortion we are killing the likeness of God, of Jesus."
— Arlington, Va., June 1, 1982

The child is God's gift to the family. Each child is created in the special image and likeness of God for greater things — to love and be loved.

If we are contemplatives in the heart of the world with all its problems, these problems can never discourage us.

— Charlotte, N.C., June 13, 1995

Pope John Paul II Remembers Mother Teresa As True Missionary Of Charity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the text of Pope John Paul II's Angelus address in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 7.:*

Dear brothers and sisters,

In this moment of prayer, I dearly want to recall the most beloved sister, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who two days ago ended her long earthly sojourn. I've been able to meet her many times, and I remember well her tiny figure, bent by a lifetime of service to the poorest of the poor, but always charged with an inexhaustible inner energy: the energy of love of Christ.

Missionary of Charity: This was Mother Teresa, in name and in deed, offering an example so stirring that it attracted many people, who were willing to leave everything in order to serve Christ and be present among the poor.

Missionary of Charity. Her mission began every day before dawn, in front of the Eucharist. In the silence of contemplation, Mother Teresa of Calcutta heard the echo of the cry of Christ on the cross: "I am thirsty." This cry, received in the depth of her heart, drew her into the streets of Calcutta and into the slums of the world, looking for Jesus in the poor, the abandoned and the dying.

Dear brothers and sisters, this sister, universally recognized as a mother to the poor, leaves an eloquent example for everyone, believers and nonbelievers. She leaves us the testimony of a love of God that, welcomed by her, transformed her life into a total gift to others. She leaves us the testimony of a contemplation that becomes love, and of a love that becomes contemplation. Her works speak for themselves and reveal to people of our time that high significance of life that unfortunately often seems to become lost.

She loved to repeat: "Serve the poor to serve life." Mother Teresa did not lose any opportunity to underline in every way the love for life. She knew from experience that life takes on its full value, even in the midst of problems and contradictions, when it meets with love. And following the Gospel, she became the "good Samaritan" for every person she met, for every person in trouble, suffering and scorned.

In the great heart of Mother Teresa, a special place was reserved for the family. "A family that prays," she said at the first World Encounter of Families, "is a happy family." Today the words of this unforgettable mother of the poor still maintain their strength.

While we entrust to the Lord the generous soul of this humble and faithful religious, we ask the Holy Virgin to support and comfort her sisters and all those throughout the world who knew her and loved her.

The Life of Mother Teresa

1910 — Born Aug. 26 in Macedonia
1928 — Left home to join the Loreto Sisters
Makes her first vows in Dublin, Ireland
1934 — Named principal at girl's school in Calcutta
1946 — Receives her inner "call" to serve the poor
1948 — Receives three months medical training and begins work in Calcutta slums
1950 — Established the Missionaries of Charity
1952 — Opens home for dying destitutes in Calcutta
1965 — Receives pontifical approval for her order
1967 — Begins opening homes in other countries
1971 — Receives the first Pope John XXIII Peace Prize
Establishes first U.S. foundation of her order
1979 — Receives the Nobel Peace Prize in December
1982 — Visits war zone in Beirut, Lebanon
1988 — Soviet government allows her to set up a home in Moscow
1990 — Resigns as head of her order only to be re-elected by the congregation in a unanimous vote
1993 — Travels to China to open home for the poor
1994 — Tells audience at National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, "I am willing to accept any child who would be aborted."
1997 — In March the Missionaries of Charity elect Sister Nirmala to succeed Mother Teresa as head of order
Mother Teresa dies in Calcutta on Sept. 5

Photo by Joann Keane

She was not fond of being photographed and would often say to God, "if I humble and humiliate myself and have a picture, you must free someone from purgatory.' In a rare group shot (taken during her 1995 visit to Charlotte) Mother Teresa agrees to such a photo. On that day, she indubitably freed a number of souls.

Unique Opportunity Links Charlottean With Mother Teresa

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte traffic can leave drivers dizzy enough on any given day, but when you have one of the world's most beloved Catholic figures as a passenger, things can get even more white-knuckled than usual. For one woman handed such a task, though, the occasion proved to be an opportunity for grace.

Like the thousands who welcomed Mother Teresa of Calcutta to the Queen City in June 1995, Karen Keffer looked forward to a moving experience of encountering the meek champion of the poor whose compassion far transcended her slight frame.

And through a unique circumstance, Keffer was put in the driver's seat. Literally.

Thanks to a request by the Very Rev. Mauricio West, vicar general, chancellor and friend of Keffer's, the Charlotte interior designer received a chance to personally meet the person whom many called a living saint.

"Father Mo said, 'You're driving,' Keffer recalled simply with a chuckle the morning after Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated a Mass in St. Patrick Cathedral honoring the life of Mother Teresa, who died Sept. 5 of a heart attack.

As one of Mother Teresa's drivers, Keffer had an up-close experience with the little nun who came to establish a Missionaries of Charity convent and addressed a crowd of 13,500 gathered in Charlotte Coliseum. The meeting, she said, was "a most humbling experience," and one that also began with pangs of uneasiness.

"To be truthful, my first reaction was I really didn't feel worthy," Keffer said. "She was such a holy person.

"I was quite nervous the whole time, but she was just so humble and kind and easy to be around that it really broke the ice immediately. She really had a great sense of humor, too."

While that universally known demeanor of kindness shined, Keffer added that Mother Teresa also conveyed her equally familiar expressions of piety and concern during her time traveling through Charlotte's streets.

"Between conversations, she prayed a lot," Keffer said. "And she made remarks about several Chinese restaurants. At first I thought she wanted to eat food at one of them, but what it came down to was she was trying to get a home for her sisters in China, and it was disturbing to her that she had not been able to do that yet."

Bishop Curlin accompanied Keffer and Mother Teresa in their vehicle, along with a traveling companion of Mother's and several Secret Service agents.

Keffer fondly recalled Mother Teresa keeping the agents on the ball through much of the van's journey. "She did not care if she put herself in danger, and that was their main concern," Keffer said, adding that the agents wanted Mother to roll her window down only at certain times along the route. "But if someone approached, she would roll it right down anyway. The whole time, she didn't turn anybody away."

Through the fanfare, the cheers and the Charlotte traffic, Keffer was often reminded of the power of Mother Teresa's simplicity. "A lot of the time, she just leaned over and took my hand," she said. "She made many comments about the city, how beautiful it was and how fortunate we were to live in such a lovely place. And the trees — she loved the trees."

Though Mother Teresa is gone now, Keffer is firmly convinced of her legacy, one that touches the Charlottean in a very personal way. "(Our meeting) definitely was a gift, but in that gift I expect that I am supposed to make something come out of it," she said. "It taught me that I'm not doing enough for others, and I'm supposed to change somebody's life for the better. Her whole message was to love, to love 'until it hurts.'

"That is her legacy to me."

Sainthood Will Have To Wait

The earliest church officials can consider the cause for Mother Teresa, often referred to as a "living saint," is Sept. 5, 2002, five years after her death.

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In life, she was often called a "living saint" because of her evident faith and her generous service to the poor.

In death, however, Mother Teresa will have to wait for the title of sainthood. The earliest church officials can begin looking at her cause is Sept. 5, 2002 — exactly five years after she died in Calcutta.

After that, more time will pass as local and Vatican authorities examine her writings, hear witnesses and investigate alleged miracles.

For the church, there are no "instant saints," and there are good reasons for that, say Vatican officials.

The waiting period was first instituted in the 16th century as part of new Vatican sainthood rules. Once 30 years long and today only five, this procedural pause has always been an important element in discerning who's a saint and who isn't.

For one thing, Vatican officials say, it allows time for a popular cult to develop. In the church's eyes, one clear sign of sainthood is that people pray to the person in the years following his or her death.

In other words, it's not enough to be a "living saint;" the person's holiness must keep working after departure from this life.

The church also sees the waiting period as a time when God can confirm popular opinion about a would-be saint, through the granting of graces, favors and miracles in response to prayers.

In this sense, canonization — the declaration of sainthood — would represent not so much a "posthumous medal" for Mother Teresa as a recognition that God has raised her up as a model for the faithful, in a process that continues.

Certainly, Mother Teresa has a head start on the official road to sainthood. One of the major criteria used by church authorities is whether the person had a reputation for sanctity; that box has already been checked for Mother Teresa.

The investigations of what she wrote and said publicly should not present much of a problem, either. Authorities would be looking for any statement against faith and morals — something that might block the cause — and not for depth of theological argument.

When discerning sainthood, church officials also look for a special charism that distinguishes the person, through which God is seen as sending a message to the world.

Again, it seems obvious in Mother Teresa's case: her deep love for the poor and downtrodden.

The local investigation into the cause normally begins in the diocese where the person died. In this case it would fall to the Archdiocese of Calcutta, where Mother Teresa worked so many years with the dying and destitute.

Her religious order, the Missionaries of Charity, would be a natural promoter of the cause, helping to find witnesses and documentation so that a detailed life record can be compiled.

After a local church has collected the information, it sends it to the Vatican's Congregation for Sainthood Causes. There, the material is assembled into a "position" that can be thousands of pages long.

If the Vatican finds that Christian virtues were lived out in a heroic manner worthy of imitation, it declares the person venerable. The next procedural step is beatification, which — except in the case of martyrs — requires a canonically approved miracle attributed to the person's intercession. This is where many sainthood causes linger for decades or centuries.

For canonization, another miracle must be proven to have taken place after beatification. Final approval of sainthood comes from the pope, after consultation with the congregation and cardinals living in Rome.

Typically, the whole procedure takes many decades to complete. The fastest-track saint in modern times was St. Therese of Lisieux, who was canonized only 28 years after her death.

The Vatican realizes its saint-making methods may be slow by modern standards. But it also sees in them an insurance against "canonization" by an increasingly powerful global media.

In the meantime, those who believe Mother Teresa is a saint in heaven can pray to her whether or not she gets the sainthood title; the church considers that a "private cult." If and when the day of her canonization arrives, the church will confirm an opinion much of the world already holds.

Photo by Joann Keane

Church, World Leaders Laud Mother

By JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Her life was a lesson in love. ... Mother Teresa transcended cultures and politics," said Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland upon learning of the death of the foundress of the Missionaries of Charity.

Bishop Pilla, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, joined a worldwide outpouring of praise for one of the 20th century's most widely loved and admired women. Mother Teresa, 87, died in Calcutta Sept. 5, at the headquarters of the order she founded to serve the world's poorest outcasts.

"She saw Jesus in everyone — from the child in the womb to the sick and vulnerable, especially those afflicted with AIDS, to the aged and dying abandoned in the streets of Calcutta," Bishop Pilla said.

In Canada, where the Missionaries of Charity have homes in Montreal, Toronto and St. Paul, Alberta, Archbishop Marcel Gervais, former president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that Mother Teresa "heard the cry of the poor, and like she said, wanted to bring the face of Christ to the dying."

The Ottawa archbishop added that Mother Teresa "has certainly gone on to her reward, no question about that — the reward for really hearing the voice of God in the powerless, and in the weak and the dying. I think that is one of the most important things she has done."

A Vatican spokesman, Father Ciro Benedettini, said that when Pope John Paul II heard of Mother Teresa's death at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, he "was deeply moved and pained" and immediately retired to his chapel to pray.

"He was very close to this sister who dedicated her life to helping people in the world who were the poorest, the most neglected and the abandoned," Father Benedettini said.

"She was a glowing example of how the love of God can be transformed into love of one's neighbor," he added.

In India, government leaders expressed their sorrow and said Mother Teresa would be remembered for her commitment to the poor.

"Words fail me to express my sorrow," said Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, calling the Nobel laureate "an apostle of peace and love."

Congress Party President Sitaram Kesri told Reuters, the British news agency, "I consider the loss not only irreparable for the country, but for the whole world."

"She will be remembered not only by this generation but by the coming generations for her devoted work for the disabled, people suffering from leprosy and blind women and children," he said.

President Clinton called her "one of the giants of our time" who "showed us the stunning power of simple humility."

He added, "The home for the dying she opened in Calcutta almost a half-century ago is called 'Nirmal Hriday' — 'pure heart' — and if ever there was a pure heart, it was hers."

Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso said that "humanity has lost its symbol of solidarity." He called Mother Teresa "one of the most illuminated figures of the Catholic Church at the end of this century."

The Rev. Billy Graham recalled meeting her several times, including his first — an hourlong visit at her home for the destitute dying in Calcutta.

"When she walked into the room to greet me, I felt that I was indeed meeting a saint," he said. "Few people in our time exemplified so powerfully and yet simply the love and compassion of Christ."

Rev. Graham recalled when Mother Teresa spoke forcefully about abortion at a National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, with President Clinton nearby. "Later," Rev. Graham said, "the president said to a few of us, 'She's really something! I wish I had faith like that.'"

Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington, where Mother Teresa visited frequently, was in a meeting with about 100 priests when news of her death arrived. His voice broke and tears welled up in his eyes as he announced the news to the group.

At a press conference shortly after, he said: "She truly saw Jesus in the poorest of the poor, and she truly loved Jesus in the poorest of the poor. She inspired countless others to know, to love and to serve the poor."

"Her work and words inspired all of us," said Kenneth F. Hackett, executive director of Catholic Relief Services, which has collaborated with Mother Teresa for more than 40 years.

"Of the thousands of counterparts Catholic Relief Services has joined with, none has touched the world as Mother Teresa did," he said.

Archbishop William J. Levada of San Francisco recalled Mother Teresa's frequent visits there, where her order serves the poor and has a novitiate.

"Her loss will be deeply felt by all who have been touched by her," he said.

Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, N.Y., called her a "strong yet gentle servant of God" whose legacy was her loving care for "the poorest of the poor."

Tommy P. Baer, international president of B'nai B'rith, called her devotion to the poor "an inspiration to people of all religions. Her life will endure as a shining example of nobility at its most human level"

"It is a great loss to people of all faiths," said Eugene Fisher, NCCB associate secretary for Catholic-Jewish relations.

CNS file photo from KNA

Giving Comfort — Mother Teresa gives comfort to a sick man at the Missionaries of Charity home in Calcutta in this undated photo.

Students in the sixth grade faith formation class at St. Joseph Church in Newton express their thoughts on the life of Mother Teresa:

She was good at helping people and I liked her helping them. She would pick up people who had disgusting sores and diseases, and she was never afraid.

— Rian Barrett

She was always kind and did many good deeds. Everyone loved her around the world.

— Michael Taylor

She was kind and helped everyone around the world. The sick, hungry and poor were loved by her.

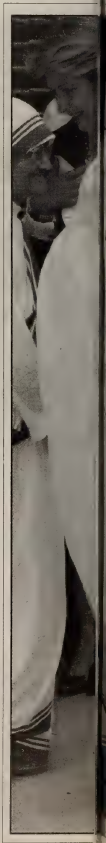
— Denise Gilfillan

She was not only willing to help the poor, she became poor.

— Jonathan Powers

She was trustful and loving to other people.

— Venessa Felt



Works Of Charity, Love Bring Inspiration To Many

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

Fve-year-old Danny Aberle decided to write to Mother Teresa and mail her a large portion from his piggy bank — $3. The letter read: "Dear Mother Teresa, Thank you for loving the poorest of the poor. Love, Danny."

A week later, Mother Teresa passed away, leaving behind a lasting imprint on the world. Young Danny, whose family recently moved to Hickory and joined St. Aloysius Catholic Church, grieved with the rest of the world. "I can't send her money anymore," Danny sadly said after hearing the news of her death.

Jean Aberle, the boy's mother, took this opportunity to share more with her son about the Missionaries of Charity and how Mother Teresa has left behind many missions throughout the world filled with committed sisters. "Now she is directing things from heaven," Mrs. Aberle said, reassuring her son.

Although Danny's donation was not much in a monetary sense, it would have been considered a great gift by Mother Teresa, who once said, "Do small things with great love. It is not how much we give but how much love we put in it."

Others in the diocese were profoundly affected by the tiny nun from Calcutta.

Father Joseph Waters, head of the Hickory Vicariate Hispanic Ministry and pastor at Holy Trinity Mission in Taylorsville, called Mother Teresa "a woman with a loving heart open to God and a caring heart open to the welfare of others."

Father Jim Collins, administrator of Holy Spirit Mission in Denver, recalled Mother Teresa's visit to the diocese in 1995: "I saw her in Charlotte, and I was most impressed by her message of the dignity of all life, unborn and born."

Maggi Nadol, diocesan Respect Life coordinator, said the Nobel Peace prize winner was a champion for all pro-life causes. "Mother Teresa had such a passionate heart for the sanctity of human life. She forced us to constantly re-examine how and if we love one another. She was a 'wake-up call' to the collective conscience of the world, and I will miss that wonderful face."

Mary Katherine Ascik, a 15-year-old parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, saw a nun dedicated to helping both the born and unborn of society.

"The thing that most impressed me about Mother Teresa was her courageous stand against abortion. I remember after her talk in Charlotte, standing there sobbing," she said. "She was incredible."

Near the altar at St. Joseph Church in Newton stood a picture of Mother Teresa, beside it a burning candle. It is hard to say what produced the greatest light — the candle or Mother Teresa's radiant smile, a smile which gave hope to the hopeless.

Father Gordon Pillon, administrator at St. Joseph Church, also had much to say about Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity. He first met Mother Teresa when he was a young seminarian at a time when the nun was just starting to become known though the world. Although their first encounter was brief, the conversation in a Philadelphia elevator made a lasting impression.

"Are you going to be a priest?" she asked him. He answered yes and said that he hoped to be a "good" priest.

"No," she said, "We have enough priests who think they are good. Be a holy priest." This statement, Father Pillon said, pierced through him, and since that time it has become a goal he continues to strive for.

His first experience working with the Missionaries of Charity was at the Poverty and Gift of Peace, an AIDS hospice in Washington, D.C., that Bishop William G. Curlin was instrumental in opening. At that time, little was known about AIDS. The sisters had no barriers between themselves and the patients as they cared for them night and day.

When Father Pillon asked if they were concerned about contracting the disease, a sister answered with a patient and loving smile: "I am doing God's work. I won't get infected." Such faith can be contagious, and Father Pillon said that from that day on he, too, would not be concerned. Little did he know the whole experience would prepare him for his trip to Haiti to give a retreat and work with the Missionaries of Charity there.

When he went to Haiti, Father Pillon was confronted with tremendous poverty, disease and civil unrest. The most disturbing thing was a mysterious epidemic of AIDS among the children of Haiti. The sisters always urged the priests to hold the young patients who were closest to death. "Talk them to heaven," one sister said, "and we'll have a saint."

The priest could not count the number of children he cradled in his arms, singing to them, praying and talking with them about Jesus until they slipped away.

Father Pillon also gave retreats in Peoria, Ill., and St. Louis for the Missionaries of Charity. His second meeting with Mother Teresa was in Peoria. "I remember when I saw her that she had the same quality as Pope John Paul II. When they speak to you, they make you feel like you are the only person in the world," he said.

After that particular retreat, Father Pillon received a handwritten thank-you card and later a birthday card from Mother Teresa. "What a spiritual contradiction: a woman who literally has changed the face of the world, thanking me," he said, showing those precious notes soon to be a secondary relic of a saint.

"Someone once said that the beauty of Mother Teresa came from the love of God, not from anything of the Earth. That same beauty can shine through all of us," Father Pillon added.

Bishop Curlin To Attend Mother Teresa's Funeral In Calcutta

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin will represent the American bishops at the funeral Mass for Mother Teresa of Calcutta in India on Sept. 13.

Bishop Curlin and the Most Rev. John R. Roach, former archbishop of the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese, are the two U.S. bishops officially attending on behalf of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference (NCCB/USCC). They will be guests in the party from America traveling with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

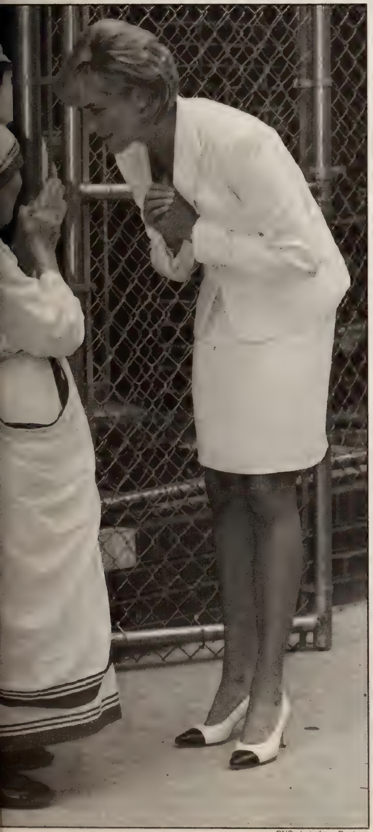
Bishop Curlin was celebrant and homilist during a Mass for Mother Teresa at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte on Sept. 8. The bishop, a personal friend of Mother Teresa for more than 25 years, worked with her and her sisters in establishing shelters for the homeless and dying.

Archbishop Roach is a former president of the NCCB/USCC.

Also part of the U.S. delegation is Kenneth Hackett, executive director of Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief agency of American Catholics which has carried on work in India for many years.

Coverage of the funeral, including Bishop Curlin's participation, will be featured in the Sept. 19 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*.

Photo by Joann Keane



CNS photo from Reuters

Resolution On The Death Of Mother Teresa

The following resolution on the death of Mother Teresa was passed unanimously by the Administrative Committee/Board of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/U.S. Catholic Conference on Sept. 9, 1997:

God gives each age the Christian witness it needs.

Mother Teresa is such a witness in our times.

She witnessed to the pre-eminence of spiritual values in an age solely tempted by materialism.

Her service to the poorest of the poor and her presence among them kept their plight in the sight of a world which is often too quick and willing to forget our neediest sisters and brothers.

She spoke the truth to the powerful of this world about the respect due to life from conception to natural death and the responsibility we all have to serve our most vulnerable neighbors, whether their need arises from poverty, or age, or disease and illness such as AIDS.

She was a friend to us in the United States. A frequent and most welcome visitor, she reminded us of the needy who live within our affluent way of life and of our need to rely on God when we presume instead to rely on worldly power and influence.

Above all, Mother Teresa lived as a woman of faith, whose spirit rejoiced in God her savior and who was filled with love for his Church. She proclaimed the grace of God which makes a life of seemingly impossible sacrifice possible, because with God all things are possible.

Although we have her loving presence among us no longer, we are confident that she continues to pray for all humanity before the throne of God. We are confident, too, that her work will continue through the Missionaries of Charity which she founded and through the efforts of many others who now strive to bring our world closer to God's plan for it, because Mother Teresa lived and worked among us.

Teresa And Diana — At left, Princess Diana bows to Mother Teresa at the Missionaries of Charity house in the Bronx, N.Y., June 18.

Nun Sent Woman Home On A Mission

CORNELIUS — Mother Teresa's love lives in the faces of seven seriously ill or deformed children at Denise and Leonids Riters' north Mecklenburg home.

At a time in their lives when most couples have finished raising children, the Riters devote their days to children who need them.

Mother Teresa prompted Denise Riters to give up everything in the name of children. Riters spent three months helping out at the Roman Catholic nun's compound in India in 1993.

"She pointed a finger at me and said, 'Go home and take care of the sick and dying children that nobody else wants,'" Denise Riters said. "It changed my life completely."

Before the Riters married a few years ago, they separately raised four children, now all in their 20s and 30s.

At the moment, Denise, 53, and Leonids, 57, are the adoptive parents of three children and foster parents to four more — all under age 8. All of the children have serious medical problems.

The adopted children are Krystal, 8, Chip, 3, and Katrina, 4. Katrina, one of the newest members of the family, is a bright, talkative Russian girl with a wide smile and sparkling eyes who suffers from birth defects.

Over the past three years, the Riters have cared for 18 foster children, many malnourished or seriously ill.

Denise Riters was a home healthcare nurse working in Michigan in 1992 when she picked up an Episcopalian Church newsletter and saw a tiny ad seeking people to go to Calcutta, India. There, they would work in Mother Teresa's compound, where the order she founded cares for the sick and dying.

Four months after she saw the ad, Riter was on a plane to India with 11 others. Seven washed out immediately. The conditions were too tough.

For Denise Riters, though, it was a turning point. Only three days after she arrived, Mother Teresa told her she should care for sick children in the United States. Three months later, Riters returned to Michigan.

After she and Leonids, a music teacher, married, they moved south to Charlotte in 1993. They began caring for foster children, first in a two-bedroom, and now in a five-bedroom house in Cornelius.

Up at 5:30 a.m., there's an unending string of children to feed, bathe and cuddle. The chores don't slow until 11 p.m., long after the last clothes have been washed, the last medicine dispensed and the last forehead kissed.

Neighbors and fellow church members at St. Peter By-The-Lake Episcopal Church in Denver have donated beds, clothes and supplies. "We couldn't make it on just one income," Denise Riters said. "But with help, we can do this."

"There's a gift in looking for and finding your calling in life," she said. "To Mother Teresa, that was doing for others. That's what we've been called to do here."

*The above article, written by Jim Wrinn, is reprinted with permission from*The Charlotte Observer.

Living Saint, from page 1

Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta in 1950. According to a 1995 tally, the order has about 4,500 professed sisters in about 550 convents in 126 countries. It has active and contemplative branches.

In 1963 Mother Teresa co-founded the Missionary Brothers of Charity with an Australian, Father Andrew Travers-Ball, who left the Jesuits to join in her work. With Brother Andrew as their servant-general — the few priests in the community also are called "brother," and all go by first names only — the Missionary Brothers of Charity have grown to about 500 members.

In 1969, in response to growing interest of lay people who wanted to be associated with her work, an informally structured, ecumenical International Association of Co-Workers of Mother Teresa was formed with the approval of Pope Paul VI.

The 3 million co-workers pay no dues and do not engage in fund raising, but support the Missionaries of Charity by their work in prayer and sacrifice and by their service to the poor.

A "Call Within A Call"

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Ganxhe Bojaxhiu to Albanian parents in Skopje, in what is now the Yugoslavian republic of Macedonia, on Aug. 26, 1910. She had a sister, Aga, and a brother, Lazar. Her father was a grocer, but the family's background was more peasant than merchant.

Lazar said their mother's example was a determining factor in Agnes' vocation.

"Already when she was a little child she used to assist the poor by taking food to them every day like our mother," he said. When Agnes was 9, he said, "She was plump, round, tidy, sensible and a little too serious for her age. Of the three of us, she alone did not steal the jam."

As a student at a public school in Skopje, she was a member of a Catholic sodality with a special interest in foreign missions.

"At the age of 12, I first knew I had a vocation to help the poor," she once said. "I wanted to be a missionary."

At 15 Agnes was inspired to work in India by reports sent home by Yugoslavian Jesuit missionaries in Bengal — present-day Bangladesh, but then part of India. At 18 she left home to join the Irish branch of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as the Loreto Sisters. After training at their institutions in Dublin and in Darjeeling, India, she made her first vows as a nun in 1928 and her final vows nine years later.

While teaching and serving as a principal at Loreto House, a fashionable girls' college in Calcutta, she was depressed by the destitute and dying on the city's streets, the homeless street urchins, the ostracized sick people lying prey to rats and other vermin in streets and alleys.

In 1946, she received a "call within a call," as she described it.

"The message was clear. I was to leave the convent and help the poor, while living among them," she said.

Two years later, the Vatican gave her permission to leave the Loreto Sisters and follow her new calling under the jurisdiction of the archbishop of Calcutta.

After three months of medical training under the American Medical Missionary Sisters in Patna, India, Mother Teresa went into the Calcutta slums to bring children cut off from education into her first school. Soon volunteers, many of them her former students, came to join her.

In 1950 the Missionaries of Charity became a diocesan religious community, and 15 years later the Vatican recognized it as a pontifical congregation, directly under Vatican jurisdiction.

The members of the congregation take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, but the vow of poverty is stricter than in other congregations because, as Mother Teresa explained, "to be able to love the poor and know the poor, we must be poor ourselves."

In addition the Missionaries of Charity — sisters and brothers — take a fourth vow of "wholehearted and free service to the poorest of the poor."

Mother Teresa once explained: "This vow means that we cannot work for the rich; neither can we accept any money for what we do. Ours is to be a free service and to the poor."

In 1952, Mother Teresa opened the Nirmal Hriday (Pure Heart) Home for Dying Destitutes in a dormitory — formerly a hostel attached to a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Kali — donated by the city of Calcutta. Although some of those taken in survive, the primary function of the home is, as one Missionary of Charity explained, to be "a shelter where the dying poor may die in dignity."

Tens of thousands of people have been cared for in the home since it opened.

The Missionaries of Charity began caring for leprosy patients in 1957.

The Efficient Saint

When Pope Paul VI visited Bombay, India, in 1964, he gave Mother Teresa a white ceremonial Lincoln Continental given to him by people in the United States. She raffled off the car and raised enough money to finance a center for leprosy victims in the Indian state of West Bengal.

Twenty-one years later, when President Ronald Reagan presented her with the presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House, he called her a "heroine of our times" and noted that the plaque honoring her described her as the "saint of the gutters." He also joked that Mother Teresa might be the first award recipient to take the plaque and melt it down to get money for the poor.

Mother Teresa's attitude toward money was that "God will provide."

"Money — I never think of it," she once said. "It always comes. The Lord sends it. We do his work; he provides the means. If he does not give us the means, that shows he does not want the work. So why worry?"

Once the chairman of a large industrial company offered Mother Teresa a property that became her home for the dying destitute in Bombay. He asked her how her work was financed, and she asked him what made him come to her with his offer.

"I felt an urge inside me," he answered.

"Well," she said, "other people like you come to see me, and they say the same. That is my budget."

Her combination of serene, simple faith and direct, practical efficiency often amazed those who came in contact with her.

In 1982, when Israeli troops were holding Beirut, Lebanon, under siege in an effort to root out the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mother Teresa visited a community of her nuns at Spring School, a home for the aged in east Beirut. It was her first visit in a war zone but not her last.

Meeting with Red Cross officials about relief needs, she asked what their most serious problem was. They took her to a nearby mental hospital that had just been bombed, requiring immediate evacuation of 37 mentally and physically handicapped children.

"I'll take them," she said.

"What stunned everyone was her energy and efficiency," a Red Cross official involved in the evacuation said afterward. "She saw the problem, fell to her knees and prayed for a few seconds, and then she was rattling off a list of supplies she needed — nappies (diapers), plastic pants, chamber pots. We didn't expect a saint to be so efficient."

In February 1994, she met President Bill Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the National Prayer Breakfast. Plans for a house for infants and children grew out of a discussion between Mrs. Clinton and Mother Teresa, and a dedication for Mother Teresa's Home for Infants in Chevy Chase, Md., was held June 19, 1995.

Worldwide Admiration

In recent years, Mother Teresa often appeared high on lists of the world's most admired women. But she and her work were not widely known until 1968, when the noted British journalist and TV personality Malcolm Muggeridge, a curmudgeonly intellectual and caustic social critic, produced the television documentary on her, "Something Beautiful for God." His TV documentary and 1971 book by the same title were the first major popular works on Mother Teresa, who has since been the subject of several books and thousands of magazine and newspaper articles.

When Muggeridge and his wife, Kitty, became Catholics in November 1982, he attributed his conversion largely to Mother Teresa.

"Words cannot convey how beholden I am to her," he wrote in The Times of London. "She has given me a whole new vision of what being a Christian means: of the amazing power of love, and how in one dedicated soul, it can burgeon to cover the whole world."

Popes, rarely known to praise still-living individuals for sanctity, have not hesitated to hold Mother Teresa up as a symbol of what it means to be a Christian.

Awarding her the first Pope John XXIII Peace Prize in 1971, Pope Paul VI proclaimed her "an example and symbol of the discovery of the secret of peace ... that man is our brother."

"We hold up to the admiration of all this intrepid messenger of the love of Christ," Pope Paul said when he announced that she would be the first recipient of the award.

Mother Teresa used the $25,000 prize to establish a home for leprosy patients.

Pope John Paul II has invited Mother Teresa to visit him almost every time she has been in Rome. In 1980 he named her one of five auditors to that year's Synod of Bishops, where in a half-hour address she asked the assembled bishops to give the world holy priests.

In 1982 as she was about to leave Rome for war-torn Lebanon, Pope John Paul invited her to the podium at an audience and declared that she "already knows" the language of peace because it belonged to her "Christian spirituality, to her soul, to her genius, to her heart."

He then publicly thanked God "for having sent among us Mother Teresa, whom we all admire for her simplicity, her authenticity, her apostolate."

In addition to winning the Nobel and Pope John XXIII peace prizes, Mother Teresa was given the Templeton Prize in 1973; the John F. Kennedy International Award in 1971; the $300,000 Balzan Prize for Humanity, Peace and Brotherhood in 1979; and dozens of other awards and honors, including one of India's highest — the Padmashri Medal.

Photo by Joann Keane

People In The News

George Bantle, Charter Grand Knight, Dies

CHARLOTTE — George Joseph Bantle, an active parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church for more than three decades, died Aug. 23. He was 75.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 26 at St. Vincent de Paul Church by Msgr. William Pharr, pastor, and Msgr. Felix Kelleher. Interment was at Forest Lawn East Cemetery in Matthews.

Bantle was born May 23, 1922, in the Bronx, N.Y., the son of the late George Joseph Bantle and Margaret Daly Bantle. He was an alumnus of Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y., and a member of the 7th Army Air Force in World War II, serving from 1942-1946.

Bantle was an employee of Eastern Airlines for 35 years and moved to Charlotte in 1961 to assist in opening the computer sciences building on Fairview Road, where he was a manager of internal control.

As a member of St. Vincent de Paul Church, he was an usher for 35 years, one of three founders and the charter Grand Knight of St. Vincent de Paul Knights of Columbus Council #9560, a member of the Fourth Degree George Gettier Assembly, and a member of the "Nifty Nine Golfers."

Among Bantle's survivors are his wife, Agnes Lennon Bantle; three daughters, Kathy Eldredge and Patty Kelly, both of Charlotte, and Michele Weatherly of Rockingham; a sister, Mary Jean Greiter of Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.; several grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorials may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association, 3420 Shamrock Dr., Charlotte, N.C. 28215, or to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, 5828 Old Reid Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28210.

A HEARTFELT THANKS
TO ST. JUDE FOR
PRAYERS ANSWERED
AND FAVORS GRANTED.
JCS

Parishioners Attend Sacred Heart Convocation

Charlotte Diocese parishioners Darlene Kerfien, Patti Dameron and Sally Falls share a moment with Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR, during the National Sacred Heart Convocation last month in Syracuse, N.Y.

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Three parishioners of the Charlotte Diocese were among the 450 laity, clergy and religious attending the National Sacred Heart Convocation Aug. 22-24 in Syracuse, N.Y.

Darlene Kerfien of St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis, Patti Dameron of Holy Family Church in Clemmons, and Sally Falls of St. Phillip the Apostle Church in Statesville joined parishioners from 41 states for the convocation, which celebrated devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Bishop James Moynihan of the Syracuse Diocese appealed to all cardinals, archbishops and bishops of the United States for their prayerful support.

"I hope that the convocation that is being planned to honor the Sacred Heart will serve to deepen the devotion that all should have toward our Lord in his sacred humanity," the bishop stated in his convocation invitation.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was introduced into the liturgy through the efforts of St. John Eudes, who composed an Office and Mass for the feast in the 17th century. The Society of Jesus and the Sisters of the Visitation have promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as well.

The devotion was advanced following revelations of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a 17th century Visitation sister, and the work of St. Claude La Colombiere, a French Jesuit priest and Sister Margaret Mary's spiritual advisor.

One of the basic elements of the devotion is to set up an image of the Sacred Heart in homes, businesses, schools, convents and rectories. The Sacred Heart Enthronement Apostolate was founded by Sacred Heart Father Mateo Crawley-Boovey, who was commissioned by Pope Pius X to promote the apostolate throughout the world.

The convocation featured such presenters as Bishop Roger Kaffer, auxiliary bishop of Joliet, Ill.; Franciscan Friar of the Renewal Father Benedict Groeschel, director of spiritual development for the Archdiocese of New York; and Gloria Anson, director of the Sacred Heart Apostolate in Syracuse.

The event ended with Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse, when Bisop Moynihan consecrated the Dioces of Saracuse to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Bishop Francis Dies In Newark; Black Prelate Fought Racism

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) — Retired Auxiliary Bishop Joseph A. Francis died Sept. 1 at the age of 73. He was one of just four black U.S. bishops when he became an auxiliary bishop of Newark in 1976. Hallmarks of Bishop Francis' priesthood were his efforts to battle racism in the church and society and to encourage black Catholics to bring elements of their culture into worship. Services were to include funeral Masses in Newark on Sept. 4 and in his hometown of Lafayette, La., on Sept. 6. Bishop Francis retired in 1995 after a series of heart bypass operations, but had remained active in the archdiocese. The cause of his death was reported as heart failure.

Retired Bishop O'Keefe Of Syracuse Dead At 78

Bishop Joseph O'Keefe

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CNS) — Bishop Joseph T. O'Keefe, who retired as head of the Syracuse Diocese in 1995, died of a heart attack Sept. 2 while undergoing testing at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. He was 78. His funeral Mass was scheduled for 11 a.m. Sept. 9 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse. A bishop since 1982, he was appointed to the Syracuse Diocese in June 1987 and installed in August of that year. Before that he had been an auxiliary bishop in the New York Archdiocese for five years.

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CRISM "Day of Reflection"

Catholic Conference Center

October 15, 1997

10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Come early for continental breakfast, 9-10 a.m.

Chaplain —Father Louis Canino, OFM, of the Franciscan Center, Greensboro

To register, clip the form below and send to:

CRISM Day of Reflection
1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207

For information, call Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720 ext. 314

Registration

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

Phone ( ) ____________ Parish ____________

Amount enclosed ($10 per person) ____________

Deadline for registration is Oct. 1
Group registration forms and directions to the conference center available at church offices and with club leaders.

Prodigals Community Receives Grant From Campaign For Human Development

Program's unique approach teaches job skills and more to recovering substance abusers in Triad area.

WINSTON-SALEM — A fresh start is like a fresh coat of paint — it can do wonders.

For the men and women of Prodigals Community in Winston-Salem, fresh starts and fresh paint go hand-in-hand.

Prodigals Community is an outreach ministry for substance abusers in recovery. Earlier this year, the not-for-profit group received a Campaign for Human Development grant for their job-training program.

Prodigal Community received a $2,500 grant from the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte's CHD.

The job-training program, Prodigals Property Services, teaches job skills in painting, janitorial and office work, while providing 50 percent of the ministry's operating budget. The CHD funds are used to pay crew chief salaries.

"We have filled crew chief positions with some of our interns from the program," explained April Getz, community relations director for Prodigals Community. "These graduates of our program serve as positive role models and pass along job skills and recovery skills to their fellow workers."

This is the third time Prodigals Community has received a CHD grant. Earlier grants were awarded in 1987 and 1995.

The Prodigals Community's roots reach back to 1986 when the Forsyth Prison Chaplaincy Board founded Prodigals House as a halfway house for ex-offenders with addiction problems. Prodigals Community was established in 1992 to oversee the expanding network of programs. New Salem, the intensive drug addiction recovery ministry, is now the focus of Prodigals Community.

"New Salem is an intensive job training and personal responsibility program for men and women," said Getz. "The Moravian settlement of Salem, with its emphasis on craftsmanship, education, communal living and strict accountability, serves as the primary model for New Salem."

Getz pointed out that Prodigals Community is the only program of its kind in the Piedmont Triad area and that its approach is working.

"According to a 1996 records check by the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department, 100 percent of those who have completed our New Salem program since it began are arrest-free," she said.

The Campaign for Human Development is the American Catholic Bishops' anti-poverty program designed to help people help themselves. Last year, both national and local CHD grants totalled over $10 million. Eight groups located in the Diocese of Charlotte received CHD funding for the current year.

CHD is made possible through the generous support of Catholics across the U.S. The late November collection is divided between the national and diocesan CHD offices who determine which groups will receive funding for the following year.

For more information about the Campaign for Human Development, call Barney Offerman at (704) 331-1738.

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PHOTO by JIMMY ROSTAR

Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development, pictured at left, presented the Kim Piccolo Endowed Scholarship to University of North Carolina-Charlotte juniors Karen Korpi, a nursing major, and Deborah Connolly, a child and family development major, following a UNCC Catholic Campus Ministry Mass Sept. 2 on campus. The scholarship, the first set up by the diocesan Foundation, honors the life of Kim Piccolo, a UNCC student and "Chi Rho" campus ministry member murdered in her apartment in 1989. Pictured at right are Barbara Neff Hutchison, Catholic campus minister at UNCC, and Capuchin Father Martin Schratz, parochial vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Church and sacramental minister for "Chi Rho."

Employment Opportunities

Maid In Heaven: Do you keep your home clean? Would you like to make $12 per hour? Set your own schedule? Work about 12 hours a week? Help needed days, Mon.-Fri. Servicing Charlotte area. Call (704) 643-5545.

Director of Liturgy/Coordinator of RCIA: Would you like to serve full-time beginning immediately in a welcoming and prayerful community as the primary developer and coordinator of parish liturgical life and the RCIA? Vatican II community; 1,800 families located in central North Carolina. Work with clergy, director of music ministries, and other staff members. Qualifications: master's degree or equivalent; knowledgeable of the rites and rituals of the church; empowering, collaborative and pastoral; musical skills welcome. Salary commensurate with degree and experience. Send resume to: **James W. O'Neill, OSFS; St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410.**

Pastoral Associate: For 1,500 family parish in suburban area. Areas of ministry include: marriage and family, social ministries, human resources, stewardship, planning and development. Send resume to: **Search Committee, Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 1209 Brushy Creek Rd., Taylors, SC 29687 or Fax to: (864) 322-2239.**

Adult Ed Coordinator: Creative, well-organized individual to coordinate adult ed programs and annual parish mission for parish of 3,700 families. College degree required. Computer skills a plus. Part-time position. Salary negotiable. Send resume and salary requirements to: **Susan Krasniewski, St. Gabriel Faith Development, 3028 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.**

Receptionist: Sardis Nursing Home is seeking a friendly and outgoing individual to serve as front desk receptionist and provide secretarial support to the department managers. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills and type at least 50 w.p.m. Salary range is $8.87-$13.31 per hour. M-F, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Contact Beth Coley, (704) 365-4202 or Human Resources, (704) 355-2101.**

Parish Nurse: At least two years experience to serve in part time position (20 hours/week with benefits) for St. Gabriel Church. Registered nurse, BSN preferred. Varied hours including some weekends. Responsible for working with St. Gabriel Health Ministry in planning, implementation and evaluation of holistic health care for individuals. Position requires creativity and organizational skills. If interested, please contact: **Sally Jackson, Presbyterian Healthcare Human Resources Department, (704) 384-4832, 1600 E. 5th St.**

Religious Education Secretary: St. John Neumann Church seeks a part-time secretary with secretarial, administrative, clerical and computer experience/abilities. 25 hours weekly mid-Aug. through May, minimum Summer hours flexible. Send resume and recommendation to: **Connie Milligan, St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211, or call (704) 535-4197.**

Director of Planned Giving for the Diocesan Office of Development: College graduate with a degree in finance, business administration or related field, three years experience in planne dgiving or related experience, strong interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to interact with diverse groups. Responsibilities include organizing and directing efforts to assist parishioners to develop and implement long range financial plans. Part-time position, 21 hours per week. Submit resume to: **Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1524 E. Morehead St., NC 28207 by Oct. 3, 1997.**

Michael J. Healy, Holy Trinity School Principal's Father, Dies

CALABASH, N.C. — Michael Joseph Healy, father of Charlotte's Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School Principal Jerry Healy, died Aug. 20 at his residence. He was 78.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Healy was the son of the late Michael and Josephine Teehan Healy.

Healy moved to the Calabash, N.C., area in 1983 from Huntington, N.Y. He was a retired steamfitter and a member of Enterprise Local #638 Steamfitters Union. Healy was a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, a charter member of the Elks Club of Calabash, and a former member of the Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include his wife, Sarah McCurry Healy of Calabash; four sons, Michael J. Healy of Flint, Mich.; Robert A. Healy, Jerry S. Healy and Kevin V. Healy, all of Charlotte; a daughter, Patricia Paternostro of Albertson, N.Y.; two sisters, Rita Healy of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Mary Nogueria of Staten Island, N.Y.; and 11 grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 23 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church with Father George Moynihan officiating. An additional memorial Mass was celebrated Aug. 26 in Charlotte at St. Ann Church by Msgr. Richard Allen, pastor, and the Right Rev. Oscar Burnett, abbot of Belmont Abbey, with interment following in Forest Lawn East Cemetery in Matthews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Megan Healy Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Kathy Mulvaney, 1503 Queens Rd. West, Charlotte, N.C. 28207.

Counseling Workshop To Feature National, Regional Speakers

GREENSBORO — If you are involved or interested in crisis pregnancy counseling, post-abortion counseling or support groups, or professional counseling with women, couples and families, an upcoming two-day workshop featuring national and regional leaders in research and advocacy offers intensive training and informational sessions.

The workshop is scheduled for Oct. 28-29 at the Radisson Inn in Greensboro and is co-sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's Respect Life Office.

The main speaker is Dr. David Reardon, a biomedical ethicist and author of "Aborted Women, Silent No More;" "Making Abortion Rare;" and "The Jericho Plan: Breaking Down the Walls Which Prevent Post-Abortion Healing."

Reardon has addressed numerous pro-life and professional groups, including a recent gathering of the American Psychiatric Association.

On Oct. 28, Reardon will speak in two sessions exploring the types of issues women may experience following abortion and look at various risk factors that may lead to severe post-abortion symptoms. He will discuss his research on what leads women to have abortions and focus on ways churches and communities can create caring, healing environments for women in need of spiritual outreach.

Dr. David Reardon

Several meetings have also been planned for priests, deacons and ministers in which Reardon will address preaching and pastoral issues related to abortion.

Dr. Martha Shuping, a Winston-Salem psychiatrist, is also a scheduled speaker. She will discuss treatment of abortion-related emotional problems with suggestions for professionals and volunteer workers. Prayer for inner healing of abortion trauma will also be reviewed.

Marilyn Hodges of Piedmont Pregnancy Care Centers, Inc., director of the HEART program for post-abortion ministry, is scheduled to speak on materials available for support groups. She will also provide individual or group peer counseling training for volunteers.

A session will be included for those wishing to develop a post-abortion ministry.

The first day of the workshop is planned for professional counselors and social workers, with certificates for continuing education units available. Pregnancy center volunteers, nurses, parish respect life leaders, post-abortion peer counselors and other interested persons are also welcome.

The second day focuses on training for post-abortion counseling.

The fee for the event, which includes lunch both days and breakfast on Oct. 29, is $50 per person. The fee for the Oct. 28 session only is $30, which includes lunch, as well as materials prepared by David Reardon. A limited amount of scholarship funding is available in cases of financial hardship.

Accommodations are available through the Radisson Inn at a special conference rate, starting at $43 for a single room and as low as $18 per person for a quad.

For registration information, call Dr. Martha Shuping, (910) 659-1342, by Oct. 1.

If you are a counselor in the Charlotte area unable to attend the Greensboro workshop, you may register for an Oct. 29 breakfast sponsored by Rapha at Charter Pines from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Call Jennifer Cisney, (704) 362-1980, to register. Admission is free, but registration is required.

Among the sponsors of the workshop is Rapha, a nationwide psychiatric and counseling service, with local centers in Winston-Salem and Charlotte, providing treatment within the context of Christian spirituality and values.

Rapha is located within Charter Hospital in both Winston-Salem and Charlotte, but is corporately separated and utilizes separate staff and treatment programming.

Dietzen, from page 5

Nevertheless, cremation is not against the law of the church. A funeral Mass may take place in the presence of the body before cremation. With permission of the local bishop, cremated remains may be present in the church during the funeral Mass.

Once again, those considering cremation must think of those left behind, especially children and grandchildren. Discuss the matter thoroughly with them, and be sure they are emotionally and spiritually comfortable with the arrangements.

If we ever lose touch with those larger realities that confront us in death, we will lose something very precious in our Christian lives.

Organ donations are another large question. We must hold that for next time.

A free brochure outlining basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts, is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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October 15—Day of Reflection
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

October 19—12:30-2 p.m.
St. Mary Church, Sylva
Suzanne presents a program of spiritual renewal and support designed to help in the formation of support groups for widowed, separated and divorced Catholics

October 23—Bus trip to the Basilica of
St. Lawrence, Asheville
Clip and send registration forms for the **Day of Reflection** and **Basilica bus trip** are on pages 6 and 7 in this issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*. Call Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720 ext. 314 for more information.

C R I S M
Catholic Retirees Invited to Special Ministries

Diocesan News Briefs

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The docents of St. Lawrence Basilica provide free tours of the historic church following weekend Masses. The Mass schedule is Sat.: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 9, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. (in Spanish). Call (704) 252-6042 for details.

Holiday Craft Fair

CHARLOTTE — The Third Annual St. Gabriel PTO Holiday Craft Fair is Oct. 11 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. featuring dozens of vendors selling a variety of handcrafted items. Proceeds support the children of St. Gabriel School and the parish community.

Diaconate Program

CHARLOTTE — Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, a permanent deacon of the Charlotte Diocese, presents the educational program "Called to Serve: Exploring the Diaconate" Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Church Parish Center. No reservations are required and child care is available.

Operation LAMB

CHARLOTTE — Knights of Columbus councils in Charlotte conduct their annual LAMB Tootsie Roll campaign throughout the city Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 3-5. Volunteers willing to give three hours of their time are needed to assist the drive, whose proceeds go to institutions aiding the mentally impaired.

For details, contact Charles Sutton, (704) 563-9493 (St. John Neumann Church area); David Roman, (704) 531-2812 (Our Lady of the Assumption Church area); Dick Kelly, (704) 375-6222 (Myers Park area); C.E. Lear, (704) 552-0909 (St. Vincent de Paul Church area); or Tim Clare, (704) 542-1440 (St. Matthew Church area).

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a program for couples who want to improve their troubled marriage, works to build relationships between husbands and wives. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program, but it is open to people of all faiths. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230. The program begins Oct. 17.

Bereavement Support

CHARLOTTE — The Widow/Widowers Support Group meets Mondays in the St. Gabriel Family Room from 6-7 p.m.

The Grief Group meets Mondays in the St. Gabriel Family Room from 7-8 p.m. for anyone who has lost a loved one in death.

Call B.J. Dengler, (704) 364-5431, for more information.

Ecumenical Retreat

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace, St. Paul the Apostle and St. Pius X Catholic churches are among the 15 churches co-sponsoring "Christ's Healing Ministry," an ecumenical retreat, Sept. 26 and 27 at First Lutheran Church. Advance registration fee is $5 and $10 if registering at the event. Retreat leader is Barbara Shlemon Ryan, a registered nurse and author involved in healing ministry. To register, call the First Lutheran Church office, (910) 292-9125.

Ecumenical Fall Event

HENDERSON — LARCUM of Henderson County, an ecumenical association of Lutheran, Catholic and United Methodist churches, presents the "We're All Church — Generations for Christ" Sept. 28 from 3-8:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. Highlights include workshops, a concert and a worship service. Cost is $5. For information, call Van C. Kussrow, (704) 693-1490.

CRISM Day of Reflection

HICKORY — All senior Catholics in the Charlotte Diocese are invited to the annual CRISM (Catholic Retirees Invited to Special Ministries) Day of Reflection Oct. 15 at the Catholic Conference Center. Continental breakfast begins at 9 a.m., followed by fellowship and faith enrichment. Franciscan Father Louis Canino serves as chaplain. Cost is $10, and registration deadline is Oct. 1. Size is limited to 100. Call Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720, Tuesdays through Thursdays for more information.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is Sept. 19-21 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information call Michael or Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181; for reservations call Tom or Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

Musicians To Perform At St. Thomas Aquinas

Left — Catholic musician Tony Melendez is embraced by Pope John Paul II following one of the guitarist's six performances for the pontiff. Melendez, who plays the guitar with his feet, joins John Michael Talbot and Tom Booth for a concert at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are $15, and are available at the St. Thomas Aquinas parish office and Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe or by calling (800) 521-0290.

Bible Study Groups

GREENSBORO — A Bible study group meets Mondays from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in St. Joseph House at Our Lady of Grace Church for discussions on the Gospel of Matthew. Call Joy Shilan, (910) 855-5975, for details.

TRYON — A nine-week Scripture study series on the Gospel of Luke begins in late September at St. John the Baptist Church. Call (704) 859-9574 for details and to register.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Little Rock Scripture Study for Women group meets Mondays from 7:30-9 p.m. in Joseph's House at Our Lady of Mercy Church. The 10-week program focuses on women of the Old Testament. Call Anne Gannon, (910) 768-9360, for more information.

Concerts

REIDSVILLE — Rock of Ages, a musical group of young adults, performs in concert Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Infant Church. Admission is free. For more information, call Father John Putnam, (910) 342-1448.

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Liturgist, composer and musician Dan Schutte offers a concert of music for liturgy and prayer Sept. 26 and "Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist," a workshop for liturgical musicians, Sept. 27, both at St. Anne Church. Cost for the concert is $10; the workshop is $20. To register, send fees to The Oratory: Center for Spirituality, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C. 29731-1586, Attn.: Sarah Morgan. Call (803) 327-2097 weekday mornings for information.

Charity Golf Tournaments

CHARLOTTE — The annual Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) Golf Tournament is Sept. 29 at Raintree Country Club. Foursomes and individuals are invited to register for 36 holes of golf, food, prizes and more. For more information call the RAIN office, (704) 372-7246.

GREENSBORO — Foursomes are invited to register for The Great Golf Outing, organized by St. Pius X School Sponsors Fund, Oct. 3 at Greensboro National Golf Club. Call Mike Lazorchick, (910) 275-6273, for details.

RCIA — The Catholic Program For Learning About, Renewing Faith

CHARLOTTE — Registration for Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) sessions continues at St. Matthew Church until Sept. 30. Sessions are Sundays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Call (704) 543-7677 for information.

MONROE — RCIA classes begin Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in the education building. Call (704) 289-2773 for details.

Charismatic Mass

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday each month at Maryfield Nursing Home.

Lourdes Retreat

LINVILLE — A day of reflection led by Father John Williams is Sept. 23 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Bernadette Church. Cost is $5 per person and includes lunch. For reservations, call Donna Bjordahl, (704) 733-9508, or Lorna Paul, (704) 264-2754, by Sept. 16.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — Psalm 121 sets the tone for "I Lift Up My Eyes," an Oct. 13-19 retreat directed by Rev. David Valtierra, CO, and Sister Jeanette Stand, OP. Cost is $250. For information or registration, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, (704) 926-3833.

Widowed, Separated, Divorced

SYLVA — A program of spiritual renewal for widowed, separated and divorced persons in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate is Oct. 19 from 12:30-2 p.m. at St. Mary Church. Bring a bag lunch. For details, call Belle Harcourt, (704) 586-0463, during the day or Mary Brogan, (704) 497-9452, in the evenings.

Birthright Volunteer Meeting

WINSTON-SALEM — An informational meeting for anyone interested in volunteering for Birthright, a pro-life crisis pregnancy service, is Sept. 20 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the St. Leo the Great Church Annex. Lunch is provided. To R.S.V.P., call Denise, (910) 723-2204.

Host Homes Celebration

WINSTON-SALEM — The 10th anniversary celebration of Host Homes, Inc., is Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Benton Convention Center. The keynote speaker is Father George Clements, creator of the "One Church, One Child" adoption program; the "One Church, One Addict" program for recovering addicts; and "One Church, One Inmate" program for the incarcerated. For tickets, call (910) 725-4678, or send a check for $25 to Host Homes, 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101.

The Catholic News & Herald *welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.*

World And National News Briefs

South Korean Priests Urge Freeing Of Political Prisoners

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Some 1,650 South Korean priests and religious have urged the government to release political prisoners detained since the years of military dictatorship in the 1980s, Vatican Radio reported. The appeal, addressed to South Korean President Kim Young Sam, came in an open letter prepared in late August during a meeting sponsored by a peace and justice association of South Korean priests. It was signed by about 1,000 priests and 650 religious.

Jesus Must Become 'Intimate Savior,' Jesuit Tells Catechists

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (CNS) — In the third millennium, "we will have to be Christians by personal conviction," said a keynote speaker at a gathering of catechists. "The second-millennium Christians were Christians by culture, cradle Christians," said Jesuit Father Mark Link, author of more than 60 religious education publications. "This will change radically in the third millennium," when "Jesus will have to become an intimate savior ... the hope of our future." Father Link addressed about 300 diocesan and parish religious education directors, most of them women, at the Ninth Biennial New England Convocation for Catechetical Leadership, held during August in Springfield.

Catholics In Britain Hold Memorial Masses For Diana

LONDON (CNS) — The sudden death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was a "brutal awakening to our own mortality," said Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster, England. Speaking Sept. 5 at a memorial Mass in Westminster Cathedral, Cardinal Hume said that "we are being called to acknowledge it is not here in this world that our ultimate happiness is to be found." Hundreds of mourners packed the cathedral for the Mass, at which Cardinal Hume and Cardinal Thomas Winning of Glasgow, Scotland, presided. Other Catholic churches in London were to hold Masses for Diana, an Anglican, the week following the funeral.

Bomb Causes Extensive Damage At Sarajevo Jesuit Facility

ROME (CNS) — A bomb exploded at the entrance of a chapel connected to a Jesuit-run home in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, causing extensive damage but no injuries. The explosion, at about 3:30 a.m. local time Sept. 3, ripped through the front doors and interior of the St. Ignatius chapel and damaged the facade of the house, in addition to cars parked nearby, according to reports from the Catholic Press Agency of Zagreb, the press service of the Jesuit's Rome headquarters and the Jesuits in Europe news service. Five Jesuits from Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany and the Czech Republic who were working in Sarajevo had been living in the house in the Grbavica section of Sarajevo.

Teen Mourns — An Israeli teen-ager mourns the death of three Israeli school girls and a 20-year-old man who were victims in the latest suicide-bomber attacks in Jerusalem Sept. 5. The pope condemned the bombing, urging continued support of the peace process.

CNS photo from Reuters

Polish Priest Killer Ordered Back To Jail

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The convicted killer of a popular Polish priest has been ordered to return to prison after eight months of "compassionate leave." Grzegorz Piotrowski, who was jailed for life for the October 1984 kidnap and murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, was allowed home for six months in January 1997 to earn money to support his family, which was said to be facing "material difficulties." In early August, a court in Piotrkow Trybunalski, Poland, agreed to extend his leave until Sept. 29, pending a ruling on the murderer's formal plea for early release. However, the county court in Lodz, Poland, where Piotrowski has worked since January as a computer programmer, said it had now turned down the plea and was sending him to complete the remaining four years of his now-reduced sentence.

Russian Church Officials Endorse New Religion Bill

MOSCOW (CNS) — Russian Catholic officials have endorsed a new draft of a bill on religion sent by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to parliament, said a Catholic spokesman in Moscow. The new bill, which is little changed from a previous version criticized by Pope John Paul II and the U.S. Senate, was sent to the lower house of parliament, or Duma, Sept. 4. "Not everything suits us, but we don't see any other way," said Father Viktor Bartsevich, counselor with the Moscow-based Apostolic Administration for European Russia. Catholics broke ranks with other minority religions in opposition to the measure after getting a ruling in late August from the Russian Ministry of Justice. That ruling, Father Bartsevich said, was an assurance that if the bill became law, the church's rapidly growing presence would not be threatened.

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Our Lady of the Assumption Church

Parish Profile

Our Lady of the Assumption
4207 Shamrock Drive
Charlotte, N.C. 28215
(704) 535-9965

Vicariate: **Charlotte**

Pastor:
Jesuit Father Francis Gillespie

Permanent Deacons:
Rev. Mr. Stephen Horai,
Rev. Mr. Peter Duca

Masses:
Sat.: 5:30 p.m.; Sun.: 8:30, 11 a.m.

Number of parishioners:
2,352

Number of households:
784

CHARLOTTE — The parish of Our Lady of the Assumption celebrates a half-century of existence next year. Its development, like that of other parishes in Charlotte, marks the growth of the Catholic faith in the diocesan see city over the past 50 years.

On August 15, 1948, the feast of the Assumption, Trinitarian priests were assigned to Charlotte parishioners to form the city's third parish. The first Mass was celebrated in a private home with 19 people in attendance.

That number more than doubled within a few months, and the parish purchased a two-story house. The first floor served as the sanctuary, while the second was renovated for use as a rectory.

By the 1950s the parish had grown to a size warranting the need for a larger facility. A former Presbyterian church was bought, and the Our Lady of the Assumption community had a new home for liturgies, meetings and priests quarters. The church was dedicated by Bishop Joseph Waters of Raleigh in March 1951.

The parish also began developing a school at the time, and welcomed about 15 students as its first group of enrollees.

The congregation again outgrew its facilities within a few years, and in 1953 constructed a new church-school building. Bishop Waters dedicated the new parish structure in June 1954.

By 1958, almost 190 students in grades one through five were being ministered to by the parochial school.

The Trinitarians were reassigned to missionary work in 1958, leaving Our Lady of the Assumption Parish to the care of Father Lawrence Hill, a diocesan priest.

The pastor and parishioners began exploring the possibility of relocating parish facilities to the site of the present church and school. The parish signed the deed to the property in April 1961, although firm building plans did not see light until 1977, when a short-lived building drive was begun.

Parish growth was booming in the 1970s when two new parishes, St. John Neumann and St. Thomas Aquinas, were formed in Charlotte. A number of parishioners of Our Lady of the Assumption church were thus assigned to the new churches.

When a highway expansion project in the early 1980s led to the loss of some parish property, the people of Our Lady of the Assumption Church again explored the idea of building a new church and school on the Shamrock Drive land.

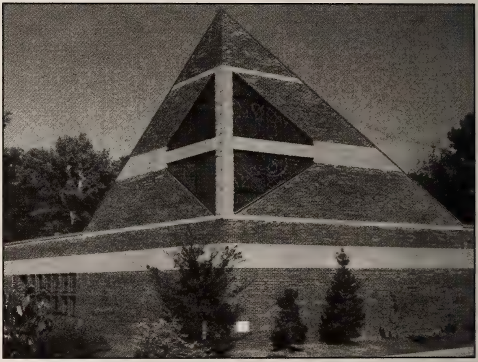
A building committee was formed in 1984, three years after the parish had paid off its mortgage on its church and school building.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the present church took place in March 1989, and Bishop John F. Donoghue of Charlotte dedicated it in February 1990. A house on the property to be used as the rectory had to be relocated several hundred yards to make way for church construction.

A new facility for Our Lady of the Assumption School was built in 1991 and was dedicated in September 1992. The school opened its doors to 322 students in grades t-k through five to start the 1997-98 school year. Patricia Murphy is the principal.

A number of councils, commissions and groups at Our Lady of the Assumption Church assume active roles in parish and community life, including the finance council, liturgy commission, education commission, evangelization commission, pastoral council, community life commission, family and parish life commission, administration commission, African-American Affairs ministry, the Connections ministry for the elderly, immigration committee, and Food for the Hungry committee.

In July 1997, the parish celebrated the beginning of the fourth year of Jesuit Father Francis Gillespie's pastorate. Father Gillespie now serves more than 2,300 Catholics who compose the congregation of Our Lady of Assumption Parish.



SPAIN

Don't miss out. Please clip and send this response and we will add you to our trip roster. But remember, diocesan trips do fill quickly. This trip will be limited in size to about 50 and deposits of $300 per person will be requested this summer.

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NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 3 • September 19, 1997

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Parishioner Grace Hershberger picks her prize after winning at one of the booths during St. Joseph Church's recent Fall Fiesta '97 in Newton. The event, chaired by Barbara Nunciata, attracted more than 800 people. "It was a tremendous success, and we couldn't have asked for better weather," Nunciata said.

A Prayer Of Gratitude

Mother Teresa Bid Farewell By People Of All Stations, Religions

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — A week of public mourning for Mother Teresa culminated in a state funeral Sept. 13 attended by leaders of some 50 states and six religions, and many of the poor that the late nun made her family.

People lined the seven-mile funeral route along which the body of the world's most revered nun was borne on a black gun carriage, the same one that took Mahatma Gandhi's body on its final journey 49 years ago, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Six high-ranking Indian army officers had carried Mother Teresa's body some 100 yards to the waiting carriage from St. Thomas Church, where it had been brought for public viewing on Sept. 7, two days after she died.

The funeral procession wound its way through Calcutta's main streets, first to Netaji Indoor Stadium, where Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano, special legate of Pope John Paul II, led the funeral Mass and then to the Missionaries of Charity headquarters for a private burial.

Pope John Paul saw in Mother Teresa a "woman of unshakable faith: her extraordinary spiritual vision, her attentive and self-sacrificing love of God in each person she met, her absolute respect for the value of every human life and her courage in facing so many challenges," Cardinal Sodano said in his homily.

The pope, he continued, wanted Mother Teresa's funeral to be "a great prayer of gratitude to God for having given her to the church and to the world."

The cardinal asserted that Mother Teresa's life was not merely a "humanitarian exploit" but a "story of biblical faith."

He defended the late nun's focus on serving the poor without addressing the causes of poverty, saying that the hungry cannot wait for the world to come up with the perfect answer before offering them effective solidarity.

"The beggar, the leper and the victims of AIDS do not need discussions and theories; they need love," he said.

Cardinal Sodano noted that Mother Teresa learned to see the true face of God in every suffering person in silence and contemplation, in prayerful adoration before the tabernacle.

To help some 12,000 special invitees, including many from religions other than Christianity, understand the funeral services, commentators explained various aspects of the rites of the Mass in Bengali, English and Hindi.

The Mass, described by the commentators as the "unique celebration of the union of Mother Teresa with Jesus," was organized around the theme "You did it to me" (Mt 25:40).

Concelebrants besides Cardinal Sodano included Indian Cardinals Simon Pimenta, retired archbishop of Bombay, and Simon Lourdusamy, former prefect of the Vatican congregations for Eastern-Rite Churches and for the Evangelization of Peoples; the apostolic pronuncio to India, Archbishop George Zur; and Archbishop Henry D'Souza of Calcutta.

The congregation stood up as the cortege entered the stadium, where Archbishop D'Souza was the first speaker, addressing the gathering in English and Bengali, the language spoken in West Bengal state.

The first reading, from the Book of Wisdom 3:1-9, read in Bengali by a Missionary of Charity sister, reminded people that the virtuous are in the hands of God even when they are tested like gold in the furnace.

The second reading, in Hindi, by Mathias Barla, a tribal Catholic, spoke of God's love being made visible in Christ.

The Gospel, taken from Matthew 5:31-46, and Cardinal Sodano's homily, in which he said that Mother Teresa "understood fully" the Gospel of love "with every fiber of her indomitable spirit and every ounce of energy of her frail body," were in English.

Those to whom Mother Teresa dedicated her life were represented during the offertory procession by an orphaned child who carried flowers, a woman released from prison who carried the water, a person with leprosy who carried the wine and a handicapped person who carried the bread.

Their welfare and other concerns close to Mother Teresa's heart — all people as brothers and sisters, religious life, women released from jail — were highlighted in the intercessory prayers.

After the Mass, the main concelebrants in turn sprinkled holy water on Mother Teresa's body in a rite of blessing.

Following the blessing, a delegate of the Anglican Communion and representatives of Hindu, Islamic, Sikh, Buddhist and Parsi religions gave tributes to the Catholic nun whose understanding of love went beyond religious distinctions.

U.S. Prelates Say Emotions Of Calcutta's People Overwhelming

By JULIE ASHER

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (CNS) — When the celebrants of Mother Teresa's funeral Mass processed into the teeming streets of Calcutta, India, they were greeted with a living testament to the late nun's love for God's people, said two U.S. bishops representing the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference.

The emotions running through the throngs of people lining the streets outside the Netaji Indoor Stadium were a witness to "everything that she was," said Archbishop John R. Roach, former head of the NCCB and one of the Sept. 13 funeral concelebrants.

Archbishop Roach, who headed the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese from 1975 to 1995, Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte, and Ken Hackett, executive director of Catholic Relief Services, spoke Sept. 14, shortly after flying into Andrews Air Force Base from Calcutta with first lady Hillary Clinton, also a part of the U.S. delegation that attended the funeral.

Bishop Curlin said he, too, was struck by the emotions of the people in the streets.

"It was tangible, the grief in those

See **Bishops**, page 2

Bishops, from page 1

people, you could almost touch it," Bishop Curlin said. "There was an atmosphere of warmth, of love, of gratitude to her, and deep pain and people were waving 'Goodbye, Mother.'"

Archbishop Roach said that when the funeral procession left the stadium, he saw hordes of people in the streets praying, singing and "standing in awe and reverence."

"Thousands of kids (were) running trying to get out to the place of burial in time. It was one of the most phenomenal experiences I have ever had in my life," he said.

"Kids were there with signs. People were crying. ... Sign after sign after sign said 'Mother, we love you,' 'We're going to miss you, Mother,'" the archbishop recalled. "One sign I remember, a very large one, said 'Mother, your body's gone, but your heart's here.' That kind of thing just brings tears to your eyes. It was just a great experience."

By contrast the funeral, a highly structured event as required by protocol, did not capture the "kind of warmth that she lived," Archbishop Roach said, but it was still "an impressive ceremony (that) gave you a sense of the breadth of her ministry."

It "expressed her love for God in the eucharistic adoration" but represented her interaction with other religions "that was so much a part of her life," the archbishop said.

As the bishops and priests walked the last block or two to the burial site, Bishop Curlin said, "people were touching us. ... I was very touched by that myself, very moved by that moment. They were trying to reach to someone for comfort."

Later, inside the order's headquarters, as Mother Teresa's casket was lowered into the ground, "there was an audible sound of grief among the sisters," Bishop Curlin said. "That's when it suddenly hit them that she's gone now."

During the funeral, tributes to the late founder of the Missionaries of Charity came from a delegate of the Anglican Communion and representatives of Hindu, Islamic, Sikh, Buddhist and Parsi religions.

Archbishop Roach said by their remarks each was thanking Mother Teresa "not just for the kind of physical help for 'our people but also your openness to our expression of our love for God.' It was a beautiful kind of a thing."

Bishop Curlin said he had known Mother Teresa for 25 years, and they corresponded regularly and talked on the phone often. He once conducted a monthlong retreat for her and her sisters in Calcutta.

"I was moved deeply by knowing her," he said.

Once the delegation arrived in Calcutta, he went to St. Thomas Church, where Mother Teresa's body lay, and "went up and embraced her feet and prayed."

Missionary of Charity sisters who were there would "come up and wrap their arms around you and weep in your arms," he said. "They were so overcome with Mother's death. It was just like a family wake in that sense...."

Hackett said that during the funeral Mass he was struck by the offertory procession. It included Mother Teresa's successor, Sister Nirmala Joshi, who Hackett noted was suffering from an attack of malaria and had a 103-degree temperature.

Among those who brought up the gifts were an orphaned girl who had been found in the streets, a person with leprosy and a handicapped boy.

"That really moved me," Hackett said.

Asked to respond to criticism leveled at Mother Teresa by some that she should have used her considerable influence to change systems that cause poverty, the three Catholic leaders said such comments were unfair.

"We all have different charisms," Archbishop Roach said. "Some of us work with the system, (but) I don't spend a lot of time down on my knees bathing the poor. There are different gifts from God. ... It wasn't that she didn't appreciate, I'm satisfied, the necessity for structural change. It was simply that her gift from God was to serve those in the gutter."

Hackett said that CRS staffers have been inspired by the Missionaries of Charity whenever they have worked with them, whether it be in some far-flung area of Ethiopia or in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya.

"Yes, we deal more with the structural sometimes in our work," he said. "But we draw from the inspiration of those nuns, who walk into our office and sit there quietly — they don't take a taxi into our office, they walk into our office — and your faith is just enlivened by what they do."

Archbishop Roach remarked that from his vantage point on the stage during the funeral, he had a clear view of Mother Teresa's open casket. He said he was struck by how small it was, like the size used for a child.

"I kept thinking how could someone with that little body be that powerful?" he said. But, he added, her work and her legacy "is so uncomplicated. (It's) a mission of God's love and ... it's going to last."

Scripture

Readings for the week of September 21-27

Sunday	Wisdom 2:12,17-20 James 3:16—4:3 Mark 9:30-37
Monday	Ezra 1:1-6 Luke 8:16-18
Tuesday	Ezra 6:7-8,12,14-20 Luke 8:19-21
Wednesday	Ezra 9:5-9 Luke 9:1-6
Thursday	Haggai 1:1-8 Luke 9:7-9
Friday	Haggai 1:15—2:9 Luke 9:18-22
Saturday	Zechariah 2:5-9,14-15 Luke 9:43-45

Student Missionaries Speak At BMHS

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Bishop McGuinness student Ingrid Albrecht talks to Jackson Williams and Jennifer Baumgarner about life in Calcutta.

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — Nine months ago, Katherine O'Connell, Community Services Program director at Bishop McGuinness High School, was casually listening to a public radio station when a program caught her attention.

Jackson Williams, a recent BMHS graduate, was being interviewed about his volunteer work in Calcutta, India, with the Missionaries of Charity. After hearing the alumni — now a pre-medicine and religion major at Wake Forest University — O'Connell knew that he had an important message that her students needed to hear.

With perseverance and planning from O'Connell, YES (Youth Eager to Serve) helped sponsor a program for the school, featuring Jackson and three other Wake Forest students — Jennifer Bumgarner, Kelly Cochran and Jenn Gentile — involved in the City of Joy Scholar Program.

On Sept. 9, only days after Mother Teresa'a death, the gym at the school was filled with students eager to hear about the work started by the tiny nun from Calcutta.

Dressed in typical clothing for men in Calcutta, Williams — who had traveled to India during 1995 and 1996 — spoke about the City of Joy Scholar Program, which sponsors the yearly journey to India. During last year's visit, he led the group of students and did much of the planning. He described Calcutta as "chaotic, noisy, smelly and polluted...." Among this turmoil, however, were the houses established by the Missionaries of Charity. "They sharply contrast with the outside world, providing a place of peace and tranquillity," Williams said.

Where the students lived, there was no running water or electricity, there were rats and insects. Without modern conveniences, the students had no trouble "getting in touch with poverty."

Jennifer Bumgarner, who also traveled to Calcutta in 1996, spoke about the typical day. With the unpredictability of daily chores, she found it hard to schedule activities. Each morning the group awoke early and attended Mass at the motherhouse. Chores usually filled the morning hours. "We did a lot of cleaning, which was hard without running water or a washing machine and dryer," Bumgarner said.

Serving lunch, cleaning and helping at the House for Sick and Dying completed the rest of the day. Afternoon naps were a necessity, as the work was often both mentally and physically draining. Before they retired for the night, the students also had evening reflections to discuss the joys and challenges of the day.

When Bumgarner returned to the U.S., she was initially reluctant to go back to Calcutta, but now is looking forward to this winter's trip. She confessed that she had trouble fitting in at first. "You don't know the culture," she said. "You look different and people are curious, they want to touch your skin and your hair. It is an adjustment."

Bumgarner also found herself frustrated by inefficiencies. Eventually, she realized from watching the sisters that the goal was not efficiency, but making a personal connection with the people.

She recalled a day when she had planned to do chores, but ended up spending all morning with an old women in desperate need of companionship. "She needed me more than I needed to do laundry," Bumgarner recalled with a smile. "I learned the true meaning of giving. When you give, give fully without looking for returns or a thank-you. Completely let go, because you have no control what others will do when you help them."

Kelly Cochran and Jenn Gentile spoke of their plans to visit Calcutta this winter with Bumgarner.

"When I volunteer, it makes me feel like I may be sowing a small amount of love, light and joy into other people's lives as well as my own," Cochran said.

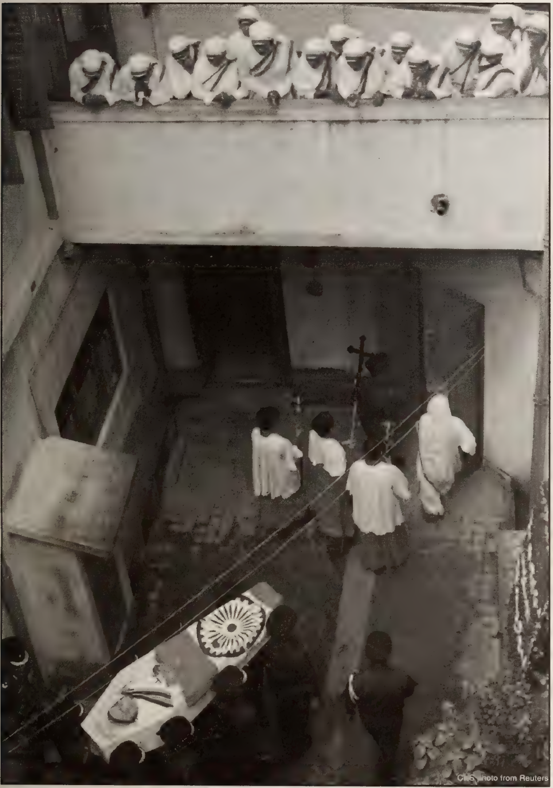
"Just being there and loving others can make such a difference," Gentile added.

A BMHS student asked if the student volunteers ever had to carry corpses off the streets. "The sisters did that, but we did spend much of our time with the dying," Williams responded. He added that although the work may sound "heavy and depressing," there is a true joy of service which exceeds the negatives.

Meeting Mother Teresa and witnessing authentic Christian love motivated the volunteers to examine how much love they were putting in their volunteer work. They encouraged the high school students to look for the many opportunities to serve others, emphasizing that needy people are everywhere — not just in Calcutta.

Goodbye to a Friend

Bishop Curlin Visits Mother Teresa A Final Time


CNS photo from Reuters

Body Enters Home — Nuns on a balcony at the Missionaries of Charity motherhouse in Calcutta watch as the body of Mother Teresa is carried into the building Sept. 13. Her burial there marked the end of a week of public mourning for the nun.

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

Bishop William G. Curlin is one of two American bishops who attended Mother Teresa's funeral Sept. 13 on behalf of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Congress. Upon his return to Charlotte, Bishop Curlin spoke with The Catholic News & Herald *about the visit to Calcutta. Following are excerpts from that conversation.*

How did this opportunity to attend Mother Teresa's funeral arise?

I have to thank Mother's intercession for that. I had no plans to go, but the National Conference of Catholic Bishops knew of our friendship. I received word that I was chosen to represent the conference in company with Archbishop John R. Roach, the former president of the conference, and would travel with the American delegation including the first lady, Hillary Clinton.

What an honor to have been present for the burial of a saint, as well as a dear friend. It truly was a pilgrimage.

Several sisters who knew me embraced me and said, "Welcome home, Bishop. We had hoped you would come." I was very comforted by that.

What particularly struck you during the funeral ceremony?

Among those who presented gifts for the Mass were a little orphaned girl, a young handicapped man and a man with leprosy. I wanted to reach out and embrace them as they passed by because they were the people so dear to Mother's heart.

Archbishop Henry D'Souza (of Calcutta) gave a beautiful welcome to everyone present and offered a tribute to Mother and her work. At the end of the Mass, five archbishops gave individual absolutions — incensing, the blessing of the body and prayers. That was a special honor to Mother because this is usually reserved for the holy father.

Following were tributes from members of different faiths, and representatives of various governments who laid wreaths at Mother's casket.

Sister Nirmala, Mother's successor, also gave a very moving testimony to Mother and spoke of her own commitment to continuing their ministry to the poorest of the poor.

Did you have an opportunity to say a private farewell to Mother Teresa?

When we arrived in Calcutta, the sisters (Missionaries of Charity) met me and invited me to visit the church where Mother's body lay. A Mass had just begun, so I was able to attend and receive Communion with her sisters.

The sisters invited me to partake in the custom of venerating the body. I held Mother's feet and prayed for her happiness and also for the diocese and our needs. I knew that I was embracing my friend for the last time.

That was a very emotional moment for me because she really had been like a mother to me in many ways. At that moment, I truly knew she was gone. My heart caught with up my mind. I hadn't accepted it until then.

What experiences during this visit illustrated the effect Mother Teresa had in Calcutta?

It seemed like millions of people

See **Bishop Curlin,** page 6

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Please be a link in the life chain in your area:

Charlotte (Oct. 12)
Concord-Cabarrus County
Franklin
Gastonia
Greensboro (Sept. 28)
Hickory
Highlands
Morganton
Statesville
Union Grove
Waynesville
Winston-Salem

Most life chains are on October 5. Check in your area for location and times.

The Diocese of Charlotte • Respect Life Office
704.331.1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 20 — 11 a.m.
Confirmation
St. Mary Church, Greensboro

2 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Mary Church, Greensboro

September 21 — 8:30 a.m.
Confirmation
Christ the King Church, Kings Mountain

September 25 — 7 p.m.
Host Homes 10th Anniversary Celebration
Winston-Salem

September 26 — 9:30 a.m.
Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte

September 28 — 11 a.m.
50th Anniversary Celebration of Sacred Heart Mission
Wadesboro

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Mary's Attentiveness To Word Is Model For People Of God, Says Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Sept. 10.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, we now consider Mary's role as a model of the church at worship and as an example for the People of God on their way to holiness. The Blessed Virgin's attitude to divine intervention in her life shows that the essence of worship consists in listening to the divine word in order to know it, assimilate it and make it operative in daily life.

Mary's example encourages the faithful to build a personal and intimate union with Christ, and she is thus the model of the church at prayer. Her intercession at the wedding of Cana and her presence with the Apostles in the Upper Room after the Resurrection show that intercessory prayer plays an important part in our cooperation with God's salvific action in the world. At the foot of the cross, Mary is a model of generosity and sacrifice. May all Christians follow her example and "offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pt 2:5).

I am pleased to greet the participants in the colloquium sponsored by the International Council of Christians and Jews: May your discussions and reflections lead to ever greater understanding, respect and cooperation between followers of the Jewish and Christian faiths. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, South Africa, Australia, Japan, Canada and the United States, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope Expresses Hope For New Round Of Talks On Northern Ireland

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — On the eve of new talks on the future of Northern Ireland, Pope John Paul II said he hoped the participants would find a peaceful way out of the long-simmering conflict. Speaking at a Sunday blessing Sept. 14 at his summer villa, the pope said he would follow the negotiations and considered them important. The talks in Belfast, Northern Ireland, were expected to continue for several months.

Pope Urges Ethiopian, Eritrean Bishops To Maintain Church Presence

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged bishops from Ethiopia and Eritrea to maintain a strong church presence in their societies and never be afraid to evangelize. The pope, addressing the bishops at his summer villa outside Rome Sept. 12, said that creating good relations with non-Christians and other Christian churches was important, as long as it did not interfere with the work of spreading the Gospel.

Coming of Age

Amy Welborn

What Is God Like to You?

Teens, like all of us, can sometimes get overwhelmed when they think about God:

"Well, gee, he's omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and eternal."

All those things are true, of course, as well as the fact that God is our loving parent, our creator and redeemer.

But sometimes we need to use other words to think about God, words and phrases and images from everyday life that can help us relate to God on our level.

A class of sophomores recently were asked to bring in objects that reminded them of God. This is what they came up with:

God is like my calculator because he helps me solve my problems.

God is like my glasses because I'll always need him to help me see clearly.

God is like my ring because he never ends.

God is like my braces because he straightens me out.

God is like my keys because he opens doors for me.

God is like my shoes because he protects me from the rough spots on the road.

God is like an eraser because when I sin, he forgives me and erases what I've done wrong.

It's amazing what kids can come up with, isn't it?

So who is God to you?

Part of growing into an adult spirituality is moving beyond thinking about faith purely in terms of the definitions we've been taught by parents, teachers and church.

Certainly, those definitions are important, but when they remain at the level of just being definitions, they become empty.

They're certainly easy to say and easy to fall back on, but what do they have to do with our lives?

So if you're interested in deepening your relationship with God, why don't you try the exercise I gave to my students.

Think seriously about who God is to you, then look around at the objects that surround you and think:

What is God really like to me?

The next step is to use those objects in prayer. Give it a try.

Sit down in the quiet of your room, look at the object or think about it.

Then say to God something like this:

"God, it's hard for me to understand you, but I think you might be like this ..."

And then spend some time talking to God about why you think he might be like that object, and listen to what he has to say in response.

And don't be afraid of the negative, either. God wants us to be honest with him. So if you're having problems with God, you might find an object that reflects that.

Just as is the case when talking to a friend, there's no value in praying unless you are going to be completely honest, and God doesn't mind.

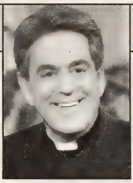
There are as many types of prayer as there are people, and if you want to draw closer to God you owe it to yourself to try as many as you can, searching for different ways to communicate with God in a way that makes sense to you.

So give it a try. What is God like to you?

Amy Welborn is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



More Lasting Than Fame?

Have you ever been to the Hall of Fame?

You might ask, "Which one?" Depending on your personal interests there's bound to be one to interest you. Baseball fans head to Cooperstown, N.Y. Football enthusiasts make their way to Canton, Ohio. And lovers of rock and roll head down the highway to Cleveland.

But if someone had asked the question a hundred years ago, the only answer would have been "What's a Hall of Fame?" I just learned recently that the first Hall of Fame was just in the process of changing from idea into reality on a Bronx hilltop. The grand Colonnade would pay respect to Americans who had a significant influence on the country's history.

Over a hundred were chosen and honored with bronze busts, until funds ran out in the 1970s. Most were as predictable as they were deserved: George Washington and George Washington Carver, Abraham Lincoln and Susan B. Anthony, Thomas Alva Edison and Samuel Langhorne Clemens.

I expect if the selection committees were meeting today, some of the names, so well-known in an earlier age, would now read as minor footnotes in history. Their achievements may be just as great, but their celebrity has passed. Judged in a different time with different standards, others would probably be considered more important. Or maybe we would just know their names better. These days, fame seems to touch some rather unexpected people. That may be partly due to today's communications. We see or hear or read about so many men and women. News, entertainment and talk shows on radio and television seem intent on creating names for the rest of us to applaud. Some groups are especially targeted as celebrities. Athletes, musicians and actors who combine talent with personality and promotion are pronounced "superstars."

They are talked to and talked about. The public — that's us — wants to know all about them. We can't get enough. Apparently there is no such thing as being too well-known.

But back to members of the Hall of Fame. Maybe most of us have forgotten the name of Dr. William Crawford Gorgas — if we ever knew it. But the sanitary engineer helped wipe out yellow fever in Cuba and the Panama Canal Zone. A major accomplishment by any standard. And one, I am willing to guess, he spent his time and abilities pursuing without wondering whether people in his day or a century later would salute him.

I think most of us look at ourselves and our achievements like that good doctor. We are people about the business of life. We all need a pat on the back sometimes. We need our family and friends, neighbors and co-workers to take us seriously, at least some of the time. What really matters will never be what other people think about us, but rather what we know to be true about ourselves.

In *When All You Ever Wanted Isn't Enough*, Rabbi Harold Kushner wrote: "Our souls are not hungry for fame, comfort, wealth or power. Those rewards create almost as many problems as they solve. Our souls are hungry for meaning, for the sense that we have figured out how to live so that our lives matter, so that the would will be at least a little bit different for our having passed through it."

By the way, the word fame is from the Latin for reputation. You can earn a reputation for making a difference for the better. Even if it is just with the person you see in the mirror each morning.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Out of the Ordinary: Experiencing God in the Here and Now," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Organ Donation

Q. *I am mother of three children and wife of a good husband. My sincere wish is to donate my organs when I die so others might live.*

My husband and children all disagree. He says I must return to God the way he sent me on earth, all in one piece with nothing missing. My understanding is that we as Catholics believe donation of our organs is good.

Are they right to oppose my wish?

A. The tradition and teaching of the Catholic Church totally supports the practice of giving organs of one's body to another, either before or after death.

Obviously, several conditions need to be considered before organ transplants take place, all of which can sometimes become complicated.

If the donor is living, for example, the physical and emotional dangers must be measured against the benefit to the recipient.

If the organ is to be transplanted after death, proper criteria must be used to be certain the donor is dead and that death is not hastened to facilitate the transplant.

Assuming these questions are resolved, as they clearly would be in your family, providing for the gift of our bodily organs is a generous act of charity.

In one way or another we already give our lives to each other throughout our lives. If medical science enables us to make some gift of ourselves to another even after death, it is an opportunity to be generous about and grateful for.

Pope John Paul II emphasized the need for this kind of generosity several years ago.

Speaking of the shortage of donors for patients awaiting transplants, he said it is a matter of Christian generosity. "No solution will be forthcoming without a renewed sense of human solidarity."

Here Christ's own example can "inspire men and women to make great sacrifices in the service of others" (April 30, 1990).

As for your husband's objection, very few of us go back to God "all in one piece with nothing missing." It's how we dispose of our time and all the other elements of our life that tells how good stewards we are of the gifts God has given us.

Wartime Prayer

Q. *I am confused about prayers for war. During the war in Vietnam, or anywhere else, how did our priests pray?*

Did they pray for their side to kill more enemy? Or for the safety of their military men?

If two sides pray for no casualties, then what? Also, what are we praying for when we bless bombs and bombers and guns?

A. I wish I had an answer. Maybe it's simply a feeling that somehow the blessing asks God's mercy and compassion on the whole tragic reality of people killing other people by the thousands or millions.

Certainly many men and women, not only in our country, share your puzzlement more often than ever before.

While some wars may appear more "just" than others, rarely is there a warring nation or group that hasn't somehow convinced itself that "God is on our side."

I'd appreciate hearing how readers of this column might respond to your good question.

A free brochure, in English or Spanish, answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701. Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Letters

Additional Mission Collections Not Needed

Just what we need. Another second collection to add to the approximately 14 that we already have (Aug. 22, 1997 issue). We now have one for World Missions, one for Latin American Missions, one already for Home Missions (in July), and now another for Home Missions.

I do hope someone will tell us the difference between the July collection and the new one for Home Missions designated for the last weekend in April.

In addition, every parish is assigned a collection once a year for the missions of a particular religious order. Hats off to the 44 bishops who voted against this additional second collection. May their numbers increase.

Rev. Joseph Zuschmidt, OSFS
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
High Point

Catholic Church In Italy Assisted Jews During Holocaust

Two recent articles have expressed that "the Catholic Church bears responsibility" for the Holocaust. Many people are unaware that 80 percent of Italian Jews survived, in contrast to an 80 percent death rate in other occupied countries. This was due to the Catholic Church and Catholic individuals sheltering Jews and other refugees in convents, monasteries, the Vatican library, and places throughout the Vatican as well as throughout all of Italy.

Two movies about this are *The Scarlet and the Black*, and *Assisi Underground*, both true. Eyewitness reports are included in a National Geographic book, *Inside the Vatican*. Further, many priests did speak out and were promptly taken to a separate prison for priests, as the Nazis didn't want the priests to minister in the death camps.

The pope himself, with Nazis patrolling practically on his doorstep, was involved in secret negotiations with the German underground, with German military officials who wanted to achieve a peace without Hitler. The head of German army intelligence was a Catholic and leader in the German resistance, who secretly contributed to the Allied effort, while overseeing the secret negotiations. This is documented in the book *The Unseen War in Europe*.

Additionally, when priests spoke out against the Nazis it often resulted in retaliation against the Jews. I would assume that, with thousands of Jews hidden in every spare corner in the Vatican, the pope wisely decided to keep a low profile.

Martha Shuping, M.D.
Winston-Salem

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Bishop Curlin Says Goodbye To Mother Teresa, from page 3

were weeping in the streets as Mother's bier passed, saying, "Goodbye, Mother. We love you. You'll always be in our hearts." Many had flower petals, sprays of them, and were throwing them in the streets.

As we were leaving Calcutta, we went by the motherhouse to a large orphanage where the sisters have over 450 children, from infants to youths.

There was one girl, 14 or 15 years old, who was terribly crippled and has lived all her life there. Mother had found her in a garbage pile. It was obvious from her smile that in the midst of a terrible situation the sisters had given her the joy of being loved.

I knew that Mother's legacy would live on.

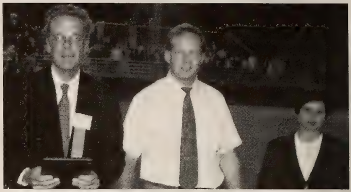
Photo by Joann Keane

What is the impact of Mother Teresa's life and her example of outreach?

Mother was a mother to the poorest of the poor. She often said, "The greatest poverty is that of the spirit — the absence of God in one's heart." Mother's vocation placed her in one of the most materially poor places on earth. I have seen suffering, but never on so vast a scale as in Calcutta. But there, against incredible odds and constant obstacles, she preached a simple message of love through her life which brought joy to empty hearts and comforted untold numbers by her tender acts of compassion.

Through her example, we learned that we should not underestimate the impact of one individual so filled with the love of Christ. I left Calcutta more determined than ever to help make a difference through my love of God and my neighbor and to encourage others to do the same.

Joe Treacy Receives First-Ever CCHS Distinguished Alumni Award



Joe Treacy receives the first-ever Charlotte Catholic High School Distinguished Alumni Award. Also shown are Alumni Association President Michael Crotty and Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, CCHS principal.

CHARLOTTE — Joe Treacy has spent the better part of 30 years as a student and parent watching Charlotte Catholic High School evolve into the academic institution it is today.

"There were 27 boys in my senior class, 164 students in the school," said the 1967 CCHS graduate. "Back then, the school was located on Park Road (where Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School now stands). "Today the student body is almost 800, and the capacity at the facility (on Pineville-Matthews Road) is 1,200, so the school has changed dramatically."

One thing that hasn't changed over the years is Treacy's commitment to Catholic education, and that commitment was recognized Sept. 12 when he received the first-ever CCHS Distinguished Alumni Award at half time of the CCHS varsity football game against Country Day. The award is given to an alumni who has demonstrated excellence throughout his life and represents the ideals of CCHS.

Treacy served on the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) Board of Education from 1992-94 and as a founding member of the MACS Education Foundation Board of Directors, which raises funds for MACS schools including CCHS.

While on the school board, Treacy served as chairman for two years. During that time, the decision was made to move CCHS to its present location. Treacy was also a very active member of the Capital Campaign Cabinet, which coordinated the effort to raise over $3 million for the new high school.

"Joe's contributions to the Catholic school system as a whole, and his dedication to his alma mater, Charlotte Catholic, are the biggest reasons he was honored," explained Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, CCHS principal. "Joe's been very committed to Catholic education, and this is a way for us to thank him for all that he has done."

Treacy felt "truly honored" to be recognized by his alma mater.

"It is a real pleasure for me to receive this award given where this institution lies in my heart," he said.

Treacy and his wife Sheila have five children: Chris, 21; Courtney, 18; Clinton, 15; Logan; 7; and Kate, 6. Both older children are CCHS graduates, and son Clinton is a sophomore there. The Treacys are parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

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Tuesday — Forgiveness (Confessions)
Wednesday — Healing (Anointing)
Thursday — Conclusion of Mission

Comuniquémonos
Ministerio Hispano
Suplemento de The Catholic News and Herald
19 de septiembre de 1997

Dirigentes eclesiásticos y mundiales elogian a la Madre Teresa

WASHINGTON (CNS) – "Su vida fue una lección de amor ... La Madre Teresa transcendió las culturas y la política", dijo Monseñor Anthony M. Pilla, Obispo de Cleveland, al enterarse de la muerte de la fundadora de las Misioneras de la Caridad.

Monseñor Pilla, presidente de la Conferencia Nacional de Obispos Católicos, se unió a una efusión mundial de elogios para una de las mujeres más ampliamente amadas y admiradas del siglo XX. La Madre Teresa, de 87 años de edad, murió en Calcuta el 5 de septiembre, en el convento principal de la orden que ella fundó para servir a los abandonados más pobres del mundo.

"Ella veía a Jesús en todas las personas — desde el niño en el vientre hasta los enfermos y los vulnerables, especialmente los afligidos por el SIDA, hasta los ancianos y moribundos abandonados en las calles de Calcuta", dijo Monseñor Pilla.

En el Canadá, donde las Misioneras de la Caridad tienen hogares en Montreal, Toronto y St. Paul, Alberta, Monseñor Marcel Gervais, Arzobispo de Alberta y ex-presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos del Canadá, dijo que la Madre Teresa "oyó el clamor de los pobres, y como ella decía, quiso llevar la faz de Cristo a los moribundos".

El Arzobispo de Ottawa agregó que la Madre Teresa "ha ido ciertamente a su recompensa, no hay duda de eso — la recompensa por escuchar realmente la voz de Dios en los desposeídos, y en los débiles, y en los moribundos. Creo que ésa es una de las cosas más importantes que ella ha hecho".

Un portavoz del Vaticano, el Padre Ciro Benedettini, dijo que cuando el Papa Juan Pablo II oyó la noticia de la muerte de la Madre Teresa en su residencia de verano en Castel Gandolfo, él "se sintió profundamente emocionado y entristecido", e inmediatamente se retiró a su capilla para orar.

"El estaba muy cerca de esta hermana que dedicó su vida a ayudar a las personas del mundo que eran las más pobres, las más descuidadas y las abandonadas", dijo el Padre Benedettini.

"Ella era un ejemplo brillante de cómo el amor de Dios puede transformarse en el amor del prójimo", agregó él.

En la India, los dirigentes gubernamentales manifestaron su tristeza y dijeron que la Madre Teresa sería recordada por su dedicación a los pobres.

El Presidente Clinton la calificó de "una de los gigantes de nuestra época", que "nos mostró el poder asombroso de la humildad sencilla".

Y agregó: "El hogar para los moribundos que ella abrió en Calcuta hace casi medio siglo se llama 'Nirmal Hriday' — 'corazón puro' — y si hubo alguna vez un corazón puro, fue el de ella".

El Presidente del Brasil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, dijo que "la humanidad ha perdido a su símbolo de solidaridad". El calificó a la Madre Teresa de "una de las figuras más iluminadas de la Iglesia Católica a fines de este siglo".

El Cardenal James A. Hickey, de Washington, donde la Madre Teresa visitaba a menudo, estaba en una reunión con 100 sacerdotes cuando llegó la noticia de la muerte de ella. Su voz se entrecortó y se le acumularon lágrimas en los ojos cuando anunció la noticia al grupo.

En una conferencia de prensa, poco después, él dijo: "Ella vio verdaderamente a Jesús en los más pobres de entre los pobres, y ella amó en verdad a Jesús en los más pobres de entre los pobres. Ella inspiró a otras personas incontables para que conocieran, amaran y sirvieran a los pobres".

"Su trabajo y sus palabras nos inspiraron a todos", dijo Kenneth F. Hackett, director ejecutivo de los Servicios Católicos de Socorro, que ha colaborado con la Madre Teresa durante más de 40 años.

"De los millares de personas con las que los Servicios Católicos de Socorro se han relacionado, ninguna ha tocado al mundo como lo hizo la Madre Teresa", dijo él.

LA MADRE TERESA ABRAZA A UNA NIÑA — A su llegada a Pakistán en 1991, la Madre Teresa abraza a una niña que la saludó en el aeropuerto. La Madre Teresa murió el 5 de septiembre a la edad de 87 años. Su ministerio la llevó alrededor del mundo, abriendo hogares para los enfermos y los pobres.

Foto CNS de Reuters

Jesuitas sirven todavía en Nuevo México 130 años después

ALBUQUERQUE, Nuevo México (CNS) — Desde que cinco jesuitas entraron rodando en Santa Fe en vagones cubiertos hace 130 años, el papel de la orden religiosa ha sido importante en el estado.

A medida que una celebración en agosto señalaba el aniversario de los jesuitas, el historiador Padre Thomas J. Steele S.J. recordaba la clase de luchas a que se enfrentaron sus predecesores jesuitas en el estado.

Aunque los misioneros franciscanos precedieron a los jesuitas en el territorio por 300 años, Nuevo México era todavía un lugar difícil para los misioneros a mediados del siglo XIX.

"Entonces era un mundo áspero para vivir y moverse", dijo el Padre Steele. "Había que tener mucho valor para hacer eso y salir a atravesar el país".

Un logro a largo plazo de aquellos jesuitas precursores fue la creación de un periódico en español que sobrevivió desde 1875 hasta 1963, la "Revista Católica".

"Se acredita al periódico el haber salvado a Nuevo México para la Iglesia Católica", dijo el Padre Steele, "especialmente durante el decenio de 1880, cuando se enfrentó con los periódicos protestantes. Fue una gran fuente de enseñanza, mentalidad y cultura católicas".

CCH y el "Comuniquémonos" cumplen 25 años

Por LUIS A. WOLF

En este mes de septiembre el Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte celebra 25 años de su fundación. Asimismo el *"Comuniquémonos"* entra en sus 25 años de publicación.

El 30 de noviembre de 1971 su Santidad el Papa Pablo VI anuncia la creación de una nueva diócesis: la Diócesis de Charlotte, escogiendo como su primer obispo al Reverendo Monseñor Michael J. Begley, quien en ese momento era el párroco de la Parroquia Our Lady of Grace, en Greensboro.

El 12 de enero de 1972 nace oficialmente la nueva diócesis con la instalación del obispo electo Michael J. Begley en la Catedral de San Patricio.

Una de las preocupaciones del Obispo Begley era la falta de dirección espiritual para la población hispana que empezaba a crecer mayormente en la ciudad de Charlotte.

Casi inmediatamente empezó a buscar a un sacerdote de habla hispana y a mediados de su primer año como obispo trajo a un padre italiano que hablaba español para que se ocupara de las necesidades espirituales de la población hispana.

El padre Alex Ducci era una persona muy dinámica y no perdió tiempo en trabajar, con la ayuda de una hermana Oblata, Francisca Borgia, quien residía en el convento detrás de la iglesia Our Lady of Consolation. El Padre Alex y la hermana Francisca visitaron casas, hicieron un censo y el padre celebró la primera Misa en español el 9 de septiembre de 1972, aprovechando la ocasión para conmemorar la fiesta de la Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre, Patrona de Cuba. Las Misas se empezaron a celebrar en la que era la Iglesia de la Asunción, en Shenandoah Avenue y The Plaza, donde actualmente se celebran las Misas en español.

Con los años, el apostolado hispano fue creciendo con el apoyo de los Obispos Donaghue y Curlin y con la dirección y ayuda de los padres, hermanas y laicos que continuaron trabajando con la comunidad hispana. Con el tiempo y con la ayuda de los párrocos locales, se empezaron a celebrar Misas en otras comunidades fuera de Charlotte, creándose más tarde el Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis.

El primer director que tuvo el Centro Hispano de Charlotte, después que el Padre Ducci terminó su trabajo de unir y organizar a los hispanos de esta ciudad, fue el Padre José Waters. Después del Padre Waters le siguieron el Padre José Kerin, la Hermana Pilar Dalmau, quién fue también encargada de la coordinación del ministerio hispano a nivel diocesano y actualmente el Padre Vicente Finnerty, C.M., que además de Director del Centro es Director del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis.

Durante la dirección de los padres Waters y Kerin varias hermanas, (las Hermanas Krihmilde Morales, Elvinia Novoa y Lucila Muñoz), religiosas de la Congregación Hijas de la Iglesia los ayudaron en su trabajo con la comunidad hispana.

Durante la dirección de la Hermana Pilar Dalmau el Obispo Donoghue trajo y nombró a varios capellanes para que se ocuparan de la vida espiritual de la comunidad hispana. Ellos trabajaron, no sólo en Charlotte, sino también ayudaron ocasionalmente en otras comunidades. El primero fue el Padre Gerardo Clark, OSFS, hasta que fue nombrado párroco de la iglesia de Nuestra Señora de las Américas, en Biscoe. Le siguieron los Padres Arnulfo Aranda, Silverio Rueda, Roberto Graves, CSSp y Aurelio Ferrín.

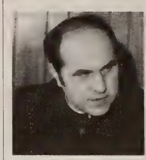
La Hermana Pilar Dalmau cesó como directora, cuando la orden de Siervas del Sagrado Corazón, a la que ella pertenece, cerró su convento en Charlotte y todas las hermanas fueron relocalizadas. El Obispo Curlin entonces nombró al Padre James Bayer para que se pusiera al frente del Centro. El Padre Bayer también era vicario parroquial de la iglesia de Santa Ana y ayudante del Obispo Retirado Begley.

En julio de 1995 el Obispo Guillermo G. Curlin nombró al Padre Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M. Director del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Charlotte así como Director del Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte. El Padre Vicente pertenece a la Congregación de la Misión, cuyos miembros son conocidos como los Vicentinos.

Durante todos estos años el *"Comuniquémonos"* se ha publicado casi ininterrumpidamente en diferentes formas y tamaños. La primera copia, en diciembre de 1972, fue una simple hoja y según aumentaba la comunidad y la ayuda de personas voluntarias que ayudaban en la preparación y envío de esta publicación, ella fue cambiando de contenido y formato.

Lo que empezó como una publicación local actualmente llega a toda la Diócesis como suplemento de *The Catholic News & Herald.*

Esperamos que al celebrar los 25 años de su primera edición podamos continuar publicando el *Comuniquémonos.* Para eso necesitamos la ayuda de todos. Necesitamos artículos, noticias de las diferentes comunidades, avisos de eventos y programas y anuncios que ayuden a pagar los gastos de impresión de esta publicación.



Padre Alex Ducci, organizador y primer sacerdote que tuvo el Centro Católico Hispano.

Hermana Francisca Borgia, quien trabajó con el Padre Ducci durante los primeros años del CCH. La Hermana Francisca falleció hace algunos años en la casa madre de su orden en Baltimore.

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

El pasado 15 de agosto celebramos la Asunción de María. La fe en la Asunción de María implica tres cosas: primero, que la Virgen murió; segundo, que su cuerpo fue preservado inmune de la corrupción; tercero, que fue glorificado por Dios mediante una resurrección anticipada.

Celebramos a María porque es ejemplo, modelo de la fe para nosotros. Ella aceptó generosamente la voluntad de Dios, aceptó ser madre del Hijo de Dios. Fue sierva. Se consideró, se llamó, vivió como sierva de Dios y de los hombres. Esto es su gran importancia para nosotros.

Sabemos que tal vez la actitud más evangélica, la actitud que más pide Dios de nosotros es la de ser siervos de El y de los demás. Si tenemos claridad que hemos de ser siervos, es fácil ser cariñosos con los demás, es fácil poner los intereses de los demás antes de los propios.

Compartimos mucho con María porque compartimos la misma vocación: ser siervos de Dios y de nuestros hermanos y hermanas más necesitados. Vivir como siervos nos trae mucho gozo y paz.

Ser siervos de Dios significa muchas cosas. Veamos una. Significa que tengamos el mismo trato unos con otros. Es difícil, pero eso es lo que impide que nos hagamos egoístas.

Tratar bien a la persona superior y tratar con indiferencia a la persona inferior es una señal de egoísmo y de poca madurez cristiana.

Ojalá todos tuviéramos incluso el deseo de tratar mejor a las personas más débiles, más sencillas, más enfermas, más difíciles. ¿No es ese el espíritu de Cristo?

Para tratar bien a las personas poderosas, ricas, inteligentes, agradables, para esto ya está el mundo. Para tratar bien a los pobres, nos ha escogido Dios a nosotros, como escogió a María para que tratase bien a su Hijo pobre.

Amigos y amigas, pidamos a María que interceda por nosotros para que Dios nos de la capacidad de ser siervos de Cristo en los pobres y así demos gloria a El.

Invitación

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Develado sello de correos de EE.UU. en honor de sacerdote cubano

SAN AGUSTIN, Florida (CNS) — Un sello de correos de los Estados Unidos que destaca a un sacerdote católico cubano fue develado en San Agustín, la ciudad donde el Padre Félix Varela estuvo enterrado una vez.

A partir del 15 de septiembre, la cara del Padre Varela — patriota y filósofo cubano, defensor de los inmigrantes y Vicario General de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York — viajará por todo el mundo sobre millones de cartas.

Estuvo presente en la ceremonia el Cardenal cubano Jaime Ortega, de La Habana, así como delegaciones de cubanos procedentes de todos los Estados Unidos.

Jorge Sosa, que encabezó la campaña a favor del sello, recordó cómo empezó el proyecto en 1987, un año antes del ducentésimo aniversario del nacimiento del Padre Varela.

Sosa coordina ahora la Fundación Padre Varela, con sede en Miami, que procura "hacer conocidas la vida y las enseñanzas del Padre Varela, y fomentar las actividades que den actualidad y permanencia a sus ideales".

La fundación está promoviendo también la causa de la santidad para el Padre Varela, quien sería el segundo santo cubano.

"Sólo recientemente, el Presidente Clinton habló sobre las relaciones raciales y étnicas. Ahora, el Servicio Postal de los Estados Unidos ha emitido un sello de correos para homenajear a un humilde sacerdote católico, un hispano que prestó sus servicios en Nueva York, ejerciendo el ministerio para los inmigrantes italianos, polacos y especialmente irlandeses, así como también defendiéndolos; un modelo y precursor en las relaciones étnicas, raciales y religiosas", dijo Sosa.

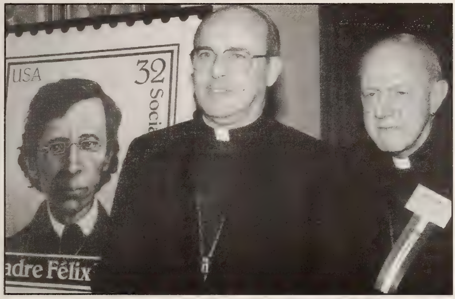

Foto CNS por María L. Negrín, *La Voz Católica*

Sello De Correos En Honor Del Padre Varela — El Cardenal Jaime Ortega Alamino, de La Habana, Cuba (a la izquierda) y Monseñor Eduardo Boza Masvidal, obispo cubano exiliado, asisten a la develación de un sello de correos de los Estados Unidos que destaca al Padre Félix Varela, patriota y filósofo cubano del siglo pasado, en San Agustín, Florida, en agosto.

Centro Católico Hispano celebra sus 25 años

Foto por Jimmy Rostar

Alguno de los primeros miembros del Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte que asistieron a la cena para conmemorar los 25 años de su fundación.

Por LUIS A. WOLF

CHARLOTTE – Para conmemorar los 25 años de la fundación del Centro Católico de Charlotte, hubo una comida, el 6 de septiembre en la cafetería de la iglesia de San Gabriel, para honrar a las personas que ayudaron en la organización de este Centro hace 25 años.

Entre los asistentes se encontraba el Obispo, Monseñor William G. Curlin, quien habló entre otras cosas de que cuando el próximo marzo presente al Papa Juan Pablo II el reporte de la Diócesis, lo cual hace cada cinco años, le gustaría decirle "hemos construido esta parroquia, hemos construido estas iglesias, pero no pienso que eso es lo que realmente quiero decirle…., me gustaría decirle al Santo Padre, nuestra gente conoce a Jesús".

El obispo también habló de la reciente muerte de la Madre Teresa de Calcuta, de la amista que él tuvo con ella por más de 25 años y del ejemplo que ella había dejado.

El Padre Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M., director del Centro Católico y del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis dio las gracias a todos los que empezaron con el Centro y a las personas que durante todos estos años han ayudado a que éste continúe su misión y crecimiento.

Después de sus palabras el Padre Finnerty presentó un video que reflejaba la historia del Centro Católico.

Al siguiente día, domingo, se celebró una Misa por los 25 años y para honrar a la Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre, Patrona de Cuba, cuya fiesta se celebra el 8 de septiembre.

El Padre Mario Vizcaíno, Sch.P., director de la Oficina Regional del Sureste Para el Ministerio Hispano, fue el celebrante y durante su homilía relató una breve historia de la aparición de la Virgen.

Después de la Misa se sirvió pastel y refrescos a los asistentes.

Quinto Mandamiento: "No Matarás"

Continuamos con los mandamientos de la Ley comentando sobre el quinto mandamiento.

Todos los días, en cualquier periódico de este mundo, aparece una página dedicada a relatar accidentes, crímenes, homicidios… Esta fue una de las primeras páginas de la historia de la humanidad. Caín, lleno de envidia y de rencor, se levanta contra su hermano Abel y lo mata. Por primera vez la tierra se mancha con sangre humana.

I
II
III
IV
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VI
VII
VIII
IX
X

Dios maldice al primer homicida de la historia, como maldice a todos los demás. Toda la Sagrada Escritura es un llamamiento a reconocer la vida humana como don divino y el *Quinto Mandamiento* obliga a todos y a cada uno, siempre y en todas partes, a no causarle daño, a la persona propia o a la ajena.

Actitudes equivocadas. Aparte del *suicidio* y del *homicidio*, van en contra de la vida: toda *guerra injusta*; el *aborto*, cualesquiera que sean sus motivaciones; la *eutanasia*; las *mutilaciones*, a menos que lo requiera un motivo grave para conservar la propia existencia; las *lesiones* y *torturas*, tanto corporales como morales; los *vicios* en general y, particularmente los que más perjudican la salud, como el *alcoholismo,* la *drogadicción,* el *libertinaje* y, en fin, toda esa extensa gama de irresponsabilidades que directa o indirectamente constituyen un riesgo concreto para la vida y la salud nuestra o de los demás.

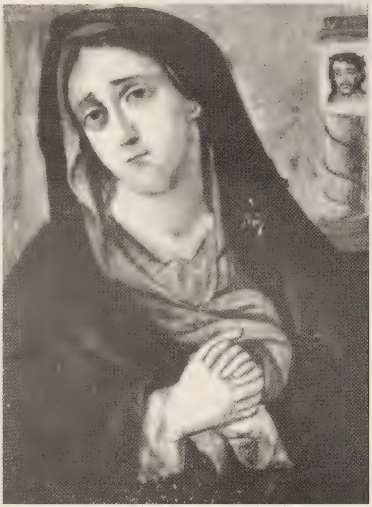
Actitud cristiana. Los verdaderos cristianos tiene un gran respeto hacia el preciosísimo don de la vida, sea la de uno mismo o la de los demás. Por ello evitan cuidadosamente destruirla o perjudicarla. Condenan las guerras injustas, el terrorismo, el aborto, la eutanasia y toda acción contraria a la integridad y dignidad del ser humano.

Evitan toda clase de excesos y dominan su odio, su cólera y sus deseos de venganza. Procuran la paz, evitando cuanto disgrega, separa y enfrenta. Atienden con generosidad a las obras de misericordia corporales y espirituales. Evitan el escándalo, que puede inducir a otros a cometer el pecado y causarles un grave perjuicio espiritual.

Los verdaderos cristianos buscan vivir la vida en su plenitud humana y espiritual testimoniando que el don de la vida tiene un altísimo fin: servirnos de ella para hacer fructificar en nosotros todos los dones de naturaleza y de gracia que con tanta generosidad nos ha dado el Señor.

Comentario al Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica - Edición Española - con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo.

Exposición de Pinturas Mexicanas en el Museo de Arte de Hickory



Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, (Retablo: óleo y estaño)

HICKORY – En el Museo de Arte de Hickory se está exhibiendo una colección de pinturas folklóricas religiosas mexicanas de los siglos 18 y 19.

La exhibición *"Milagros del Arte Folklórico Mexicano: Retablos y Ex-Votos"* refleja una celebración única y vívida de la herencia artística y religiosa de México.

La exhibición consiste en 36 pinturas religiosa hechas durante el período post-colonial entre los años 1780 y 1910.

Diferentes eventos han sido planeados en conjunto con esta exhibición. El Padre José Waters de la iglesia Holy Trinity en Taylorsville hablará sobre los santos de la Iglesia Católica el 25 de septiembre a las 7:00 p.m. El Padre Waters trabajó en México y Perú por varios años. El explicará el proceso de nominación y beatificación de los santos y el papel de ellos en el México de hoy.

El 4 de octubre de 12 a 3 p.m. el museo ofrecerá una fiesta familiar, donde habrá música, trajes y bailes folklóricos de México, así como comida típica. Entre otras de las muchas actividades que habrá ese día, Alejandro Ferratiz ofrecerá una demostración con su lazo y sombrero.

A las 3 de la tarde, en el auditorio del museo, el conjunto Tablas Teatro de Arte presentará "Tres Comedias Españolas".

La entrada para todas estas actividades es gratuita.

Para más información llamar al Museo de Arte de Hickory al (704) 327-8576.

Noticias De America Latina

COSTA RICA: — El Gobierno de Costa Rica decretó el estado de emergencia, debido al fenómeno «El Niño», que ya provocó daños millonarios en este país.

MEXICO: — El presidente del Congreso de México, Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, pidió al presidente del país, Ernesto Zedillo, que someta la política de su gobierno a un debate en la Cámara de Diputados, que por primera vez en 68 años carece de mayoría absoluta del Partido Revolucionario Institucional.

CUBA: — Después de más de tres semanas de ausencia total en los medios informativos, que provocó incluso rumores sobre su muerte, el presidente cubano, Fidel Castro, reapareció la anoche del 1ro. de septiembre en un acto público.

NICARAGUA: — Los presidentes centroamericanos sostuvieron una reunión extraordinaria en Managua para discutir mecanismos de integración regional.

CHILE: — Una corte chilena dejó en libertad bajo fianza a Hartmut Hopp, un dirigente del enclave alemán en Chile, Colonia Dignidad, acusado de encubrir el paradero del fugitivo fundador de esta colonia.

Convención de sacerdotes hispanos señalada para octubre

HOUSTON (CNS) — La Asociación Nacional de Sacerdotes Hispanos celebrará su octava convención nacional entre los días 13 y 16 de octubre en Corpus Christi, Texas.

El tema de la reunión será: "Jesucristo, Cabeza y pastor de la Iglesia, y el Sacerdote Hispano".

Monseñor Ramón Godínez Flores, Obispo Auxiliar de Guadalajara, México, secretario general de la Conferencia Episcopal de México, será el orador principal de la convención.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO *St. Joseph*, 326 S. Park St. (910) 629-0221	todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE *St. Eugene*, 1 Culvern St. (704) 254-5193	todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE *Our Lady of the Americas,* 105 Hayde Rd. (910) 428-3051	todos los sábados 5 pm los domingos 11 am y 2 pm confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE *Sacred Heart,* Main St. & Summit	3er. domingo del mes 6 pm
CHARLOTTE *Centro Católico Hispano* Shenandoah Ave.y The Plaza (704) 335-1281	todos los sábados 7 pm los domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7pm confesiones media hora antes de las misas
DOBSON *Sagrado Corazón*, Rt. 601 (910) 632-8009	todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY *Immaculate Conception,* 1024 W. Main St. (704) 245-4017	todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA *St. Michael*, 708 St.Michael's Ln. (704) 867 6212	3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO *St. Mary*, 812 Duke St., (910) 272-8650	todos los domingos 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE *Immaculate Conception*, 208 7th. Ave.W.. (704)693-6901	todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT *Cristo Rey,* 1505 East Kivett Dr. (910) 884-0244	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
JEFFERSON *San Francisco de Asis,* Main y Ivy (910) 246-9151	2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS *St. Joseph,* 108 St.Joseph St.	todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE *Holy Cross,* 616 S.Cherry St. (910) 996-5109	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
LENOIR *St. Francis of Assisi,* 1025 College Ave. SW (704) 754-5281	3er. sábado del mes 7 pm
LINCOLNTON *St. Dorothy,* 148 St.Dorothy's Lane (704) 735-5575	todos los domingos 12 pm
MONROE *Our Lady of Lourdes,* Deese y Franklin Streets	todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON *St. Charles Borromeo,* 714 W. Union St. (704) 437-3108	todos los domingos 5 pm
MOUNT AIRY *Holy Angels,* 1208 North Main St. (910) 786-8147	todos los domingos 6 pm
NEWTON *St. Joseph,* 720 West 13th. St., (704) 464-9207	todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO *St. John Church,* 275 C.C. Wright School Rd. (910)838-5562	1er., 3er., 5to. domingo del mes 6 pm
REIDSVILLE *Holy Infant,* 1042 Freeway Dr., (910) 342-1448	todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY *Sacred Heart,* 128 N.Fulton St. (704) 633-0591	todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA *St.Francis of Rome,* Hendrix Rd. (910) 372-8846	1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE *St. Phillip the Apostle,* 525 Camden Dr (704) 872-2579	1er. domingo del mes 2 pm
TAYLORSVILLE *Holy Trinity,* 665 W. Main Ave. (704) 632-8009	do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE *Our Lady of the Highways,* 943 Ball Park Rd. (910)475-2732	todos los domingos 12 pm
WINSTON-SALEM *Our Lady of Mercy,* 1919 S. Main St. (704) 722-7001	todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE *Christ the King,* U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd. (910) 463-5533	todos los domingos 12 pm

Evangelization Commission Sponsors Jam for Jesus

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte (CECC) presents Jam for Jesus '97, an interdenominational, musical family picnic event, Oct. 18 from 1-6 p.m. in uptown Charlotte's Marshall Park.

The event will bring Christian musicians representing a variety of faiths — from a Catholic gospel choir to a United Methodist brass band — together to celebrate faith through music.

"Our focus is Jesus and, for this event, fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters," says Bruce Brodowski, co-chairperson of the CECC and principal organizer of the October gathering. "Jesus is the same for all mankind — yesterday, today and tomorrow. Through the medium of music, we are also one in the body of Christ."

The CECC is an extension of diocesan evangelization outreach and a collaboration of Catholic parishes in Charlotte promoting spiritual strengthening. Earlier this year, it sponsored a Charlotte visit by theologian and educator Scott Hahn, who delivered a message of faith to more than 1,000 at St. Matthew Church.

Organizers say the Jam for Jesus has even more of ecumenical flair. "Our intention is to gather together for a family picnic, sing or listen to good Christian music from various local denominational groups, and give to the Lord all the glory, honor and praise," Brodowski adds.

Scheduled performers include gospel, Christian rock and praise and worship music groups. Our Lady of Consolation and St. Matthew Catholic churches have arranged participation, as have St. Andrew United Methodist, Indian Trail Baptist, Forest Hills Presbyterian, Resurrection Lutheran, and Calvary churches.

Rodney Baucom, a Christian radio disc jockey and bass singer for Revelation Quartet, one of the performing acts, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Admission to the event is free, and a love offering will be collected.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Our U.S. bishops summarized in ten key principles our Catholic tradition of applying our faith and moral teachings to economic life. Here we consider Principle #1.

All too many of us are familiar with people out of work, even if it is only indirectly through the media. Downsizing, moving plants abroad, outsourcing, more part-time positions, all have affected our work lives. The unemployment rate has hovered around 5.5% for some time, representing millions of people out of work. This number does not include those who are not even counted because they have given up on the labor market. All too many people have to make choices among necessities, such as heat or medicine, health care or food. Despite this, many see the stock market rising or economic indexes improving and say the economy is thriving. Who is the economy for?

Principle #1: The economy exists for the person, not the person for the economy.

THE CATHOLIC EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION OF CHARLOTTE

presents

Jam for Jesus 97

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Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church Gospel Choir
Revelation Quartet - Indian Trail Baptist Church
A Few Young Fishermen - Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
Alive in the Spirit - St. Matthews Catholic Church Choir
Resurrection Lutheran Church Choir
Calvary Church Inside Outside Band

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Fall Festival
Games, Food, Music and Fellowship
Saturday, October 4
11:00 - 4:00

on the grounds of St. Patrick's School
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Proceeds from St. Patrick's Fall Festival will help fund technology to bring nationwide educational resources directly into the school via classroom computers.

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Maid in Heaven: Do you keep your home clean? Would you like to make $12 per hour? Set your own schedule? Work about 12 hours a week? Help needed days, Mon.-Fri. Servicing Charlotte area. Call (704) 643-5545.

Director of Liturgy/Coordinator of RCIA: Would you like to serve full-time beginning immediately in a welcoming and prayerful community as the primary developer and coordinator of parish liturgical life and the RCIA? Vatican II community; 1,800 families located in central North Carolina. Work with clergy, director of music ministries, and other staff members. Qualifications: master's degree or equivalent; knowledgeable of rites and ritual of the church, empowering, collaborative and pastoral; musical skills welcome. Salary commensurate with degree and experience. Send resume to: James W. O'Neill, OSFS, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410.

Pastoral Associate: For 1,500 family parish in suburban area. Areas of ministry include: marriage and family social ministries, human resources, stewardship, planning and development. Send resume to: Search Committee, Prince of Peace Church, 1209 Brushy Creek Rd., Taylors, SC 29687, or fax to: (864) 322-2239.

Adult Ed Coordinator: Creative, well-organized individual to coordinate adult ed programs and annual parish mission for parish of 3,700 families. College degree required. Computer skills a plus. Part-time position. Salary negotiable. Send resume and salary requirements to: Susan Krasniewski, St. Gabriel Faith Development, 3028 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.

Receptionist: Sardis Nursing Home is seeking a friendly and outgoing individual to serve as front desk receptionist and provide secretarial support to the department managers. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills and type at least 50 wpm. Salary range is $8.87-$13.31 per hour. M-F, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Contact Beth Coley, (704)365-4202 or Human Resources, (704) 355-2101.

Parish Nurse: At least two years experience to serve in part-time position (20 hours/week with benefits) for St. Gabriel Church. Registered nurse, BSN preferred. Varied hours include some weekends. Responsible for working with St. Gabriel Health Ministry in planning, implementation and evaluation of holistic health care for individuals. Position requires creativity and organizational skills. Contact: Sally Jackson, Presbyterian Healthcare Human Resources Department, 1600 E. 5th St., (704) 384-4832.

Director of Planned Giving for Diocesan Office of Development: College graduate with degree in finance, business administration or related field, three years experience in planned giving or related field, strong interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to interact with diverse groups. Responsibilities include organizing and directing efforts to assist parishioners to develop and implement long range financial plans. Part-time position, 21 hours per week. Submit resume to: Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207 by Oct. 3.

Development Director: Bishop McGuinness High School seeks dynamic development director effective Oct., 1997. Responsibilities include direction and design for all giving programs, supervision and design of alumni affairs and projects; special events; design and produciton of public relations materials, press contacts, etc. Qualifications: BA and demonstrated proficience. Full-time, 12-months. Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable and commensurate with experience. Send letter of application, resume, three letters of recommendation and salary expectations to: George L. Repass, Principal, 1730 Link Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

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People In The News

Convicted Killer At Peace As Execution Draws Near

CANON CITY, Colo. (CNS) — Convicted killer Gary Lee Davis was in prayer on the days leading up to his Oct. 11 scheduled execution by lethal injection. If Colorado Gov. Roy Romer were to decide at the last minute to grant Davis clemency, the call would come on a red telephone in the death chamber 10 feet from the inmate's cell. "Either way I'll get life," Davis, a Catholic, mused as he sat behind a glass partition in a tiny visitor's cubicle. He revealed these and other thoughts at the Colorado State Penitentiary in Canon City during an interview with *The Catholic Herald*, diocesan paper of Colorado Springs. "If the governor pardons me I'll get life, and if I die I'll get life eternal in heaven and be with my daughter," he said solemnly.

Willard Scott To Get Gabriel Personal Achievement Award

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — NBC "Today" show weather forecaster Willard Scott will receive the Gabriel Personal Achievement Award at the Gabriel Awards ceremony slated for Nov. 8 in Arlington, Va. Scott, who honors people who have reached age 100 on his "Today" segments, is honored for providing outstanding leadership to the broadcast and entertainment community in furthering the idea of the Gabriel Awards. Past award winners include Charles Kuralt, Joe Garagiola, Walter Cronkite, Helen Hayes, Michael Landon, Ted Koppel, Hugh Downs and Angela Lansbury.

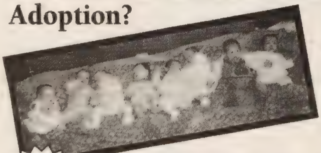
Flynn Resigns As Vatican Ambassador

ROME (CNS) — Raymond L. Flynn, U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, has sent President Bill Clinton his letter of resignation and plans to return to the United States in late September. Flynn said Sept. 11 that his immediate plans include acting as a health care policy consultant to a private company and working for a nonprofit organization to help inform elderly people about affordable health care services available to them.

CATHOLIC
SOCIAL SERVICES

Catholic Social Services' new bilingual counselor, Jack Monohan, will be doing professional counseling at the Asheville office on a part-time basis. His position is partially funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina and a grant from the Highland Hospital Trust Fund. A Cajun dinner fundraiser on Sept. 14 sponsored by the local CSS board raised funds toward a matching grant from the Kathleen Price Bryan Family Fund. Pictured at the CSS Western area office from left are Sister Marie Frechette, area director; Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director; and Monohan.

Interested in International Adoption?



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"Ave' Maria" ~ Hail Mary, Gentle Woman ~ Hail Holy Queen ~ On This Day O Beautiful Mother ~ Immaculate Mary and more! Qty. ____ ____
NEW!! "The Gift of Grace" ~ Amazing Grace ~ Alleluia! Alleluia! ~ Panis Angelicus ~ Alleluia! Sing to Jesus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy and more! Qty. ____ ____
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Catholics Lead Campaign To Ban Landmines

By JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER

"Be sure to look both ways before crossing the street," you call to your son on his way to play with a friend.

"Don't go with strangers," you caution when telling your daughter when you will pick her up from soccer practice.

The primary yearning of every parent: to protect their children and keep them safe. Their greatest fear: that they will be powerless to do so.

Today, in more than 70 countries, that feeling of powerlessness is a daily companion. Parents live in dread that their child, in picking up a fascinating object by the side of the road, will be grabbing a landmine. Landmines, it seems, come in an array of child-appealing shapes and colors; some look like stones or pineapples, while others have the appearance of butterflies. Children are especially vulnerable because they are closer to the center of the blast.

This "delayed form of warfare," as one U.N. official calls it, maims or kills an average of 500 people, primarily civilians, each week. The nature of warfare is changing. Instead of targeting a defined enemy, today the objective is often to terrorize and intimidate civilians during bitter internal struggles. Landmines are placed in villages, fields, forests, riverbanks, roads and bridges, victimizing unsuspecting children and remaining a danger long after the conclusion of conflict.

The church is concerned about this issue because of appeals from bishops, Catholic Relief Services personnel, and U.S. missionaries working in Africa, Asia, and Latin America who see first hand the destruction wrought by these indiscriminate weapons. Pope John Paul II has been an outspoken advocate for a global ban on landmines.

The U.S. Catholic Conference has sent all parishes a "Catholic Campaign to Ban Landmines" materials kit to help faith communities make the case that strong U.S. leadership is required to ban these horrible weapons. In the kit, there are excellent resources for the liturgy and social concerns committee, and faith formation/schools departments.

Our Catholic community can make a difference in the use of landmines. We can save children's lives and give parents peace of mind. We can change a system that perpetuates the destruction of lives.

Joanne Frazer

The "Catholic Campaign to Ban Landmines" parish kit suggests choosing a week to focus on landmines and do the following:

- Open parish meetings with a prayer for victims of landmines and those in positions to make decisions about a ban;
- Integrate the kit into worship and formation;
- Organize letter writing opportunities to Congress and the president urging them to support the Landmine Elimination Act of 1997.

You can write President Clinton at: The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500; Senators Helms and Faircloth at Senate Office Buildings, Washington, D.C. 20510; and your representative at House Office Buildings, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer is director of the Charlotte Diocese's Office of Justice and Peace.

Remember Catechetical Sunday Sept. 21

By FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Diocesan Vicar For Education

"Jesus Christ: Yesterday, Today And Forever." That is the theme proclaimed throughout the nation as dioceses across the country celebrate Catechetical Sunday on Sept. 21. On this occasion, as always, we remember the goodness of the Lord who has gifted us with scripture and sacrament. We recall our identity as God's children and our common call to share the person and message of the risen Lord by what we say and do. We acknowledge the privileged role of the Church in teaching and explaining the vision, values and virtues of Jesus Christ. We respect the sacred and serious responsibility of parents to live their faith so that the little ones entrusted to their care might experience its meaning, possibilities and ramifications. We pay tribute to the 3,000 catechetical leaders and catechists serving in the Faith Formation programs within parishes. Their dedication and zeal in teaching as Jesus did inspire and challenge others to be even more faithful in witnessing to Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life.

The diocese of Charlotte, enriched by the pastoral care of Bishop William Curlin, shepherd and teacher, is blessed beyond measure as priests, religious and laity accept and implement the ineffable privilege of participating in the catechetical mission of Jesus Christ: Yesterday, Today and Forever.

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EMMAUS RETREAT: AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

Join other men of the area at Living Waters in Maggie Valley for a Spirit-filled weekend Friday, Sept. 19, 7 pm — Sunday, Sept. 20, 2 pm. Come relax, reflect and see what the Lord wants to do for you. Father Ray Berg is Spiritual Director. Call Tom Sparacino, (704) 255-0095 or Mark Mukosiej, (704) 665-2722

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CRISM "Day of Reflection"

Mass said by Bisop William G. Curlin
Catholic Conference Center
October 15, 1997
10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Come early for continental breakfast, 9-10 a.m.
Chaplain —Father Louis Canino, OFM, of the Franciscan Center, Greensboro
To register, clip the form below and send to:
CRISM Day of Reflection
1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207
For information, call Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720 ext. 314

Registration

Name ____________________
Address ____________________
Phone (   ) ____________ Parish ____________
Amount enclosed ($10 per person) ____________

Deadline for registration is Oct. 1
Group registration forms and directions to the conference center available at church offices and with club leaders.

Join **Father Mo West** and **CRISM** on a trip to Asheville to visit **St. Lawrence**, the only Basilica in North Carolina.

...With stops in Charlotte & Statesville
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October 23, 1997

Changing leaf color • lunch provided by the seniors of St. Lawrence. •Mass
Inspirational message from Msgr. John J. McSweeney
For details, call Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720, ext. 314 Tues.-Thurs.
To register, clip form below and send to: CRISM Basilica Bus Trip, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, N.C. 28207. Enclose $39 for bus fare and meal, or to meet the bus at the basilica, send $7 for meal only

(Clip here and send)

Registration

Name: ____________________
Address: ____________________
Phone: (   ) ____________ Parish: ____________
Amount Enclosed: ____________
($39 per person for bus fare and meal or $7 for meal only)

Hurry!! Deadline for registration is October 8

Diocesan News Briefs

Fall Fiesta Fun

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

NEWTON — Parishioner Keith Doheny bravely handles a large snake which was part of the petting zoo at the St. Joseph Church's recent Fall Fiesta '97.

Abbey Open House

BELMONT — The Belmont Abbey College open house for prospective students is Oct. 10 beginning at 9 a.m. The day includes presentations by college officials; a campus tour; lunch with the admission staff; opportunities to attend classes; and a financial aid seminar. Some prospective students may be eligible for scholarship interviews. For information, call (888) 222-0110.

disABILITY with H.O.P.E.

CHARLOTTE — A respite training workshop for those involved in the disABILITY with H.O.P.E. Ministry, or for those caring for elderly, ill or disabled persons, is Oct. 3 from 7-9:30 p.m. and Oct. 5 from 1-4:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church in the parish center. Call the office, (704) 543-7677, ext. 43, or Kathy, (704) 846-3219 for registration and information by Sept. 26.

Operation LAMB

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of the Assumption Knights of Columbus Council #11102 hosts its annual LAMB Drive Kickoff Sept. 23 at the Watermark Condominium Clubhouse at 8 p.m. Call Clark Wicklund, (704) 567-1662, evenings, or (704) 537-1063, afternoons.

German-American Club's Oktoberfest

CHARLOTTE — The German-American Club's 30th annual Oktoberfest is Sept. 27 at the National Guard Armory from 7:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. featuring music, food and prizes. Tickets are available for $20 per person in advance, $25 at the door. Students aged 13-17 with a student ID are admitted for $15. Children under 12 are admitted free, and meal tickets for them are $7. Send a check or money order to The German-American Club, P.O. Box 470421, Charlotte, NC 28247. Call Donald Kahrer, (704) 948-0351, Eva-Marie Sagovac, (704) 553-0346, or Don Coble, (704) 948-0351, for information.

Silver And Golden Celebration

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin presides at the 18th Annual Silver and Golden Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church. All couples celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage in 1997 should register at your parish office for the celebration, which includes Mass and renewal of marriage vows.

CCHS Seniors Named Semifinalists

CHARLOTTE — Three Charlotte Catholic High School seniors, Christopher Glass, Elizabeth John and Scott Schmit, have been named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program based on their PSAT scores.

CCHS' opening school Mass is Sept. 26 at 9:35 a.m. in the gymnasium.

Craft and Quilt Fair

CHARLOTTE — The St. Vincent de Paul Church annual Craft and Quilt Fair is Oct. 4 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the church building fund.

Catechetical Conference

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The Charlotte Diocese co-sponsors the province-wide "Visioning Discipleship" catechetical leadership conference Oct. 17-18 at the White Oak Baptist Conference Center. The schedule includes Mass with Bishop Kenneth Untener of Saginaw, Mich; keynote speeches; a concert; and group processing sessions. Father James Hawker and Joanne Frazer of the Charlotte Diocese will attend as facilitators. The cost is $45 for the conference, which includes meals. For meals or the concert only, the cost is $15. To register, contact the Diocese of Charleston, Dept. of Christian Formation — Attn: Conference, 1662 Ingram Rd., Charleston, S.C. 29407.

Parents, Youth Workshops

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X and Our Lady of Grace churches sponsor the "Up with Parents" workshop Sept. 26 from 7-9 p.m. at St. Pius X for parents seeking information on self-esteem and discipline. Baby-sitting is available. To register, call (910) 273-9860.

St. Pius X and Our Lady of Grace sponsor the "Up with Youth" workshop Sept. 27 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Pius X for middle-school youth seeking to learn tips for goal setting, communication, listening, conflict resolution and impulse control. To register or for information, call (910) 273-9860.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — Psalm 121 sets the tone for "I Lift Up My Eyes," an Oct. 13-19 retreat directed by Rev. David Valtierra, CO and Sister Jeanette Stand, OP. Cost is $250. For information or registration, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, (704) 926-3833.

Mass Schedule Change

MONROE — Our Lady of Lourdes Church has resumed its fall Mass schedule: Sun.: 8, 9:15, 10:45 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. (Spanish Mass).

St. Therese Celebration

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Parish hosts a celebration of its patron's feast Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at the church. Jesuit Father Stanley Mascarenhas, whose doctorate focused on the human and spiritual achievements of St. Therese, will discuss the saint's life and teachings Sept. 29 and 30 at 7:15 p.m. in the parish hall. A eucharistic celebration honoring St. Therese is Oct. 1 at 7:15 p.m. in the church. Call (704) 664-3992 for information.

Inquiry Series

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church presents an inquiry series for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, regardless of religious background or experience. For details, call (704) 464-9207.

Liturgical Music Event

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Liturgist, composer and musician Dan Schutte offers a concert of music for liturgy and prayer Sept. 26 and "Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist," a workshop for liturgical musicians, Sept. 27, both at St. Anne Church. Cost for the concert is $10; the workshop is $20. To register, send fees to The Oratory: Center for Spirituality, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C. 29731-1586; Attn. Sarah Morgan. Call (803) 327-2097 for information.

The Catholic News & Herald *welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.*

Around The Diocese

CRISM Events

The Very Rev. Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, and Suzanne Bach lead a bus trip from Charlotte through Statesville to St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville for Mass, meal and a tour Oct. 23. The bus departs the Catholic Center at 7:30 a.m. and will arrive at St. Phillip Church, Statesville, to pick up additional passengers. The cost is $39. Registration deadline is Oct. 8. Call Bach, (704) 331-1720, for information.

HICKORY — The annual CRISM (Catholic Retirees Invited to Special Ministries) Day of Reflection is Oct. 15 at the Catholic Conference Center. Continental breakfast begins at 9 a.m., followed by fellowship and faith enrichment. Franciscan Father Louis Canino from Greensboro serves as chaplain. Cost is $10. Registration deadline is Oct. 1. Size is limited to 100. Call Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720, Tuesdays through Thursdays for information.

Golf Tournaments

CHARLOTTE — The annual Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) Golf Tournament for foursomes is Sept. 29 at Raintree Country Club. For details, call the RAIN office, (704) 372-7246.

FLETCHER — Knights of Columbus Council #8923 presents a four-person captain's choice golf tournament at French Broad Golf Club Oct. 12 at 12 p.m. Cost is $50 per person, which includes green fee, bag lunch, refreshments and contests. Make checks payable to Knights of Columbus #8923 and send to David Smith, 5 White Rock Ct., Arden, N.C. 28704.

GREENSBORO — Foursomes are invited to register for The Great Golf Outing, organized by St. Pius X School Sponsors Fund, Oct. 3 at Greensboro National Golf Club. Call Mike Lazorchick, (910) 275-6273, for details.

SALISBURY — The Knights of Columbus St. James Council presents a four-person captain's choice golf tournament Oct. 17 at Corbin Hills Golf Course at 12 p.m. Cost is $35 per person, which includes green fee, cart, lunch, refreshments and prizes. Send entry fees by Oct. 10 to Richard Borsuk, 2527 Saddlewood Circle, Concord, N.C. 28027, (704) 786-9087; Michael Mastrianni, 2790 Old South Ct., Concord, N.C. 28027, (704) 786-1947; or Charles Williams, 587 Union St. S., Concord, N.C. 28025, (704) 782-8610.

Life Chain

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Life Chain is Oct. 12 from 1:30-3 p.m. To prepare, congregations are asked to observe three days of prayer and fasting. A prayer service will be held Sept. 25 at St. Giles Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m., a pro-life Mass will be celebrated Sept. 26 at 12 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral, and a prayer service will be conducted Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Derita Baptist Church. Call (704) 598-0032 for more information.

GREENSBORO — The annual Life Chain event in Greensboro is Sept. 28 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. along Battleground Avenue. For details, call Kameren Lowery, (910) 288-9709, or Bronwyn VanDerwerker, (910) 665-0851.

HICKORY — The Hickory Life Chain forms Oct. 5 from 2-3 p.m. on Highway 70 from Sagebrush on Robinson Road and Lenoir Rhyne Boulevard to Catawba Valley Community College. Meet at 1:45 p.m. at the Command Center in the TJ Maxx parking lot. For information, call Jean Marie Hirsch, (704) 495-4339, or Ron Kidwell, (704) 328-2165.

Correction: The ad for St. Patrick School's Golf Tournament in the Sept. 12 issue of The Catholic News & Herald listed the wrong date for the event. The correct date is Oct. 13, 1997.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo by Bob Roller

Blessing Site — Detroit Cardinal Adam Maida blesses the site where construction for the John Paul II Cultural Center is set to begin by the end of the year. Church officials and donors to the $50 million museum and Catholic think tank gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony in Washington Sept. 11.

Cardinal Ratzinger Predicts Speedy Sainthood For Mother Teresa

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation, said he foresaw a speedy sainthood process for Mother Teresa — but one that respects the church's rules and timetables. "I think her life, which was resplendent in front of the eyes of everyone, will not offer too many problems and, therefore, the process will not need to be too long," the cardinal said at a press conference Sept. 9.

New Florida Program To Help Fathers Nurture Their Children

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — National and local leaders of Catholic Charities and Palm Beach community leaders came together recently to highlight a joint program aimed at helping fathers nurture their children. Co-sponsored by Catholic Charities of Palm Beach, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and 100 Black Men, the program is called Dad-2-Dad, which is to officially kick off Oct. 1. It includes mentoring, counseling, support groups, educational programs and neighborhood rallies. "This new program will enhance the lives of countless children who will grow to greater maturity and stronger spiritual well-being because their fathers play a more meaningful nurturing role in their tender, young lives," said Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, president of Catholic Charities USA.

Minnesota Governor Calls School Choice Right Thing To Do

WASHINGTON (CNS) — During a three-day visit to Washington to tout his state's new school choice program, Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson said support for school choice has broadened because it's the right thing to do and the public wants it. Speaking at a press conference Sept. 11 at the National Press Club, the Republican governor predicted that school choice will dominate the 1998 congressional elections and the presidential election in 2000.

New Catholic Groups Promoting Faith-Based Health Care Values

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Furthering faith-based health care values is the goal of two new Catholic organizations. SSM Health Care, one of the country's largest Catholic health systems, announced early in September formation of the SSM Policy Institute to address health-related public policy issues in Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Georgia and South Carolina. In August, a group of Catholic hospitals, universities and community-based service organizations in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia founded the Faith-Based Community Health Care Alliance to improve access to faith-based health care that is patient-oriented.

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St Pius X Church

Parish Profile

GREENSBORO — Although St. Pius X Church was not founded until more than three-quarters of a century after the first Catholic parish was established in Greensboro, the two communities share an intertwined history.

The first Catholic church consecrated in the Guilford County seat was St. Agnes Church, dedicated in 1877. Benedictine monks assumed responsibility for the mission in 1888, and by century's end a new church was built and placed under the patronage of St. Benedict.

St. Benedict School was opened in 1926, and by the 1950s a larger facility was needed to accommodate growing numbers of students. Bishop Joseph Waters of Raleigh and Msgr. Hugh Dolan, pastor of St. Benedict Church, purchased a 14-acre site on which a school-chapel complex was built, along with a convent and rectory.

The classroom section of the facility opened its doors in March 1955 to 176 students. The school and church were named in honor of the pope canonized in 1955, Pius X. Daughters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Md., staffed the school, and Msgr. Dolan became first pastor of St. Pius X Church.

Msgr. Dolan remained at St. Pius X for 20 years until a reassignment brought him to Charlotte. He was succeeded by Msgr. Lawrence Newman, known for his dedication to Catholic education.

Msgr. William Pharr, current pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, was the next priest to assume the St. Pius X pastorate. Through his guidance the parish began looking into the possibility of constructing a new church. The formal request was submitted to Bishop Michael J. Begley of Charlotte in December of 1978.

The new church was built following a year of planning, and Bishop Begley dedicated it in March of 1981. Father George Kloster, now pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, served the Greensboro parish at the time. About 400 registered families composed the congregation.

St. Pius X Church
2210 N. Elm St.
Greensboro, N.C. 27408
(910) 272-4681

Vicariate: Greensboro

Pastor: Father Francis T. Connolly

Masses: Sat. — 5 p.m.; Sun. — 9, 11:30 a.m.

Number of parishioners: 2,500

Number of households: 800

A still-popular outreach project began during Father Kloster's time in Greensboro as well. Through a connection made by the diocesan priest, St. Pius X Parish adopted a southern Peruvian mission that it continues to support.

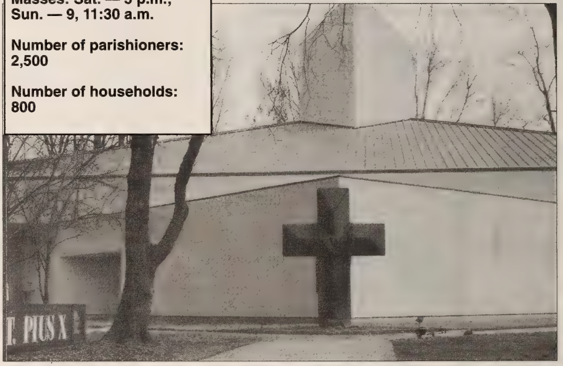
Following the diocesan pastorate that included the ministry of Father Kloster's successor, North Wilkesboro's St. John the Baptist Church pastor Father Frank Cintula, the Order of Friars Minor Conventual — the Conventual Franciscans — arrived at St. Pius X Church. They remained there until 1994, when current pastor Father Francis Connolly, a diocesan priest, was appointed to lead the parish.

Father Connolly also serves as chaplain at St. Pius X School, which recently underwent renovation work and opened a new wing including classrooms, a media center, computer lab, science lab and art room. The school has 411 students in grades kindergarten through eight enrolled for the new school year. Sue Geraghty is the principal.

At the church, a new parish center is under contruction to help meet the spiritual and social needs of a still-growing congregation.

The pastor reports of a "good ecumenical spirit" on the part of St. Pius X parishioners, who are active in a number of ministries and projects that enhance parish and community life. Special emphasis on poverty and homelessness is placed through such programs as shelter work and soup kitchen assistance.

St. Pius X Church is the spiritual home of 2,500 Catholics in the Greensboro area.



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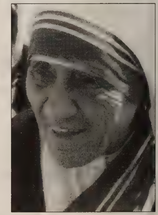

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Office of Communications

Is pleased to offer the prayer card in memorial to Mother Teresa of Calcutta

The demand for this card – prepared for the memorial Mass on Sept. 8 – has been so great that we extended printing and offer the card to those with a special devotion to Mother Teresa.

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Charlotte, NC 28207
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THE CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 4 • September 26, 1997

Pope Hopes To Rally Support For Families In Brazil

CNS photo from Reuters

Rio Statue — The statue of Jesus overlooking Rio de Janeiro appears to be adorned with decorations during the celebration of a World Cup soccer victory. Pope John Paul II will visit the Brazilian city Oct. 2-5 for the World Meeting of Families.

On Oct. 5, Pope John Paul II will lead married couples in a renewal of their vows as he celebrates Mass in Rio de Janeiro for an expected crowd of more than 1 million people.

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he hopes his October trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will mobilize a new commitment to traditional family life around the globe.

Almost all the events on the 77-year-old pope's schedule for his Oct. 2-5 stay in Brazil were related to an international theological and pastoral congress on family life and the Second World Meeting of Families.

The events, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Family, are aimed at "a mobilization of consciences for a cause — the cause of the family," said Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, council president.

"Despite the great distance and the tiring time change" from Rome, the pope "is looking forward to this meeting with great hope," the cardinal said in mid-September.

"The pope will make a gift of his presence, his words, his experiences," Cardinal Lopez Trujillo said.

While many of the problems facing the world's families are blatantly apparent in Brazil — crippling poverty, divorce, high rates of out-of-wedlock births, masses of children abandoned on the streets, drug trafficking and abuse — the pope is not expected to deliver blistering messages to Brazilian authorities.

"This is a world encounter, so the pope's messages will have a universal focus," the cardinal said.

At the same time, the pope will not let the world's governments off the hook.

As he wrote in "Familiaris Consortio," his 1981 apostolic exhortation on the Christian family:

"In the conviction that the good of the family is an indispensable and essential value of the civil community, the public authorities must do everything possible to ensure that families have all those aids — economic, social, educational, political and cultural assistance — that they need in order to fulfill all their responsibilities in a human way."

But in many ways, he wrote, the family "finds itself the victim of society, of the delays and slowness with which it acts, and even of its blatant injustice."

In the years since he issued the document and especially in his 1994 "Letter to Families," the pope has condemned attempts to define as a family unions between unmarried people or people of the same sex. In various speeches, he has condemned government population control programs and the easing of restrictions on abortion and divorce.

While one part of the remedy involves government commitment, the pope sees the Catholic family as holding the greatest promise for change.

"The future of humanity and of the People of God themselves comes through the defense and development

See **Brazil**, page 3

A Peaceful Protest

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The messages will be simple, but organizers anticipate the thousands who form human links in western North Carolina to commemorate National Life Chain Day the next few weekends will convey a powerful defense of the sanctity of human life.

Local and national organizers forecast hundreds of thousands of men, women and children will gather in more than 800 North American cities to line sidewalks in peaceful protest of abortion.

"The Life Chain allows the Christian community the opportunity to be a powerful witness for life," says Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the Charlotte Diocese. "That's what (the pro-life movement) is about — promoting respect for life for all, including those who can't speak for themselves."

Charlotte's 1997 participation is scheduled for Oct. 12 from 1:30-3 p.m. along Randolph Road between Sardis Road and Presbyterian Hospital. A cross will be formed at Sharon Amity Road from Providence Road to Craig Avenue.

The Queen City is one of a dozen towns in the diocese planning Life Chain activities. Most Life Chains are scheduled for Oct. 5 to coincide with Respect Life Sunday. For a list of regional participants, see the Pro-Life Corner, page 4.

Founded in the mid-1980s in Yuba, Calif., the annual event is said by many Christian respect life leaders to be one of the most visible forms of pro-life outreach. Lay participants stand side by side holding placards reading "Abortion Kills Children," while clergy members hold signs proclaiming "Jesus Heals and Forgives."

"The Life Chain is an event that is bringing the churches together across denominational lines," says Susan Zeigler, Life Chain of Charlotte coordinator. "We believe the truth about abortion and the sanctity of human life will be proclaimed with power as the church stands together in a spirit of love and humility."

Diane Hoefling, Life Chain of Charlotte spokesperson, adds that the message conveyed during the Life Chain especially reaches out to those concerned for unborn children and their mothers.

"The sponsor churches and participants in the Life Chain advocate compassionate alternatives to abortion," Hoefling says. "They support organizations ... who find themselves in an unexpected pregnancy."

For details on the Life Chain nearest you, contact your parish office.

Boggs Praised At Hearing On Her Nomination As Ambassador

By PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Former congresswoman Corinne "Lindy" Boggs was praised as the ideal choice to be U.S. ambassador to the Holy See at her Sept. 23 confirmation hearing.

Introducing Boggs to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. John B. Breaux, D-La., said the task, "makes me feel like I've been asked to come and present Mother Teresa to the committee."

Committee chairman Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said he expected to hold a vote on Boggs' nomination Sept. 24, followed in short order by confirmation by the full Senate.

Boggs, 81, was nominated by President Clinton to replace former Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn as ambassador. Flynn left the post Sept. 20.

Faced with only one substantive question about U.S. support for family planning programs from Sen. Gordon H. Smith, R-Ore., the hearing had more the character of a meeting of the Lindy Boggs fan club.

CNS photo by Frank J. Methe, *Clarion Herald*

President Clinton nominated former congresswoman Lindy Boggs as ambassador to the Vatican Sept. 12.

Smith asked Boggs how she would try to bridge the policy differences between the Vatican and the United States when it comes to expenditures on family planning by the United Nations.

Boggs explained that the Vatican opposes use of such funds for abortion while the United States policy supports it.

She said her personal beliefs clearly are different from the public policy position of the United States when it comes to abortion, but that she sees her role as ambassador as relaying the stance of the U.S. government, not her own beliefs.

"The position of the United States is the responsibility of the ambassador to the Holy See and that position will be relayed ... if I am called upon to do so," she said.

Boggs was praised by Republican as well as Democratic members of Congress, including Helms, who served with her husband, the late Hale Boggs. Hale Boggs was House majority leader when his plane disappeared over Alaska in 1972. His wife was elected to fill his seat several months later.

Breaux described his former congressional colleague as speaking "fluent Catholic."

"If ever there was a woman who was destined to be ambassador to the Holy See, it's Lindy Boggs," he said.

Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., said Boggs has always been an effective ambassador for the South as well as for the rest of the nation and would continue to do so at the Vatican.

"Not every country represented at the Vatican gets along with the United States," Livingston said. "Two weeks after she arrives, they will all get along with Lindy Boggs.

"Look for her to have the pope eating out of her hand," he joked.

In her own statement, Boggs noted that during her time in Congress or while accompanying her husband in his job, she has traveled the world, attending several notable events.

Among them were the first post-World War II meetings of western European nations in Switzerland, the Interparliamentary Union meeting in Rome in 1948 and the historic trip with other members of Congress to China in 1972.

She has been involved in a variety of volunteer and Catholic organizations, including service to refugees and the sick through the Knights of Malta and the Order of St. Lazarus. She also has served on a committees related to the visits of Pope John Paul II to the United States.

CHD Executive Director To Visit Charlotte Diocese

A leader in the nation's Justice and Peace movement will visit the Charlotte Diocese next week.

Father Robert J. Vitillo, executive director of the Campaign for Human Development, will make stops in Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Charlotte Oct. 1-2.

Father Vitillo, named head of CHD (the Catholic Church's domestic anti-poverty program) last December, will tour Greensboro Urban Ministry and Project Independence, both CHD-funded group projects, on Oct. 1. He will also attend a luncheon for priests, parish coordinators, and CHD-funded groups at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Afterward, he will visit Prodigal Community, Inc., a CHD-funded group in Winston-Salem.

Later that evening in Charlotte, Father Vitillo will discuss current CHD work in the diocese and around the nation at 8 p.m. in the St. Patrick School cafeteria. Priests, religious, CHD parish coordinators, funded groups and the public are invited to attend.

On Oct. 2, Father Vitillo will meet with Bishop William G. Curlin.

A priest with the Diocese of Patterson, N.J., Father Vitillo served in many capacities for Caritas Internationalis, the worldwide confederation of Catholic social service and development organizations, before being appointed to the CHD position. He was Caritas Internationalis' delegate to the United Nations and World Bank. From 1982-86, Father Vitillo directed the Secretariat for Social Ministries in his home diocese, and served as primary liaison with various advocacy and social service agencies, including CHD and Catholic Relief Services.

The annual November CHD collection supports more than 240 national and local grants to get to the root causes of poverty. HELP, a local community organizing effort that brings together more than 25 parishes and congregations — including St. Peter's parish in Charlotte — was recently awarded a $35,000 CHD grant.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Our U.S. bishops summarized in 10 key principles our Catholic tradition of applying our faith and moral teachings to economic life. Here we consider Principle #2:

When we study economics we are taught early on that the economy is subject to its own laws, like that of supply and demand. When the idea of a free enterprise system was first advanced it meant that economic decisions should be free of government and other interference. But while the different areas of human life, such as economy, politics, culture, have their own principles, they are still part of human life. As part of human life, shouldn't they also be subject to moral principles?

Principle #2: All economic life should be shaped by moral principles. Economic choices and institutions must be judged by how they protect or undermine the life and dignity of the human person, support the family, and serve the common good.

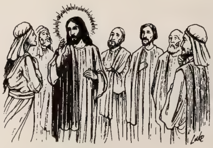
His Excellency, Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following clergy assignments in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Reverend Richard Bellow from pastor of St. John Neumann Parish, Charlotte, to Parochial Vicar of St. Gabriel Parish, Charlotte, effective October 1,1997.

Reverend Anthony Marcaccio, Secretary to the Bishop and Administrator of St. John Neumann Parish, Charlotte, effective October 1,1997.

Reverend Gregory Littleton from the Diocese of Mutchen to the Diocese of Charlotte and Parochial Vicar of St. Margaret Parish, Maggie Valley, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Cherokee, effective immediately.

Another Exorcist



"John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us.' Jesus replied, 'Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.'" (Mark 9:38-40)

Saints & Scripture

© 1997 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of September 28 — October 4

Sunday	Numbers 11:25-29 James 5:1-6 Mark 9:38-43,45, 47-48
Monday	Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 John 1:47-51
Tuesday	Zechariah 8:20-23 Luke 9:51-56
Wednesday	Nehemiah 2:1-8 Luke 9:57-62
Thursday	Exodus 20:20-23 Matthew 18:1-5,10
Friday	Baruch 1:15-22 Luke 10:13-16
Saturday	Baruch 4:5-12,27-29 Luke 10:17-24

Triad Pays Final Respects To Mother Teresa

Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated a memorial Mass for Mother Teresa Sept. 17.

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — Residents of the Triad area paid their final respects to Mother Teresa of Calcutta during a memorial Mass Sept. 17 at St. Leo the Great Church.

Bishop William G. Curlin encouraged the more than 350 people in attendance to follow the tiny nun's example and see Jesus in the least of their brothers and sisters. "For Mother Teresa, there was no child, woman or man on earth who was unlovable," he said. "When criticized for embracing lepers and people with AIDS, she reminded us that we and not God created 'untouchables.'"

During the homily, the bishop recalled his friendship with the nun, a bond that lasted more than a quarter of a century. Those memories included leading a month-long retreat for Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, and of her visit in June 1995 to establish a convent in Charlotte.

Bishop Curlin also told of how the former leader of the Missionaries of Charity touched people of all faiths.

"I remember talking with Bishop Bevel Jones (the retired bishop of the N.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church), and he told me, 'One of the greatest days of my life was meeting Mother Teresa. Jesus walks the earth in that woman,'" Bishop Curlin said.

Ed Chase, a St. Leo parishioner, attended the memorial Mass with family to honor the memory of Mother Teresa, and to pray that others will continue her mission of helping people in all walks of life. "We know it was God working through Mother Teresa, and we pray that all people will begin to see Jesus in everyone as she did," he said.

Dr. William Rabil, another St. Leo parishioner, was also impressed by the nun's life of unselfishness.

"One of the things that touched me most about Mother Teresa was the way she could care for a dying man covered with sores, and embrace him with the heart of Jesus," he said.

During his visit to Calcutta two weeks ago to attend Mother Teresa's funeral, Bishop Curlin prayed for the diocese and its needs and also recommitted his ministry to helping the poorest of the poor. The bishop added that he hoped all would carry on the work of Mother Teresa by making a difference in the world through their love of God and neighbor.

Mass, Renewal Of Vows Heart Of Celebration

Brazil, from page 1

of the family," the pope said in late August as he began a series of Sunday Angelus talks about the Rio meeting.

During the Oct. 4-5 gathering of families from around the world, individual families will give most of the presentations.

Seventeen families have been chosen by the Vatican council to give "testimonies." They include a Belgian couple with nine children who adopted 10 others with handicaps; a Dutch family and an Australian family speaking about respect for the elderly and sick in the face of recent government moves to legalize euthanasia.

Anna Friso, who is coordinating the testimonies, did not provide the names of the 17 families, but she said they would include a German and a U.S. family explaining how the strong faith in the home can affect the larger church.

"The climate will not be that of a conference, but of a joyful, festive gathering which will witness to the world how it can unite as a family of families," said Alberto Friso, who is also working with the Vatican on the program.

The heart of the celebration will be the Oct. 5 Mass, which is expected to draw more than 1 million people. Pope John Paul will lead married couples in a renewal of their wedding vows.

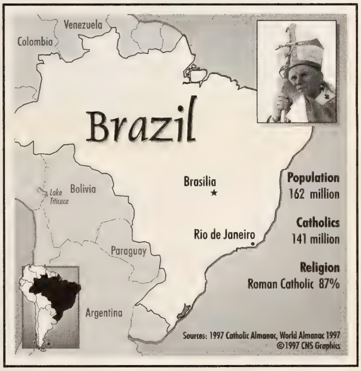
The Council for the Family also has invited 2,500 bishops, family ministers, theologians, academics and couples to attend an Oct. 1-3 theological and pastoral congress on current challenges facing the family.

Pope John Paul is scheduled to address the congress participants Oct. 3.

The U.S. bishops' official representatives to the congress will be Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien of Phoenix, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family; Richard McCord, associate director of the Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth; and Edward and Patricia McCarthy of the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyo. Other U.S. couples will represent various dioceses or family and pro-life groups.

The Canadian bishops will send two couples from the board of the Catholic Organization for Life and Family: Robert and Sharon Harland of Nova Scotia, and Louise Couture and Luc Chapleau of Quebec.

The main speeches for the congress will look at the church's defense of family life, international institutions and their impact on the family, the family as a defender of human life, the natural structure of the family, maternity, children as a gift and the family's role in the evangelization process leading up to the year 2000.



Sources: 1997 Catholic Almanac, World Almanac 1997
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CNS graphic by Anthony DeFeo

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

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Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

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1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Please be a link in the Life Chain in your area:

Charlotte (Oct. 12)
Concord-Cabarrus County
Franklin
Gastonia
Greensboro (Sept. 28)
Hickory
Highlands
Morganton
Statesville
Union Grove
Waynesville
Winston-Salem

Most Life Chains are Oct. 5. Check your area for location and times.

The Diocese of Charlotte • Respect Life Office
704.331.1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 28 — 11 a.m.
50th Anniversary Celebration of Sacred Heart Mission
Wadesboro

Oct. 1 — 10 a.m.
Mass
Little Flower Assisted Living Residence, Charlotte

7 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Joan of Arc Church, Asheville

October 2 — 11:30 a.m.
Speaker at meeting of Police Officers of Gastonia Area
Gastonia

October 3 — 7:45 p.m.
Speaker
St. Gabriel Men's Club, Charlotte

October 4
Deacons' Day of Retreat
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

6 p.m.
Confirmation
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

October 5 — 11 a.m.
Confirmation
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

6 p.m.
Diocesan Priests' Retreat
Maggie Valley

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says All Christians Should Honor Mary With Title "Mother Of The Church"

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Sept. 17.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, we now consider Mary under her title as "Mother of the Church." While this title was rarely used in the past, it has become more common in the church's magisterium and in the piety of the Christian people. The maternal relationship of Mary to the church is seen in the New Testament, especially at the foot of the cross where Jesus says to her: "Woman, behold your son" (Jn 19:26), thus proclaiming her the mother of St. John the Apostle and of every disciple. Mary's motherhood is a fundamental element of her relationship with all those redeemed by her son.

The Second Vatican Council speaks of Mary as "pre-eminent" and "wholly unique," the church's "type and outstanding model in faith and charity," whose members honor her "with filial affection and devotion as a most beloved mother" ("Lumen Gentium," 53). Pope Paul VI explicitly proclaimed Mary Mother of the Church and thus of the whole People of God, and asked that the Blessed Virgin should be honored and invoked under this title by all Christian people.

I am pleased to greet the group sponsored by the "Foyer Unitas" Institute in Rome. I pray that your activities will foster greater unity among Christians. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, Sweden, Norway, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan, and the United States, I invoke the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope Meets Palestinian Delegation, Urges Renewed Peace Efforts

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged the peoples of the Middle East to continue the regional peace process and follow "the path of reconciliation" that already has been marked out. Meeting Sept. 22 with a delegation from the Palestinian Authority, the pope said the reality of the Palestinians is a sad one: "Injustice, violence and fear of the future are still the daily bread of your brothers and sisters." The delegation meeting the pope was led by Emil M. Jarjoui, a member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and a member of the Palestinian legislative council for Jerusalem.

Pope, Meeting Sudanese Bishops, Urges End To Civil War

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, addressing bishops from Sudan, strongly appealed for greater religious freedom and an end to civil war in the Muslim-dominated state. After hearing the bishops describe how government policies have isolated and discriminated against church communities, the pope told the prelates: "The Lord will not forsake you."

Coming of Age

Christopher Carstens

How Would You Want to Be Eulogized?

When the week of Princess Diana and Mother Teresa finally ended, everybody in our house was tired of sadness, tired of ceremony, but mostly tired of all the words, words, words.

It seemed as if the world could not stop talking about those two lovely women, now lost to us forever. The TV reporters searched desperately for something new to say, and in the end they merely said the same old things again and again: She was lovely and kind. She was holy and devoted. One would have made a beautiful queen, the other will be named a saint.

There is a lesson for each of us here. It's a lesson teens aren't big on hearing, but it makes all the difference in how you live the rest of your life. So here goes.

You're going to die. You really haven't got forever.

Life seems like it will go on and on. When you're young, it feels like you've got forever. Diana was young, and healthy, and she seemed to have so many years left ahead of her. She died.

Mother Teresa has been with us as long as I can remember. Sure, she'd had heart problems, but it always seemed, somehow, that she was permanent. She died.

And just as surely as the reporters tried summing up the lives of these world-famous women, when you die somebody will stand up and say a few words about your life.

There's an exercise I often give people in therapy. It's a way of getting a handle on what's important in your life.

When you die, what would you have people say about you? That's the exercise. Write your own eulogy.

If you lived your life the way you wanted, how would you wish to be remembered? Writing half a page of things you hope to accomplish before you die brings focus for today's choices.

—Do you want to have raised a family?

— Would you like your life to be remembered for business success, or for scientific contributions, for excellence in teaching or for spiritual radiance?

Thinking about your own eulogy shrinks the importance of some of the things we spend all our time doing.

Imagine hearing comments like these at your own funeral.

"He was a really great skater."

"She had the cutest haircut."

"He scored 250,000 points on Astro-Fazer Blaster Wars."

"She was so popular. All the cool kids invited her to their parties."

Those aren't bad things, but is that how you would be remembered?

The lesson of Princess Diana and Mother Teresa is stark: Today's choices matter.

Of course, your ideas will change and develop as you move into adult life. Diana mostly wanted to be a good mom to her children — events thrust new choices upon her.

Mother Teresa was a content high school teacher until God handed her a new assignment in Calcutta.

"I'm not ready to decide what's really important," some might say.

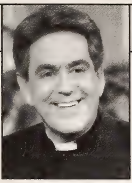
That's just an excuse to waste today, thinking that you'll get serious tomorrow. Decide, and then if things change, decide again differently.

You can't wait till you're older, till you have time and money, till you have everything else taken care of. You only get one life, you only get one chance. If you want to do something with your life, something that matters, don't wait.

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



One Year With The Christophers: Mission And Reward

It was one year ago this month when I arrived in midtown Manhattan to head The Christophers. My angst about surviving the helter-skelter of being in the "center of the universe" was glibly summed up for me by a friend: "You know, Tom, New Yorkers believe that getting run over by a taxicab in midtown traffic is to die a *natural death."*

But I was rescued from anxiety by the purpose and grace I found as soon as I entered the Christopher Center on East 48th Street and met the wonderful people with whom I'd be working. These folks are responsible for the all the News Notes and broadcast media that carry the timeless Christopher message throughout the world: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

This core of dedicated workers are the first to tell you that they are not the Movement itself, only its facilitators. Founded 52 years ago by Maryknoll Father James Keller, The Christophers is powered by millions of *individuals* who are out in the marketplace changing the world by living lives of positive, constructive action. By speaking to people of all faiths or no particular faith, The Christophers became an early ecumenical force here in the United States. Through the years it has transcended international and institutional barriers. Thousands upon thousands of "Christophers" from Manila to Belgium, and from Manitoba to Buenos Aires, motivate others to take heart from the two-fold truth that there is no one like you and you can make a difference.

Martin Marty, the premiere historian of modern American religion, credits The Christophers as "the best known and most successful effort to present a positive image of the Church on the popular front."

Recently, I got a piece of news that illustrates the ripple effect so typical of the Christopher Movement. A chaplain of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis recently started sending excerpts from the Christopher "Three Minutes a Day" book to 3,000 midship cadets by e-mail each day. He forwarded the responses he has received to us. Here is just one of them:

"There have been many days that things just didn't seem to click (bad grade on test, scuffs with roommate, etc.). Those days especially, I looked forward to the Internet where I could grasp a ray of sunshine in the form of an inspirational message forwarded from The Christophers. On days when something was troubling me more so than the norm, I would somehow be able to extract exactly what I needed from that day's message which would help me cope. It is vital for all of us to take a positive attitude towards life's troubles and uncertainties. Please let my appreciation be known to whomever makes this message so accessible."

There you have both the mission and reward of the Christopher message. Although it has only a small staff, no meetings or dues Christopher Movement continues to gather momentum through the lived experiences of men, women and young people who opt every day to make a difference for the better.

It may not make crossing streets safer in New York. But then again, after a year with The Christophers, I am starting to believe even that is possible.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "The Christophers Look Forward," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

A Proper Focus on Indulgences

Q. *A recent convert to our faith asked about indulgences, which were referred to on an old prayer card she received.*

I remember much being made of indulgences when I was growing up 50 years ago. But now I have no idea how to answer her.

Do we still have indulgences? If so, what do they mean? It's been years since I've heard them mentioned.

A. For a long time now the church has been extremely careful and quite sparing in its references to indulgences.

This element of our faith life has been seriously misunderstood in the past, so there's an effort to put it back into proper focus.

Traditional Catholic teaching on indulgences is based on two Christian truths. First, every sin is not only a violation of God's law, it also violates the social and physical harmony of creation established by God and is at least to some degree a rejection of his love.

Complete repair of sin, therefore, requires not only repentance but a reintegration of that divine order in each of us individually and in society.

This process involves purification and cleansing (purgation) during this life or after, before entering the full presence of God in eternity.

In his reform of the whole indulgence structure in 1967, Pope Paul VI pointed out that the early Christian community "was fully convinced that it was pursuing the work of salvation in community."

Thus, he said, the church found various ways the faithful could cooperate with each other in preparing for the fullness of God's kingdom ("The Doctrine of Indulgence," No. 6).

During the centuries, indulgences (remission of temporal punishment due for our sins) were attached to certain prayers and actions. They could be applied to oneself or to those who have died.

To respond directly to your questions, indulgences still exist, but the number of prayers and words attached to them have been drastically reduced.

As Paul VI explained, "the main concern has been to attach greater importance to a Christian way of life ... rather than merely repeat certain formulas and acts" ("Enchiridion of Indulgences," 1968).

Partial indulgences are granted today using only those words, with no determination of days or years as was common previously.

Among other things, this avoids confusion. Contrary to what many Catholics believed (and some still believe), an indulgence of one year, for example, did not mean "one year off of purgatory."

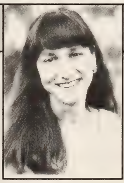
It meant, rather, whatever alleviation of suffering might be achieved by one year of fasting or other penance. Thus, it did not directly address the question of time in purgatory.

In this light, it is clear why the church exercises great care to keep the understanding of indulgences in harmony with the Gospel and with fundamental Christian doctrines.

Thus, the Catechism of the Catholic Church closely links the doctrine and practice of indulgences to the effects of the sacrament of penance and deals with them in the context of this sacrament (Nos. 1471-1472).

Family Matters

Eileen Marx



A Case Of The Gimmies

The three-line ad in the newspaper announcing this weekend's garage sale fails to capture the behind-the-scenes work and stress that have gone into preparing for this event.

I've never officially held or participated in a garage sale. I often bring my boxes of clothes, housewares and toys to a local charity — not because I'm a do-gooder, but because I'm too tired or lazy to haul out all my junk onto card tables and have strangers come by and barter over my old belongings. Perhaps I also donate our boxes of stuff to local charities to assuage my guilt that many of the things we buy will eventually make their way to people in real need. When we deliver our boxes to a neighborhood shelter, it's painfully clear that our family's trash is a needy family's treasure.

One of my friends was having a multi-family garage sale, and it seemed like a good opportunity to clean house and to motivate my kids to go through their toys and clothes to see what we could get rid of. When my friend announced the sale's 8 a.m. starting time, I made a case for a twilight garage sale on a Friday evening. I tried to convince her that there's a whole segment of the population who have never even been to a garage sale because they would rather sleep than shop on Saturday mornings. But the Girl Scouts were meeting at my friend's house on Friday night, so Saturday morning it was.

As I began rummaging through our bedrooms and basement I quickly became agitated over the amount of stuff we've acquired, even after our countless promises to begin to simplify our lives. As I began taking stock of our stuff, I found myself uttering phrases repeatedly to my husband and children: "We have too much stuff! Do you kids know there are children in the world who don't have any toys?" In the midst of this frenzy, I called another friend who was also preparing for the garage sale. "Hello!" she snapped uncharacteristically into the phone. "Oh, I'm sorry," she said. "I've just come from the basement and I can't believe how much stuff we have."

A few years ago when my kids were going through a stage of demanding a toy or a treat anytime we went to the store, I came across a book, "The Berenstain Bears Get the Gimmies." The two bear cubs had a similar problem that my kids were experiencing — "give me this and give me that" each time they went to the store. After one outing with Papa Bear, he told the cubs it was the worst case of the "galloping greedy gimmies" he had ever seen. The phrase "gimmies" has really stuck in our home over the years and no one ever wants to be accused of having a case of them. As parents we wonder why our children expect to be given so much while we continue to consume and to be consumed by material possessions. We find it difficult to be content with what we have.

We are a society with a chronic case of the "gimmies." We have grocery stores with eighteen brands of one product on the shelf. We have a cable TV channel just for shopping. We have catalogs that arrive in our mailboxes almost daily urging us to buy more stuff. No

See **Marx,** page 13

Campaign For Human Development Awards Grant

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Employment Project has received a Campaign for Human Development (CHD) grant for the second year in a row.

The not-for-profit organization which provides support and resources for unemployed, underemployed and persons "downsized" out of their jobs, received another $2,500 grant, recommended by the diocesan CHD committee and approved by Bishop William G. Curlin. This employment assistance group also received a $2,500 grant in 1996.

The founders of the Charlotte Employment Project, Eileen and Ed Hanson-Kelly, started by passing out flyers on their services at Trade and Tryon streets and in front of the State Employment Services offices on West Trade Street. Their purpose was to let the workers recently displaced from jobs as well as the long-term unemployed know that they were not alone and that they could have effective advocates.

Initially, the Kellys felt their best roles were to simply listen to the unemployed, put them in touch with public services that they were entitled to, and alert them on training or re-employment opportunities. In time, as they recognized the re-training and emotional barriers faced by the unemployed, the CEP began to focus on upgrading personal and technical skills — in particular, computer training. They also began to teach job search methods, interview and resume preparation, and re-entry help back into a career path. The course offered at Central Piedmont Community College became a vital component of this assistance.

Federal law requires that in the event of 50 or more workers being laid off from a company at one time, the workers are entitled to a minimum of a 60-day notice, or in its place, two months of pay. However, much of the "downsizing" that hurts marginal or low income workers are in small or medium firms that do not lay off in large numbers. As a result, it often goes unnoticed.

The funds in the CHD grant will be used for a variety of empowering activities such as workshops in job hunting, public speaking, and computer literacy. Also, CEP wants to expand its job bank — a description of persons available for work along with their job skills and qualifications — and initiate a quarterly newsletter for its members.

CEP began in June 1996, and it was based on a similar group started in New Jersey by Ed Hanson-Kelly. After his loss of employment in 1991 at the age of 58, with a career as an industrial electrician behind him, he saw the twin barriers of age and a recession standing in the way of his own re-entry into a job. Hansen-Kelly saw many others confronting the same dilemma. In addition, the strain of joblessness drove him and his wife of 30 years apart.

Coming to Charlotte in 1994 meant both a new start personally, a marriage-partner with labor experience, and the organizational chance to help others.

CEP recruits members from the public as well as from the persons that it helps, inviting them to attend monthly support meetings. Stories and ideas are exchanged among the persons seeking stable jobs. In November 1996, the project created a committee on downsizing to research the effects of this type of layoff on workers and their community. Current plans include the training of speakers to inform and activate the people in Charlotte about the impact of worker displacement.

"Our goal is to help the unemployed and underemployed people to help themselves and each other," Hanson-Kelly said. "We want our members and volunteers to get involved, take responsibility, to share skills and ideas with each other."

All told, CHD distributed $23,752 in local grants to eight organizations and agencies in the Diocese of Charlotte. Grants were awarded to Hayesville, Morganton, Winston-Salem, Sylva and North Wilkesboro, as well as Charlotte.

CHD grants are made possible through the generosity of Catholics from throughout the diocese. The bishops' collection for CHD will be taken Nov. 22-23 this year, the weekend before Thanksgiving. The collection is divided between local and national grants. The campaign is the American bishops' official outreach ministry to people striving to improve their lives through local self-help neighborhood and community programs.

St. Ann Church Hosts Annual Carnival

Photo by Mike Krokos

Kevin Lynagh, 9, tries his luck at a game during St. Ann's annual carnival held Sept. 19-20. Rides and games again filled the parish parking lot, creating a true carnival atmosphere. Picture-perfect weather also greeted this year's crowds.

The Basilica of St. Lawrence
Welcomes You
To the Parish Mission
"Towards Jubilee 2000:
Christian Life in the 21st Century"

A Unique Experience!
September 27-October 2
Conducted by Franciscan Fathers Ministry of the
Word Father Thomas F. Vigliotta, OFM
At St. Lawrence Basilica
97 Haywood Street, Asheville, NC

Introduction — Saturday & Sunday
Mission presentation each weekday at 12:10 p.m.
(with Mass) & 7:30 p.m. (no Mass)

Themes:
Monday — God's Love
(Benediction)
Tuesday — Forgiveness
(Confessions)
Wednesday — Healing (Anointing)
Thursday — Conclusion of Mission

Entertainment

"The Edge" Stars Hopkins And Baldwin Battle Bear, Elements In Taut Thriller

Alec Baldwin stars in "The Edge" as a fashion photographer struggling to survive after a plane crash in the Alaskan wilderness. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

NEW YORK (CNS) — Two unarmed men are stalked by a carnivorous Kodiak bear while stranded in the Alaskan wilderness in the taut thriller, "The Edge" (20th Century Fox).

Among the small group arriving in Alaska for a fashion photography shoot are gorgeous model Mickey (Elle Macpherson), her much older billionaire husband, Charles (Anthony Hopkins), and suave photographer Bob (Alec Baldwin). The grizzly lodge owner (L.Q. Jones) warns of man-eating bears in the wild but Bob insists he and his assistant Steve (Harold Perrineau) fly out to pick up a particularly photogenic Native American for the shoot and Charles goes along for the ride.

En route a flock of birds get sucked into the propellers, the plane crashes, killing the pilot and leaves city slickers Bob, Charles and Steve in the middle of nowhere, without food, warm clothes or any means of communication.

With eerie calm Charles begins a series of survival strategies, insisting they can walk out of the mountains and dense woodlands if need be.

But they weren't counting on a 1,400-pound bear bearing down on them.

Initially outrunning the rampaging carnivore, Steve's fate is sealed when he cuts his leg and the scent of blood draws the bear straight to him. The two others are helpless to save him and must flee for their own lives.

Convinced the beast will track them down, resourceful Charles devises a risky plan to lure and kill the savage animal.

But even if successful, other threats are just as deadly: starvation, exposure — and Charles' steely certainty that Bob always intended to kill him, giving rise to the possibility that perhaps he should strike first.

With a screenplay by David Mamet, the movie never strays far from the mounting psychological tension between Charles and Bob. The reason given is that Charles suspects that Bob and his wife were having an affair so the billionaire's supposedly accidental death in the wild would leave the cozy twosome a vast inheritance to enjoy together.

And so the screenplay juggles their mutual mistrust with their pressing need to cooperate to survive the huge bear's assaults and the freezing elements before lashing out at each other.

Hopkins is masterful as the older, physically weaker of the two men, but so mentally focused he is potentially the stronger candidate for survival. His spiritual transformation during their grueling odyssey is both engrossing and convincing.

Baldwin rises to the occasion acting alongside Hopkins in a role requiring him to be conniving, weepy and merciless in abrupt mood swings.

Lee Tamahori's direction of the action sequences is exciting and terrifying, from the horrifying plane crash into icy water, to several eye-popping bear attacks which will certainly convince viewers of the beast's power and savagery as its drooling maw closes in on its puny human prey.

Not for the fainthearted are these scenes, and Jerry Goldsmith's music and roaring sound effects effectively underline the extent of the danger at hand.

Where the film falls short is in the details. Although the three crash survivors emerge from the water thoroughly soaked, they seem to be bone dry all too quickly. Nor does exposure to the brutal elements seem to affect them much, and when Charles and Bob skin a large animal to wear its fur, the custom-fit look would do Saville Row proud.

However, the characterizations are absorbing, both of slippery Bob, and of Charles, whose endless knowledge about seemingly trivial things that prove crucial are a constant irritant to the hapless photographer.

Against a backdrop of exquisite Alberta scenery (standing in for Alaska), one striking image is a close-up of Hopkins and Baldwin, their four ice-blue orbs hungrily eyeing a tiny chipmunk they hope to trap, reduced as they are to eating rodents, a far cry from their usual New York-chic restaurant fare.

The moral resolution of the film is quite positive, with one character's closing line not meant to be taken literally, but in a redemptive sense.

Despite some lapses in logic, "The Edge" is exciting and absorbing, balancing character studies with scary action footage that is superbly edited for maximum effect.

Few would want to shake his hand, but credit must be given to Bart the Bear (and his trainer) for intimidating audiences, much as Bruce the (plastic) shark did in "Jaws" two decades ago. Nowadays, with a little animatronic aid, the real animal on-screen is a fright sight likely to return — in viewers' nightmares.

Because of some intense, gory violence, intermittent profanity and recurring rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Assassination File" (1996)

Thin thriller in which an ex-FBI agent (Sherilyn Fenn) uncovers a vast conspiracy behind the assassination of a presidential candidate (Paul Winfield), then can trust no one while dodging bombs, bullets and car crashes to nail the baddies. Directed by John Harrison, the made-for-cable movie is mostly a woman-in-jeopardy exercise with the murky conspiracy plot generating little suspense. Stylized violence, sexual situations, brief nudity and occasional profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The English Patient" (1996)

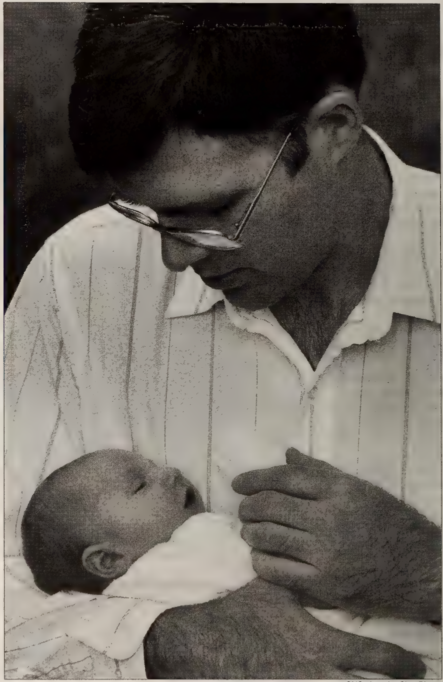
Romantic mystery unfolds as a burn victim (Ralph Fiennes) with a British convoy of wounded in World War II Italy slowly recalls bits and pieces of his ill-fated affair with a married woman (Kristin Scott Thomas) on a prewar mapping survey of the Egyptian desert. Director Anthony Minghella immerses their romance in shimmering desert imagery which churns up some emotional heat, though the burn patient's story and that of his nurse (Juliette Binoche) add up to little more than soapy melodrama. Some stylized violence, several sexual encounters with brief nudity and occasional rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Mandela" (1997)

Engrossing picture of the life of Nelson Mandela from his youth in the Xhosa tribal lands of the Transkei and rise in the leadership of the African National Congress whose fight against apartheid led to 27 years in prison, the Nobel Peace Prize and 1994 election as South Africa's first black president. Co-directed by South African filmmakers Jo Menell and Angus Gibson, the documentary interweaves interviews of Mandela, his political colleagues and several family members with historical footage and contemporary scenes recalling the struggles of a painful past while stressing the need for national reconciliation in a post-apartheid society. Newsreel scenes of violence and the injustices of apartheid. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

FAITH alive!

What They're Saying About Equality For Women And Men



CNS photo by Cleo Photo

By DOLORES R. LECKEY

One ritual of my childhood home was Mother dressing up on election day. Special jewelry, fur coat, a beautiful hat: All were donned as she awaited my father, who would drive them to the polls.

Mother told me that she remembered when women could not vote. She was celebrating progress.

As a graduate student in the '50s — later in the '60s — I was well aware that certain fields had a "women's quota": law and medicine, for example. Today, those professions are wide open to women.

That, too, is something to celebrate.

Becoming conscious of the equality of women and men involves a process of continual discovery at deeper levels.

In 1995, women and issues of equality were center stage as the world prepared for the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women, held that year in Beijing, China.

All during 1995, Pope John Paul II focused attention on the church's concern for women's dignity. He emphasized that while they are different, men and women are undeniably equal.

From his annual World Day of Peace message promoting women as "teachers of peace" to his universally well-received "Letter to Women" issued three months prior to the Beijing conference, to his "Appeal to the Church on Women's Behalf" in September 1995, the pope made women a priority.

Especially notable were a series of reflections the pope gave publicly during the Angelus prayer. Brief and to the point, they covered a range of women's concerns.

In one, Pope John Paul said there is an urgent need to achieve real equality for women in the workplace. He specified equal pay for equal work, protection for working mothers, fairness in career advances and argued that mothers should not be forced to work outside the home against their will.

In another Angelus message he stressed the importance of women's greater involvement in public life. "How great ... is the role they can play on behalf of peace, precisely by being involved in politics," he said.

And he called for enhancing women's roles in the church, "making full use of the ample room for a lay and feminine presence recognized by the church's law." He specified areas open to women such as theological teaching, the forms of liturgical ministry permitted (including service at the altar), pastoral and administrative councils, diocesan synods and particular councils, various ecclesial institutions, curias and tribunals, and pastoral care of parishes.

> **"Becoming conscious of the equality of women and men involves a process of continual discovery at deeper levels. Each new awareness opens yet another door for women. And every opened door presents challenges."**

Those, he said, are ways of providing for the "feminine genius" in the church's pastoral life.

The pope was opening wide the door of the church's mission and ministry, and inviting women to enter! In fact, Pope John Paul consistently has called for mutuality between men and women, where each adheres to the vision in the biblical Letter to the Ephesians (5:21), which insists that all Christians are to be mutually submissive to one another.

The pope recognizes that not all in the church have honored the principles of equality, and he calls this a reason for regret.

But consciousness usually grows at a patient pace. Each new awareness opens yet another door for women. And every open door presents challenges.

A challenge for the church is to find ways of inviting and encouraging women's leadership. Since women are not ordained in the Catholic Church, how can their experience, their unique sensibilities, their "genius" (in the pope's language) find a place in decision-making processes?

The pope, in his 1989 apostolic exhortation on the laity, urged that women be involved in the preparation of missionary and pastoral statements. One way to ensure this involvement is to have women working in diocesan and national positions where such documents are developed. Another way is to consult women at all stages of development.

Many believe the time has come for competent women to represent the church at national and international meetings where participation is not linked to ordination. We had a good example of what can be done with the appointment of Mary Ann Glendon of Harvard Law School to head the Holy See's delegation to the Beijing women's conference.

Glendon ably presented the Holy See's views and as a wife and mother ably articulated women's concerns.

The local churches also are making room for the feminine presence in more personal and private ways. For example, there we find a growing number of women who are spiritual directors and retreat leaders - one way the "genius" of women is being expressed.

One current challenge, according to some theologians, is to identify the charisms needed for the 21st century and the ministries to put these charisms into action. Women surely will have significant roles to play in this regard. How will this challenge be met?

The needed insights are not likely to emerge suddenly, whole and entire. Probably they will be discovered bit by bit.

But we can still celebrate each new awareness, each new commitment. That's how I remember my mother, who remembered and celebrated the brave women who secured for her the right to vote.

Leckey is director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth.

Faith In The Marketplace

What is a major way that women today contribute to parish life?

"I believe women contribute most by walking the talk and setting the example of living out the Gospel message."

— Denette Kellogg, Dubuque, Iowa

"As eucharistic ministers, as ushers, as rectors, with altar care, visiting shut-ins, participating in the choir, teaching the parish school and ... helping the poor through food distribution, praying the rosary. Women are involved in every aspect of parish life."

— Marilyn Rice, Flushing, N.Y.

"By volunteering, for example by providing transportation for the elderly, helping with fund raisers. By volunteering their time where they're needed."

— Sadie Litsch, Mahoney City, Pa.

An upcoming edition asks: Who or what helped you gain needed insights on how to be a good parent? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Of Husbands, Fathers And Equality

By H. RICHARD MCCORD JR.
Catholic News Service

Women and men are fundamentally equal because God created them in the divine image. As human beings they've been given the same dignity. And just as their equality is willed by God, their respective male and female differences are integral to God's plan.

Equality does not flatten out sexual difference. Neither does this difference mean one sex is naturally superior to the other.

Pope John Paul II teaches — based on his reading of Genesis and the Letter to the Ephesians — that the social subordination of women to men is an effect of sin.

Modern church teaching (for example the Catechism of the Catholic Church Nos. 369-72) could not be clearer on the matter of equality between men and women.

At first glance it may seem that women stand to benefit more when equality is taken seriously. But men, too, have much to gain.

Equality does not mean roles are interchangeable, but that they complement one another. Living in mutuality, being "for" each other, involves respect for distinct gifts and limitations, and willingness to share power and responsibility.

In marriage and family, this calls for men to recognize that they have irreplaceable contributions to make — not better or worse than women's, just different and necessary!

Men tend to approach relationships from a distinct perspective. Some men might accent a sense of fairness and candor in a relationship. This can be a gift, but should not become the norm.

The same can be said of the qualities a woman brings to a relationship. This truth sometimes gets blurred in our tendency to think that relationships are primarily women's business.

Also, men parent differently than women. Fathers often engage their children in more physical and competitive activities. Fathers tend to promote independent, self-reliant behavior.

These characteristics complement what mothers bring to parenthood. Together, mothers and fathers help children develop in a balanced way.

Unfortunately, the impression can be given that Mom's way of rearing children is the norm. This gives men an excuse to withdraw or underfunction as parents.

I suggest that men see the issue of male and female equality not as a threat to masculine prerogative, but as an invitation to contribute their gifts to marriage and family life.

Talking about women and men sharing power in a relationship leads me to a second point. Both sexes can find it difficult to share power, to be submissive to one another (Eph 5:21), but men more often resort to violence when challenged or threatened.

The violence of domestic abuse is learned behavior. This means it can be unlearned.

Boys are not destined to be violent but because of many socialization forces can be more disposed to it than girls.

This is why men convinced about the equality and dignity of both sexes must step into the picture. It's not so much a matter of discouraging physical assertiveness in boys as helping them channel energies and develop a greater variety of ways to resolve conflicts.

One father said, "I try to show how we can solve problems better with our words than with our hands and feet!"

Some men are troubled that, with emphasis on women's equality, they will lose their leadership role in family life.

Not so!

The clear implication in Catholic teaching is that this leadership is mutual. A man and a woman lead together in obedience to the one true "head" of the family, Christ Jesus.

McCord is associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth.

> *"I suggest that men see the issue of male and female equality not as a threat to masculine prerogative, but as an invitation to contribute their gifts to marriage."*

CNS photo by Les Fetchko

Food For Thought

Whose words are these?

"In today's world the simple fact of being a female rather than a male can reduce the likelihood of being born or of surviving childhood; it can mean receiving less adequate nutrition and health care, and it can increase the chance of remaining illiterate."

The speaker was Pope John Paul II, who in mid-1995 appealed to the whole church on women's behalf.

"Investment in the care and education of girls as an equal right is a fundamental key to the advancement of women," he said.

Thus the pope called "all Catholic caring and educational institutions to adopt a concerted and priority strategy directed to girls and young women, especially to the poorest."

The pope appealed directly to numerous kinds of institutions within the church. And he spoke directly to women and to men.

He appealed to women in today's church "to assume new forms of leadership in service," and he asked "all the institutions of the church to welcome this contribution of women."

The pope appealed "to all men in the church to undergo, where necessary, a change of heart and to implement as a demand of their faith, a positive vision of women."

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

Not Just Ordinary Women

By FATHER JOHN J. CASTELOT

Luke's Gospel follows up the account of Jesus' cure of a centurion's servant with that of the raising of a widow's son to life.

This sequence is not accidental. Rather consistently Luke pairs a story involving a man and one involving a woman. Right after the parable of the Good Samaritan we read the story of Martha and Mary.

This seems to be one way he had of acknowledging the equality of men and women. Both get 'equal time.'

Lest we get the impression that Jesus' disciples were all males, Luke lists by name a group of women who were actively involved in Jesus' mission. After making a general statement about Jesus' journeys in Galilee, he adds immediately:

"Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward, Chusa, and many others who provided for them out of their resources" (Luke 8:1-3).

What is remarkable about this is not only that women accompanied him, something highly unusual in a male-dominated culture, but that the women were so diverse.

All were devoted to him because he had restored them to health, but in their devotedness they were drawn from various walks of life.

The origins at Magdala of the Mary called Magdalene suggest her relatively low station. The town was an undistinguished village on the lake shore. Jesus had cured her of "seven demons."

Since diseases popularly were attributed to demonic activity, her release from seven demons was a way of saying she had been seriously ill. There is really no basis for the unfair portrayal of her as a "fallen woman."

Joanna, wife of Herod's steward, moved in royal circles.

Of Susanna we are told nothing, an indication that she already was well-known.

All these women brought different talents to their involvement in Jesus' ministry. Whatever their resources, they shared them generously with Jesus' other co-workers. They were accomplished women.

Another pair of women who figured rather prominently in Jesus' life were Martha and Mary. He felt free to pop into their home without fanfare.

Martha was the take-charge type, intent on being the perfect hostess. Mary was just as attentive, but in a quieter way, content to engage in familiar conversation with Jesus (Luke 10:29-37).

All these women bravely stood by Jesus right up to the bitter end (Luke 23:55) and were rewarded by being the first to witness his victory as risen Lord. And they were included, along with the Twelve and Mary, his mother, in the first gathering of his disciples after the resurrection (Acts 1:13-14).

Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.

In A Nutshell

- The equal dignity of women and men suggests that at home they lead together, obedient to the true "head," Christ Jesus.
- Men as well as women gain when their equal dignity is recognized.
- In Scripture, women stood by Jesus to the bitter end (Luke 23:55), becoming the first witnesses of his resurrection.

People In The News

Sister Nirmala Says She Will Continue Mother Teresa's Work

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Sister Nirmala Joshi told reporters she will continue Mother Teresa's work and does not feel pressured by her predecessor's international profile. "All I want is to become a saint and be closer to God," the 63-year-old nun said, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The new Missionaries of Charity head seemed unperturbed by the speculation that foreign funds would dry up with Mother Teresa's passing. "We are called to depend on divine providence," she said.

Aquinas Theology Institute Names 1997's Great Preacher

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Msgr. James Telthorst, pastor of St. Louis Cathedral Parish, has been named this year's Great Preacher by Aquinas Institute of Theology. The institute, on the campus of St. Louis University, is a Catholic graduate school sponsored by the central province of the Dominicans. The award, established in 1995, acknowledges someone who, by faithful and imaginative preaching, powerfully engages listeners with the Word of God.

Cardinal Shotte Helps College Mark 20th Year

WASHINGTON (CNS) — By reading the New Testament, cultivating a sense of prayer and believing in the unity of the Trinity, Catholics can gain a full perspective on their lives and the church, Cardinal Jan Schotte told a Christendom College audience. Catholics also should be realistic, understanding that the church cannot change her basic mandate, and they should live a eucharistic spirituality, said the cardinal, who is secretary general to the world Synod of Bishops. Cardinal Schotte offered those recommendations during remarks he made at a Washington dinner Sept. 13 to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of Christendom College in Front Royal, Va.

U.N. Head Says Prayer Can Foster Solidarity Among Peoples

NEW YORK (CNS) — Prayer is a personal act but when individuals pray as a group it can foster solidarity among all peoples, the U.N. secretary general told an ecumenical gathering Sept. 15. Kofi Annan, in his first year as the head of the United Nations, followed the tradition of his predecessors and attended an ecumenical prayer service on the eve of the first session of the 52nd General Assembly. "Prayer is a profoundly personal act as well as one that, undertaken in groups, can promote solidarity among peoples of diverse backgrounds and concerns," he told the gathering. "Today, let us do both."

Catholic Survivor Of Auschwitz Demands Vatican 'Confession'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Dressed in the striped uniform of a Nazi death camp prisoner, a Catholic survivor of Auschwitz conducted a protest at the Vatican to demand an "official confession of guilt" for alleged church inaction during the Holocaust. Sigmund Sobolewski, born in Poland and now a resident of Calgary, Alberta, handed out copies of a petition a few steps from St. Peter's Square Sept. 22. "I'm very bitter about the Holocaust, because I think Pope Pius XII and the Catholic Church abandoned us in the camps, including the Catholic prisoners," he said.

Priest Who Was Renowned Catholic Educator Dead At 71

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — Msgr. John Flynn of Omaha, who was recognized nationally in Catholic education circles as a pioneer in development efforts for schools, died Sept. 15 of cardiac arrest during a wal near his home. He was 71. The priest, director of education for the Omaha Archdiocese from 1968-94, had undergone surgery five days earlier to remove blockages in his carotid artery. A Sept. 18 funeral Mass celebrated for Msgr. Flynn at St. Cecilia Cathedral was attended by more than 1,000 mourners.

General Manager Named For New World Publications

CHICAGO (CNS) — Thomas H. Sheridan, a veteran Chicago journalist, has been named general manager of New World Publications, effective Oct. 6. The 53-year-old Sheridan has held a variety of administrative, writing and editing positions at the *Chicago Sun-Times* daily newspaper since 1972. In his new position with the Chicago Archdiocese, he will be responsible for the administration of editorial, advertising, circulation and promotion for all New World publications.

CNS file photo

Pope Pius XI — A recently released book includes the draft text of an unpublished encyclical on racism that Pope Pius XI assigned in 1938. "The Hidden Encyclical of Pius XI" chronicles the events surrounding the document and the efforts of its author, Jesuit Father John LaFarge.

EMMAUS RETREAT: AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

Join other men of the area at Living Waters in Maggie Valley for a Spirit-filled weekend Friday, Sept. 19, 7 pm — Sunday, Sept. 20, 2 pm. Come relax, reflect and see what the Lord wants to do for you. Father Ray Berg is Spiritual Director. Call Tom Sparacino, (704) 255-0095 or Mark Mukosiej, (704) 665-2722

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Poets, Prophets & Pastries

Dreams Come True As New Christian Cooperative Effort Opens For Business

By NANCY MEANIX

BREVARD — Mike and Kathy Moguel dreamed of opening a bakery. Carolyn Connolly envisioned opening a Christian bookstore/gift shop/music store. Individually, no one made any headway with their plan. Collectively, however, they may have a match made in heaven.

On the advice of a mutual friend, the frustrated entrepreneurs explored the idea of combining their dreams into one location. And thus was born Poets, Prophets & Pastries in Brevard. The doors to the venture opened last December. Earlier this summer, their back room also became a Friday night coffeehouse.

On opening night, three acts — a gospel singer, church choir and folk artist — attracted a standing-room-only crowd of teens and adults. Mike baked, Kathy rushed through the crowds with trays of aromatic goodies and Carolyn and her friends showed people around. It was crowded, but everyone was smiling and clapping.

"Many friends prayed this adventure into existence," smiled Kathy Moguel. "We had a lump in our throats for weeks, but then we found the Scripture reading 'Peace. Be still. I will take care of you,' and we knew that God was pulling us in."

While Kathy and Mike are employed as research chemists at Sterling Diagnostic Imaging in Brevard, Connolly runs the store on weekdays. Baking such creations as custom-ordered cakes, artistic cake decorations, cookies, muffins, scones, danish and brownies keep the Moguels busy late at night or early in the morning before work.

The store is a member of the Christian Booksellers' Association, and the owners rely on the integrity of those publishers. Connolly also does plenty of reading and reviewing of books and pamphlets on the job and after hours to be sure the content is acceptable.

One large display in the store offers Christian music on cassette, and a quiet corner to preview the songs through headphones. Another area is set aside for young children, where they can play with puzzles or watch videos while their parents shop in another room.

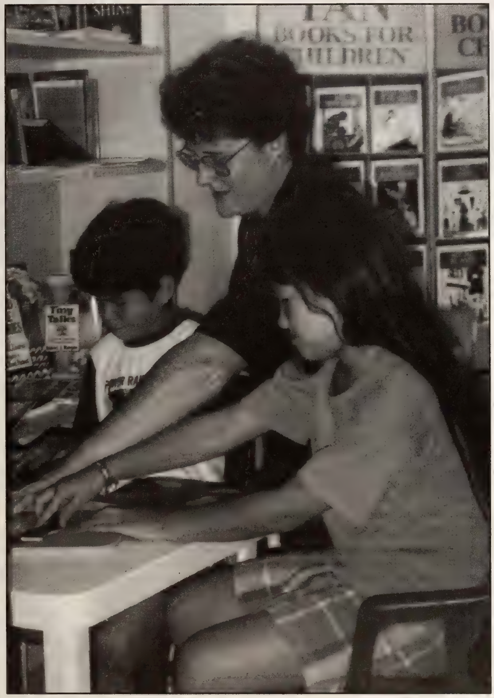

Photo by Nancy Meanix

Kathy Moguel assists young visitors at Poets, Prophets and Pastries.

Especially popular are WWJD bracelets, the latest teen and preteen fad. The letters, which stand for "What Would Jesus Do?", give youth a chance to resist some peer pressure and make good moral choices.

The Moguels and their children, Beth, 8, and Ryan, 6, are members of St. Barnabas Church in nearby Arden. Connolly is youth minister at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard.

For more information on Poets, Prophets & Pastries, call (704) 884-POET.

New Book, "Blessing The Years To Come," Recalls Life At Belmont Abbey

BELMONT — A new hardcover book published by Good Will Publishers, Inc., promises readers a look at the Benedictine monastery and private liberal arts college so important to the region since 1876.

"Blessing the Years to Come" offers a pictorial perspective on the evolution of Belmont Abbey and Belmont Abbey College. From a pioneering monastery and institution of learning, Belmont Abbey College has grown into a modern coeducational liberal arts institution with a reputation for educating the "whole" student, ethically as well as intellectually.

The book is a collaborative effort by archivist and scholar Benedictine Father Paschal Baumstein and Debra G. Estes, a writer and former director of public relations for Belmont Abbey College.

Beyond its obvious relevance to Belmont Abbey College alumni and students, the book should appeal to anyone with an interest in regional history and architecture. The central campus of Belmont Abbey College and monastery is a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places, centered around the Abbey Church, which for many years was the only Abbey-Cathedral in the United States. The church features magnificent windows depicting saints pertinent to Belmont Abbey and the Catholic church as a whole.

Blessing the Years to Come is a pictorial compilation of nearly 500 photos culled from more than 14,000 images in the Belmont Abbey archives. Explanatory text tells the photos' stories and adds just the right amount of copy to support the book's format. The hardcover book, bound in burgundy and stamped with a gold crest, runs to 120 pages. Even the end papers show attention to detail in design of the book, showing the pattern of the Georgia marble of a lectern in the Abbey Church of Maryhelp.

The book retails for $29.95 and is currently available by mail from the Belmont Abbey Alumni Office, 100 Belmont Abbey Rd., Belmont, NC 28012. Shipping is $4.95. The book is also available at the Belmont Abbey College Bookstore and will be sold in area bookstores and specialty shops.

For more information, call (704) 825-6890.

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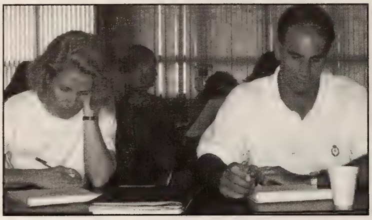
True Stewardship Involves An Attitude Of Gratitude

Giving from the heart is not always easy, but as participants of the recent diocesan Stewardship Day learned, it's a natural response to God's many gifts.

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent



Participants take notes during Msgr. Telthorst's presentation.

HICKORY — During the annual Stewardship Day Sept. 12 and 13, parishioners from throughout the Charlotte Diocese gathered at the Catholic Conference Center to reflect on a deeper meaning of stewardship and learn ways to make it blossom within their own parishes.

The event was organized by Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development for the Charlotte Diocese.

The keynote address by Msgr. James Telthorst, rector of St. Louis Cathedral in Missouri, touched upon the unique relationship between stewardship and the Eucharist. "Some have asked me, 'How do I plug in stewardship with the Eucharist?' You can't," Msgr. Telhorst said. He elaborated that the Eucharist is not about "feelings" or "manipulating feelings," but about conversion.

"We are called to be the very food we eat," he added.

Using a parable, Msgr. Telhorst illustrated that in conversion a person overcomes greed and selfishness. The natural result is giving freely from the heart — the key to stewardship. He also discussed tithing, a specific component to stewardship, and how the subject is difficult to impress upon the present day consumer mentality preoccupied with returns. "The sacrifice can't be just Jesus. We should all join him. We make an offering — offering ourselves to God, handing over our lives to him," he said.

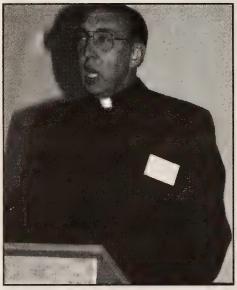
Father George Kloster, pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, led the workshop "Promoting Stewardship in the Parish." He reiterated that stewardship is not a "program," but instead a "response to God's love, presence and gifts to us." He stated that the key to thriving stewardship is a faith-filled parish.

Father Kloster said the real challenge is not promoting stewardship, but achieving spiritual growth and conversion within the church community.

In successfully achieving this goal, he acknowledged parental responsibility in the formation and spiritual growth of children. "Parents are the first teachers and hopefully the best," Father Kloster said.

The pastor added that the whole parish can be instrumental in conversion by putting individuals in a position to experience God's love. Father Kloster also gave examples of initiatives which have been helpful in promoting stewardship in his parish, and shared future plans to expand those efforts.

Rohrman and Pat Signs, director of development for the Diocese of Savannah, also led individual sessions on "Stewardship for Children and Youth" and "Establishing and Maintaining Stewardship Committees." Mary Ann Sullivan of St. Peter's tithing committee in Charlotte shared ideas for community outreach as part of tithing the parish offertory, and Linda Vanderbosch of St. Gabriel Parish in Charlotte gave participants information on coordinating volunteer ministry in the parish.



Msgr. James Telthorst, featured speaker at the recent Stewardship Day hosted by the Diocese of Charlotte.

Participants went into detail during discussions about the ways stewardship is carried out in a variety of settings and also addressed their specific concerns.

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Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is in the chapel area of St. Joan of Arc Church every first Saturday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Call the church office, (704) 252-3151, for more information.

DENVER — Nocturnal adoration is the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 7 p.m. each first Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and Mass. Call Jim Kennedy, (704) 732-2673, for more information.

HICKORY — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the first Friday through the first Saturday each month at St. Aloysius Church. For information, call Jean Marie Hirsch, (704) 495-4339, or Sonja Bjerg, (704) 328-5074.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church hosts Eucharistic adoration beginning at 9:30 a.m. every first Friday and ending at 9 a.m. Saturday. Call (910) 294-4696 for details.

NEWTON — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Joseph Church every first Friday of the month following a 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasting until 10 p.m.

Abortion Counselors Workshop

GREENSBORO — Dr. David Reardon, researcher and author, is the featured speaker at a post-abortion counseling workshop Oct. 28-29 at the Radisson Inn for professional counselors, social workers, pregnancy center volunteers, nurses, parish Respect Life leaders and post-abortion peer counselors. Call Dr. Martha Shuping, (910) 659-1342, for more information.

For Charlotte-area counselors unable to attend the Greensboro workshop, a breakfast is scheduled for Oct. 29 at 8:30 a.m. at Charter Pines Hospital. Call Jennifer Cisney, (910) 362-1980 for information.

Employment Opportunities

Parish Nurse: At least two years experience to serve in part-time position (20 hours/week with benefits) for St. Gabriel Church. Registered nurse, BSN preferred. Varied hours include some weekends. Responsible for working with St. Gabriel Health Ministry in planning, implementation and evaluation of holistic health care for individuals. Position requires creativity and organizational skills. Contact: Sally Jackson, Presbyterian Healthcare Human Resources Department, 1600 E. 5th St., (704) 384-4832.

Development Director: Bishop McGuinness High School seeks dynamic development director effective Oct., 1997. Responsibilities include direction and design for all giving programs, supervision and design of alumni affairs and projects; special events; design and production of public relations materials, press contacts, etc. Qualifications: BA and demonstrated proficiency. Full-time, 12-months. Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable and commensurate with experience. Send letter of application, resume, three letters of recommendation and salary expectations to: George L. Repass, Principal, 1730 Link Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

Director of Planned Giving for Diocesan Office of Development: College graduate with degree in finance, business administration or related field, three years experience in planned giving or related field, strong interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to interact with diverse groups. Responsibilities include organizing and directing efforts to assist parishioners to develop and implement long range financial plans. Part-time position, 21 hours per week. Submit resume to: Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC

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Winston-Salem Teen Visits Romania As Missionary

St. Leo the Great parishioner Anne Argenta shares a moment with some new friends during summer missionary work in Romania.

WINSTON-SALEM — Anne Argenta recently returned to Forsyth Country Day School as a junior with reports of a summer experience that changed her life — and one that she hopes made the lives of needy orphans a little brighter.

Argenta, a 15-year-old parishioner of St. Leo the Great Church, traveled to Arad, Romania, to participate in mission work sponsored by Global Hope, which provides for projects assisting children in Romania's orphanage system.

The mission team spent its time in the western Romanian town working in a children's dystrophic hospital that serves abandoned children with specific health problems and providing overflow beds for other area orphanages.

Argenta helped with cleaning out rooms, installing new flooring, repairing and painting walls and installing new beds. She also befriended a number of orphaned infants and children, who she says receive little or no stimulation from the world beyond their cribs.

The teen-ager returned to Winston-Salem with optimism of revisiting Romania with others interested in making a better world for abandoned children. Plans are underway for another mission trip, possibly in the summer of 1998. For details, contact Anne Argenta, 525 Knobview Dr., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104.

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Alive in the Spirit - St. Matthews Catholic Church Choir
Resurrection Lutheran Church Choir
Calvary Church Inside Outside Band

Marx, from page 5

matter where we turn, someone is trying to sell us something we really don't need.

As I prepared for the garage sale and sat among my boxes of stuff, there were contrasting images on TV of Mother Teresa, who had died the day before. Dressed in her trademark white sari with a blue stripe, she was reaching out to the poorest of poor. The only stuff Mother Teresa ever needed on her life's journey was a burning love for Jesus and a joyful and generous heart to serve people in need. Mother Teresa often spoke of the great material wealth she saw when visiting the United States and how a preoccupation with possessions and riches can easily lead to spiritual poverty After one visit she remarked, "The spiritual poor that one finds in Europe and America is a difficult burden to carry. One day there springs the desire for money and for all that money can provide — the superfluous, luxury in eating, luxury in dressing, trifles. Needs increase because one thing calls for another. The result is uncontrollable dissatisfaction."

Mother Teresa also reminded us that if we're so busy filling our lives with the best clothing, toys, food and furniture, God cannot find his way into our hearts. She often said, "Let us remain as empty as possible so that God can fill us up. For not even God can put anything in a heart that is already full. The more we become empty of ourselves, the more we will be able to be filled with God."

One week later I finished packing up the final boxes — some for the garage sale and some for a program to help homeless families who live less than a mile from our home. Through parish and scouting programs, my family has been involved in efforts to help these homeless families living in cramped single rooms in "welfare motels" where the average age of a homeless person is seven.

The news reports of Mother Teresa's funeral were on TV as I began loading the boxes into our van. I stopped and listened closely to the words that came from the small woman with the giant heart: "Those who have had many possessions, who have had many goods and riches, are obsessed by them. They think that the only thing that counts is possessing wealth. That is why it is so difficult for them to leave all things as they are dying. It is much easier for the poor who are so free, for this freedom allows them to depart this world with joy.... For my part I must say that the poor are very lovable people, who give us more, much more, than we give them."

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TV Religious Special Examines Aftermath Of Burned Churches

WASHINGTON — Most Rev. David Thompson, bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., will be featured in a CBS-TV religious special examining faith groups' response to the numerous church burnings that occurred last year.

"Out of the Ashes" will be broadcast Sunday, Oct. 5, 11:00-11:30 a.m. (ET) on many CBS television affiliates.

In the spring of 1996, dozens of churches in the black rural South were burned. Many were proven to be acts incited by racial hatred. As opposed to the 1950s, when such acts might have been ignored, this rash of fires caused outrage not only in the South but across the country. These incidents may be out of the headlines, but the ashes are still smoldering.

Rebuilding the burned churches has become a priority for many religious and civic groups, in addition to taking a new look at racism as it exists in the 90's. What programs have been developed to create communication between blacks and whites? South Carolina has been hardest hit by the church burnings, and "Out of Ashes" concentrates on that state.

In Charleston, Bishop Thompson, who received the Catholic Press Association's 1997 Bishop John England Award for his defense of First Amendment rights as a Catholic publisher, has publicly denounced the flying of the Confederate battle flag over the South Carolina state house. The flag has been always regarded by blacks as a symbol of racial hatred.

However, Bishop Thompson is not alone in his concern for racism, its symbols, and its acts.

Rosemary Baptist Church in Barnwell burned in 1996 and was rebuilt this year with extraordinary help from Southern Baptists and Project Rebuild. Project Rebuild is an interfaith coalition based in western Massachusetts that provides money and volunteer workers.

Steve Skardon, executive director of the Palmetto Project, takes viewers to a county forum where blacks and whites dine together and discuss local problems, many for the first time.

On Edisto Island, the program highlights the work initiated by the Rev. McKinley Washington, a black Presbyterian minister and state senator, and Rev. Wayon Camp, a white Episcopal priest, who have formed an interracial clergy association.

Other evidence of re-energized interracial activity is the "Shalom Zones" of inner city Methodist churches, where blacks and whites get together to deal with local problems, sponsor a biracial summer camp and fix up dilapidated housing.

John P. Blessington is the executive producer of "Out of the Ashes"; Ted Holmes, producer. The CBS-TV religious specials are developed in consultation with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission. Members of the IBC include the National Council of Churches, the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist Media Technology Group, NAMB.

Diocesan News Briefs

Engaged Encounter Support

Married couples are invited to assist in the ministry of Engaged Encounter. Junior couples married two to 10 years and senior couples married more than 10 years are needed to make presentations by sharing stories of their marriage. Presenting couples are given much preparatory help. Host couples and supplies couples are also needed. If you are interested or need more information, call Steve or Peggy Geiger, (704) 845-5081.

Abbey Open House

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College hosts an open house for prospective students Oct. 10 on campus beginning at 9 a.m. The day includes presentations by college officials, a campus tour; lunch with the admission staff; opportunities to attend classes; and a financial aid seminar. Some prospective students may be eligible for scholarship interviews. For more information or reservations, call (888) 222-0110.

Jam for Jesus '97

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte presents Jam for Jesus, an ecumenical, musical family picnic event featuring seven local Christian musical groups, Oct. 18 from 1-6 p.m. at Marshall Park. Among the performers are groups representing Our Lady of Consolation and St. Matthew Catholic churches. For more information, call Bruce Brodowski, (704) 845-4638.

Family Rosary Day

CHARLOTTE — The 43rd semi-annual Family Rosary Day is at St. Vincent de Paul Church on Oct. 5 at 3 p.m. Father Peter Jugis, diocesan judicial vicar, is the speaker. Call Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for details.

disABILITY with H.O.P.E.

CHARLOTTE — A respite training workshop for those involved in the disABILITY with H.O.P.E. Ministry, or for those caring for elderly, ill or disabled persons, is Oct. 3 from 7-9:30 p.m. and Oct. 5 from 1-4:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church in Room 102 of the parish center. Call the parish , (704) 543-7677, ext. 43, or Kathy, (704) 846-3219 for registration and information by Sept. 26.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a program for couples who want to work to improve their troubled marriages, begins Oct. 17. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230. Those who have registered are asked to return their completed application as soon as possible.

Isaiah Parish Mission

GREENSBORO — A team of professional Catholic evangelists presents the Isaiah Parish Mission at St. Paul the Apostle Church from Oct. 20-Oct. 23. Anyone seeking a deeper meaning in their lives to discover or rediscover a personal, living faith is invited. Call Pat Ladew, (910) 282-2963, or Dee Parkes, (910) 643-1700, for details.

Day of Reflection

HICKORY — The annual CRISM (Catholic Retirees Invited to Special Ministries) Day of Reflection is Oct. 15 at the Catholic Conference Center. Continental breakfast begins at 9 a.m., followed by fellowship and faith enrichment. Franciscan Father Louis Canino from Greensboro serves as chaplain. Cost is $10, and registration deadline is Oct. 1. Size is limited to 100. Call Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720, Tuesdays through Thursdays for information.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter is Nov. 7-9 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details call Michael or Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom or Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — Help build Living Waters Endowment Fund. Attend a $100-a-plate dinner at the center Oct. 12. Call (704) 926-3833 for information.

"Francis Falls in Love" is an Oct. 3-5 retreat directed by Father Louis Canino, OFM, focusing on Francis of Assisi, his reverence toward God and all creatures, and the "Transitus." Cost is $90.

"I Lift Up My Eyes" is an Oct. 13-19 nature retreat based on Psalm 121 focusing on the splendor of God as seen through the fall colors of the mountains. Cost is $250.

For registration or information, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, (704) 926-3833.

Group Rosary

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts a group rosary the first Sunday each month in the chapel following the 10 a.m. Mass.

Widowed, Separated, Divorced Support

SYLVA — A program of spiritual renewal for widowed, separated and divorced persons in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate is Oct. 19 from 12:30-2 p.m. at St. Mary Church. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert are provided. For details, call Belle Harcourt, (704) 586-0463, during the day or Mary Brogan, (704) 497-9452, in the evenings.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are at Belmont Abbey beginning with rosary at 9:30 a.m., confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30. For details, call Terri or Phil, (704) 888-6050.

The Catholic News & Herald *welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.*

Parishioner Receives Scholarship

Charlene J. McCain, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, was recently awarded the F. Grangier Pierce scholarship from Duke University. The national honors graduate of West Charlotte High School received the scholarship, worth $9,840, based on academic excellence and leadership skills. McCain is a sophomore at Duke University who volunteers for the Red Cross and homeless shelter, and also serves in the sociology department of Duke Hospital as a student worker.

Around The Diocese

Parish Fairs & Festivals

CHARLOTTE — The St. Vincent de Paul Church annual Craft and Quilt Fair is Oct. 4 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the church building fund.

CHARLOTTE — The Third Annual St. Gabriel PTO Holiday Craft Fair is Oct. 11 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Proceeds support the children of St. Gabriel School and the parish community.

CLEMMONS — Ye Olde Village Shoppes Craft Bazaar is Oct. 18 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Holy Family Church. For information, call the church, (910) 766-8133.

GASTONIA — St. Michael Church hosts a yard sale Oct. 4 from 7 a.m.-12 p.m. at the church.

The St. Michael Fun Fair is Oct. 11 from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. at the church.

Proceeds from the events benefit St. Michael School. Call Laurin, (704) 867-1947, or Alice, (704) 824-4088, for more information.

Ultreya

CHARLOTTE — South Charlotte area Ultreya meets every fourth Sunday in St. Matthew Church from 1-3 p.m. for potluck lunch, meetings and Leaders' School. Child care is available. Call Teresa Sanctis, (704) 541-6850, for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Ultreya meets the fourth Saturday each month at 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Leaders' School follows.

Golf Tournaments

FLETCHER — The Knights of Columbus Father Joseph Maule Council #8923 four-person captain's choice golf tournament is at French Broad Golf Club Oct. 12 at 12 p.m. Cost is $50 per person, which includes green fee, bag lunch, refreshments and contests. Make checks payable to Knights of Columbus #8923 and send to David Smith, 5 White Rock Ct., Arden, N.C. 28704.

GREENSBORO — Foursomes are invited to register for The Great Golf Outing, organized by St. Pius X School Sponsors Fund, Oct. 3 at Greensboro National Golf Club. Call Mike Lazorchick, (910) 275-6273, for details.

SALISBURY — The Knights of Columbus St. James Council presents a four-person captain's choice golf tournament Oct. 17 at Corbin Hills Golf Course at 12 p.m. Cost is $35 per person, which includes green fee, cart, lunch, refreshments and prizes. Send entry fees by Oct. 10 to Richard Borsuk, 2527 Saddlewood Circle, Concord, N.C. 28027, (704) 786-9087; Michael Mastrianni, 2790 Old South Ct., Concord, N.C. 28027, (704) 786-1947; or Charles Williams, 587 Union St. S., Concord, N.C. 28025, (704) 782-8610.

Life Chain

GREENSBORO — The annual Life Chain event in Greensboro is Sept. 28 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. along Battleground Avenue. For details or to offer assistance, call Kameren Lowery, (910) 288-9709, or Bronwyn VanDerwerker, (910) 665-0851.

HICKORY — The Hickory Life Chain forms Oct. 5 from 2-3 p.m. on Highway 70 from Sagebrush on Robinson Road and Lenoir Rhyne Boulevard to Catawba Valley Community College. Meet at 1:45 p.m. at the Command Center in the TJ Maxx parking lot. For information, call Jean Marie Hirsch, (704) 495-4339, or Ron Kidwell, (704) 328-2165.

For the date and location of the Life Chain nearest you, call your parish.

Bereavement Support

CHARLOTTE — The Grief Group meets at St. Gabriel Church Mondays from 7-8 p.m. for anyone who has lost a loved one.

The Widow/Widowers Bereavement Group meets at St. Gabriel Church each Monday from 6-7 p.m. in the Family Room. Call B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047, ext. 212, for details about either group.

WINSTON-SALEM — A grief support group meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at St. Leo the Great Church for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. Call Joanne Parcell, (910) 924-9478, for details.

World And National News Briefs

Religious Persecution Bill Drawing Divided Approaches

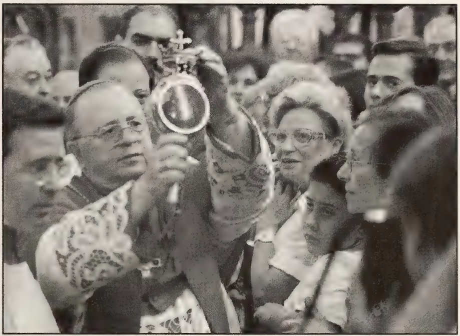
WASHINGTON (CNS) — A bill meant to fight religious persecution abroad has the qualified support of the U.S. Catholic Conference, although some of the church's objections echo opposition to the legislation from the White House and other church groups. The Freedom from Religious Persecution Act was the subject of two days of House hearings Sept. 9 and 10. The proposal would impose economic sanctions on countries that permit or encourage persecution on the basis of religion. It also would establish a special White House office to monitor international religious persecution and impose automatic sanctions on countries that the director of the office determines are guilty of violations.

Oregon Vote On Assisted Suicide Important To Other States

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Chicago Archbishop Francis E. George said Oregon's upcoming second vote on physician-assisted suicide has particular significance for the rest of the country in light of recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings that have made the issue a state, not federal, matter. "The direction taken here in Oregon will undoubtedly influence citizens and legislatures in other states," said the prelate, who was archbishop of Portland from May 1996 to April 1997. Oregon's Measure 51 on the Nov. 4 ballot would repeal Measure 16, which legalized assisted suicide in Oregon by a 51-to49-percent vote in 1994. Legal delays have kept Measure 16 from taking effect. Archbishop George addressed a recent conference on "Life Still at Risk, Physician-Assisted Suicide and the Supreme Court Rulings."

Ecumenical Dialogue Returns To Apostolicity, Eucharist

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Members of the official international Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue team are deepening their earlier discussions about apostolic succession and about the Eucharist, according to a joint press release. The Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity met in Hungary Aug. 31-Sept. 6 to examine the issues "in need of resolution in order that further visible steps toward unity can take place," said the statement which was released Sept. 17 at the Vatican.



CNS photo from Reuters

Naples Cardinal Michele Giordano shows the glass vial which is believed to hold the blood of the city's patron, St. Januarius of Benevento. The crowd of 3,000 cheered when observers close in reported that the blood had become liquid, as it is often said to do on Sept. 19, the feast of St. Januarius.

Protestants Seek To Oust Catholics From Jointly Built Church

SUNRIVER, Ore. (CNS) — The elders of a nondenominational Protestant church in the Cascades resort town of Sunriver have given local Catholics two years to find a new place to worship. For the past 16 years, the Protestant and Catholic congregations have shared Sunriver Community Church, which both groups paid to build in 1981. The elders, who over the years assumed the role of landlord, say the Catholics' weekly Mass on Saturday nights interferes with activities of the growing nondenominational community.

Archbishop Asks Clinton To Accept Land-Mine Treaty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee has urged President Clinton to reverse course and accept the international treaty banning anti-personnel land mines that was completed Sept. 17 in Oslo, Norway. "I profoundly regret U.S. rejection of the proposed treaty," said the chairman, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J. "I fear that our nation's leadership has lost an important opportunity in the urgent struggle to effectively ban these indiscriminate killers.... We urge the president to reconsider his rejection and rejoin the Ottawa process," he added.

Debate Resumes On Missouri Ban On Partial-Birth Abortion

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) — After failing to override their governor's veto, Missouri lawmakers Sept. 17 resumed a heated debate over a bill that would ban partial-birth abortions. Backers of the bill were discussing their next moves after the Senate failed by one vote Sept. 10 to reach the two-thirds vote margin required to override Gov. Mel Carnahan's veto of the bill. The vote was 22-12.

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Parish Profile

St. Joseph Church

St. Joseph Church
108 St. Joseph St.
Kannapolis, N.C. 28081
(704) 932-4607

Vicariate: **Albemarle**

Pastor: **Redemptorist Father Daniel Carboy**

Parochial Vicar: **Redemptorist Father Karl Aschmann**

Parochial Vicar: **Redemptorist Father Francis Sands**

Permanent Deacon: **Rev. Mr. J. Daniel Carl**

Masses: **Sun.: 10 a.m.; Spanish Mass: 12 p.m.**

Number of families: **140 +**

Redemptorist Father Karl Aschmann

KANNAPOLIS — In the first half of the 20th century, the Catholic population in North Carolina was largely a missionary group. Northern Cabarrus County Catholics, like many others in the state, had to travel elsewhere for Mass, and it was partly from that need for more churches that Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh decided to establish a new parish in Kannapolis.

In 1944, Bishop Waters invited the Redemptorist Fathers to begin priestly work in Kannapolis. Before that ministerial presence, locals traveled to Concord or Salisbury for liturgies. Redemptorist Father Francis Funk was named the first pastor and was handed the task of locating a site for a church. Masses were celebrated in a private home in the meantime.

Father Funk was successful in his quest, and a building on the six-acre site was furnished as a chapel. The first Mass in the chapel was celebrated on Christmas Day, 1945. Sixteen parishioners composed the charter congregation.

With a new parish taking root in Kannapolis, Bishop Waters established a mission in Mooresville and placed it in the care of St. Joseph Church's clergy. The Kannapolis priests also ministered to Catholics at the Mecklenburg County Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Huntersville.

Tragedy struck St. Joseph Parish on Holy Thursday in 1949, when fire destroyed the chapel. While parishioners made plans to replace their church, they gathered for Masses in a funeral home chapel and a school auditorium.

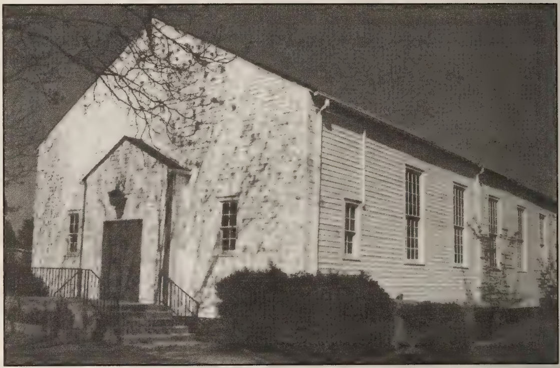
A military chapel at the southern Tar Heel coast was purchased by St. Joseph Parish in September 1949. The structure was transported to and assembled in Kannapolis in time for Christmas Eve midnight Mass that year. About 120 Catholics lived in Kannapolis at the time.

Diocesan clergy assumed the pastorate of St. Joseph Church and its mission, St. Therese in Mooresville, in August of 1954, interrupting for a time the Redemptorist presence in Kannapolis that continues today. St. Therese Church became a parish in 1956.

As Kannapolis grew, so did St. Joseph Parish. Industry and businesses have added to the congregation, and a number of converts have complemented growth as well. The growth has prompted the need for the addition of facilities, too. A parish hall was built during the 1950s, modular classroom space for religious education was added in the '80s and a parish activity center was constructed earlier this decade.

In August of 1969, the community of St. Joseph Church became a mission of St. James Church in Concord.

Redemptorist Father Daniel Carboy now serves as pastor of the two churches, with Redemptorist Fathers Karl Aschmann and Francis Sands assisting as parochial vicars. Father Aschmann attends to pastoral responsibilities at St. Joseph Church, celebrating Sunday Masses with the more than 140 registered families who compose the congregation. Hundreds of Hispanic Catholics also enhance parish life.



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Father Mauricio West
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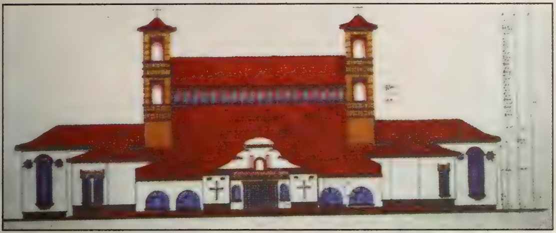
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 5 • October 3, 1997

Campaign Begins For New Hispanic Center

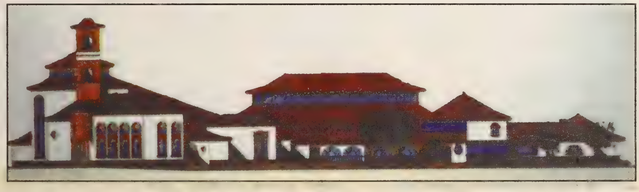


By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — A 16-acre tract of land off Tuckasegee Road in northwest Charlotte will serve as the future home of the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Hispanic Center. Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, diocesan director of Hispanic ministry, said the three-phase project will include a church, community center, day-care facility and health clinic to meet the needs of the diocese's growing Hispanic community. Catholic Social Services' Hispanic Program will also move into the complex. Cost of the project is estimated at $5 million.

"We've wanted to do this for a long time," Father Finnerty said Sept. 26 when announcing the start of a four-month campaign to raise $300,000 for the first phase of the project — a $1 million community

See **New Center,** page 3



Architectural renderings of the new Catholic Hispanic Center in Charlotte show a front view of the proposed church (above) and a general view of the complex (at right).

Photos by Joann Keane

Bishops Urge Parents Of Homosexuals To Accept Their Children, Themselves

In the new pastoral message released Sept. 30, U.S. bishops stress acceptance of God's revelation about human dignity and sexuality as a prerequisite for understanding homosexuality in a person's life.

WASHINGTON — Parents who learn that their teen-age or adult children have a homosexual orientation are urged to accept their children, themselves, and Church teaching on human dignity, the U.S. bishops stress in "Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers."

The message, which is self-described as an "outstretched hand," was made public Sept. 30, and approved by the bishops' administrative board at its annual fall meeting, Sept. 9-11.

It was developed by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' (NCCB) Committee on Marriage and Family, which represents the bishops on marriage and family issues. Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien of Phoenix chairs the committee.

The message speaks to parents directly and notes that if they learn that their child may have a homosexual orientation, they can face a challenging, confusing time marked by such emotions as anger, relief, guilt and fear. Because of that, the bishops said, "Always Our Children" aims "to offer loving support, reliable guidance, and recommendations for ministries suited to your needs and those of your child."

The message also addresses specific suggestions to priests and pastoral ministers about how to assist and counsel families and homosexual persons.

The bishops underscored the teaching of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" that states that homosexual persons "must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity." With the document, "the bishops translated that message into a useful form for parents and families," Bishop O'Brien said.

"Always Our Children" develops the theme of acceptance in three parts. It notes that parents need to accept themselves and their own struggle; to accept and love their child; and to accept God's revelation about human dignity and sexuality as a prerequisite to understanding homosexuality in a person's life.

The bishops urged parents not to break off contact with a child and warned that rejection can lead to substance abuse or suicide.

"Your child may need you and the family now more than ever," they said. "He or she is still the same person. This child, who has always been God's gift to you, may now be the cause of another gift: your family becoming more honest, respectful, and supportive."

The bishops urge parents to seek "appropriate help" for themselves and for their child, but note that a person's right to choose or refuse therapies must be respected.

"Look for a therapist who has an appreciation of religious values and who understands the complex nature of sexuality," the bishops said. "Such a person should be experienced at helping people discern the meaning of early sexual behaviors, sexual attractions, and sexual fantasies in ways that lead to more clarity and self-identity. In the course of this, however, it is essential for you to remain open to the possibility that your son or daughter is struggling to understand and accept a basic homosexual orientation."

The statement did not enter into the debate about the origin of homosexuality but simply stated that "multiple factors" seem to account for a homosexual orientation.

"Generally, homosexual orientation is experienced as a given, not as something freely chosen. By itself, therefore, a homosexual orientation cannot be considered sinful, for morality presumes the freedom to choose," they said.

In a section summarizing Church teaching, the bishops emphasize the dignity of every person created in God's image and said that the virtue of chastity is a way of respecting personal dignity. The bishops urged heterosexual and

See **Human Dignity,** page 2

A New Mission

Former Greensboro Pastor Leads Ethiopian Effort

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

During a year-long sabbatical, one Catholic priest spent a brief time in a town where the faith had been shunned for two decades by political oppression and environmental obstacles. After six hours and a few brief interactions with villagers, he decided that this place — in a mission territory in southwest Ethiopia — would be his home for the next several years.

Vincentian Father Frank Maguire, who served at St. Mary Church in Greensboro from 1982-96, spent time on the road this summer telling Americans about a new priestly endeavor in and around the town of Aman, an area like so many others in Ethiopia struggling with issues of culture, survival and self-sufficiency.

His mission: to revive church presence for one generation of Catholics, and to introduce to a younger one a faith that for many of its members is only an abstract reality.

Stranger in a Strange Land

Father Maguire traveled to Ethiopia in August 1996 after learning of the dire need for pastoral presence in the apostolic prefecture of Jimma-Bonga, a mis-

See **Missionary,** page 2

Missionary Dedicated To Revitalizing Catholic Church In Ethiopia, from page 1

sionary territory, under the care of the Congregation of the Mission, known more commonly in the United States as the Vincentians or Lazarists.

Established less than five years ago, the prefecture takes more than 13 hours to journey from end to end. It's served by the prefect apostolic, Msgr. Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, who has ordinary jurisdiction over the territory; one diocesan priest; a half-dozen Vincentians; and a Maryknoll priest.

Father Maguire was introduced to a country where Catholics compose less than 2 percent of the national population and have been struggling with disenfranchisement for years. Half of its citizens are age 15 or under, and for many Catholics the faith is something passed down from parents and local elders, usually without formal catechesis.

But while Father Maguire encountered communication barriers, differences in culture and continuing tensions between the government and rebel forces daily for six months, he also witnessed a hunger of Ethiopian Catholics, not only for improved standards of life, but for a faith the Congregation of the Mission has cultivated in Ethiopia for 150 years.

Strife in Ethiopia

"In the 1970s, the communists took control of the government," explained Father Maguire, who last month returned to the African continent. "They arrested the priests and confiscated or destroyed church properties.

"In one town, they turned the church into a hospital. Until recently, there had not been a priest there for 20 years, not even for an occasional Sunday Mass."

That place is Aman, near where Father Maguire now centers his missionary work.

For thousands of local Catholics, no Mass was celebrated, no baptism or burial performed, no religious instruction offered and no pastoral support made available for two decades. With the church presence gone — and most of the human development projects in the area gone with it — the strife aggravated an already bleak situation in the region, where poverty, malnutrition, ethnic clashes and health-related problems stemming from such maladies as typhoid fever, malaria and polio crippled many, regardless of faith or religion.

A new government was established in 1991, however, and the church's relationship with the state became more relaxed. From those improved relations grew a restlessness amongst thousands of Catholics in the region who wanted to freely return to and learn more about their faith.

Reconstructing the Church

With a new government in place, Catholics in the Aman area petitioned to receive land in compensation for its property taken by the communists.

The government agreed, and local Catholics instantly began pleading with the prefect apostolic to put a church on the site. In November 1996, Father Maguire accompanied the monsignor to Aman, where the latter discussed with local officials the construction of the building.

Father Maguire said the project illustrated how fervently the Catholics are welcoming the pastoral support. "In two weeks' time," he explained with a chuckle, "the people were pestering (the prefect apostolic) to go back to the church property with roofing materials. They had cleared the land, put up the wall posts, and started to dig a well.

"Two weeks after that, the four walls and the roof were up. It was finished much quicker than anybody had anticipated."

While Father Maguire was not part of the negotiations, his visit to the town convinced him of his desire to stay — and to do all he can to help bring the church back to the region.

Looking Ahead

In Father Maguire's view, constructing buildings is one thing, but constructing community is another. The real challenge, he said, lies in inaugurating human development projects that will benefit all Ethiopians within the mission region.

"Rebuilding the mission in Aman Town goes beyond building a church and rectory and kindergarten," said Father Maguire. "We must also find the Catholics in the area — the remnants of the community and those who have left the church — and invite them to return."

"Development work has always been integral to the mission of the church," the priest added in an open letter outlining his pastoral plans for the mission. While Ethiopians within Aman's city limits do have modern services like electricity, a hospital, safe drinking water and telecommunications, the surrounding areas provide stark contrast.

Among Father Maguire's top priorities are bringing water and electricity to the people living near town, building a nutrition center for young mothers and children, offering educational, social, pastoral and liturgical resources to adults and children, and providing refugee services to the more than 4,000 Sudanese Catholic refugees who have left their homeland because of a civil war.

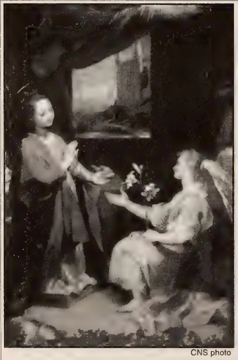
Father Maguire, who served the Hmong refugee population while ministering in Greensboro, has been named project director and will be responsible for overseeing the implementation and administration of the efforts for the next five years.

The mission is centered less than two miles from Aman and includes outposts in four other locales within the region. Plans include bringing in a staff comprising two Vincentian priests (known as Lazarists in Ethiopia; priests are called "Abba"), a secretary, catechists, council elders, building committee members and others needed to complete a comprehensive team of missionaries.

Father Maguire said signs of hope exist throughout the prefecture. In a Lazarist novitiate in the town of Jimma and a diocesan seminary in Bonga — an important missionary center in the region — men are preparing to devote their lives in priestly service. A number of women religious orders are represented in the territory as well.

And just outside the town of Aman, its people now have an opportunity to turn to a priest with ties to the Tar Heel State. "This is a way of getting to see the church operating in another part of the world," said Father Maguire, adding that despite all of the obstacles facing the Catholics in the region, "they are the truly faithful."

Father Maguire needs much support — both spiritual and financial — to ensure that operations in Aman will continue. To make tax-deductible donations or to find out more about the mission, contact Congregation of the Mission, Attn.: Father Frank Maguire, 500 E. Chelten Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19144. Your check can be made payable to Congregation of the Mission; please indicate in the memo that the contribution is a gift for Father Frank Maguire, CM.


CNS photo

The Annunciation is depicted in this oil painting by Federico Fiori from the late 1500s. It is one of several pieces in the exhibit "Angles from the Vatican," to be presented in the United States beginning next year.

Scripture

Readings for the week of October 5-11

Sunday	Genesis 2:18-24 Hebrew 2:9-11 Mark 10:2-16
Monday	Jonah 1:1—2:1,11 Luke 10:25-37
Tuesday	Jonah 3:1-10 Luke 10:38-42
Wednesday	Jonah 4:1-11 Luke 11:1-4
Thursday	Malachi 3:13-20 Luke 11:5-13
Friday	Joel 1:13-15;2:1-2 Luke 11:15-26
Saturday	Joel 4:12-21 Luke 11:27-28

Accept Church's Teaching On Human Dignity, Bishops Say, from page 1

homosexual persons to cooperate with God's grace in order to live a chaste life.

This is the "higher standard of loving" taught by Christ, they said.

The bishops also noted that living and loving chastely means that sexual intercourse must occur only within marriage between a man and a woman and added that this teaching pertains not only to homosexual relationships, but to premarital and extra-marital relationships as well.

The pastoral message highlights friendship, which, the bishops said, is "a way of loving" and one that is "essential to healthy human development, as well as one of the richest possible human experiences." It also said that friendship "outside of genital sexual involvement" should be an integral part of a homosexual person's life.

The bishops said the fundamental human rights of homosexual persons are to be respected and defended.

"All of us must strive to eliminate any form of injustice, oppression, or violence against them," they said.

The bishops added that "all homosexual persons have a right to be welcomed into the community, to hear the Word of God, and to receive pastoral care." They also noted that persons in public roles of service and leadership in the Church, whether they be homosexual or heterosexual, should live lives consonant with Church teaching.

"Always Our Children" concludes with "pastoral recommendations" offered to parents as well as a separate set for priests and pastoral ministers. Parents are counseled to stay in a loving relationship with their child while recognizing that their acceptance "does not have to include approving all related attitudes and behavioral choices." They are also advised to seek out education and support groups and to remember that "you can only be responsible for your own beliefs and actions, not those of your adult children."

In speaking about the document, Bishop O'Brien noted the difficult position of many parents of gay and lesbian children.

"Parents of homosexual children need the Church," Bishop O'Brien said. "So often they can find themselves in a state of isolation and confusion, drifting to the margins of Church and community life. We think this pastoral message will offer them the encouragement and the tools they need to connect with God's love through the spiritual resources of the Church and with other parents. We would like them to experience the grace present at this moment in their family's life."

Bishop O'Brien said that preparation of the document took place over several years and in consultation with experts, pastoral ministers, parents, and the Bishops' Committees on Doctrine and Pastoral Practices.

Formal publication of the document in English and Spanish will be through the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Publishing and Promotion Services.

Host Homes Celebrates Decade Of Changing Lives

Host Homes held its 10th anniversary banquet Sept. 25. Seated, from left: Rev. Maggie Henderson, Highland Presbyterian Church associate pastor and Host Homes board member; Monica Aylett, Host Homes foster parent; Winston-Salem Mayor Martha S. Wood. Standing: Rob Packard; Bishop William G. Curlin; Mable Stevenson; Father George Clements; Richard King, Host Homes board member.

WINSTON-SALEM — Wielding a line from the popular movie "Jerry Maguire," Father George Clements offered his insights on what makes an outreach service for troubled youth a vital entity in many parts of the nation, including the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Host Homes is not saying 'show me the money,' but instead asking 'show me the young person in need,'" said the priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago who served as keynote speaker Sept. 25 at the 10th anniversary celebration of Host Homes, a local non-profit agency under the umbrella of Catholic Social Services.

"We're celebrating the fact that lives have been changed," Father Clements told the more than 300 people in attendance. "Host Homes and its volunteers have gotten involved in helping our youth for all the right reasons, and none of them have anything to do with money. They volunteer because they want to volunteer and provide a truly safe home."

Father Clements, who has initiated a number of programs to help society's troubled, termed Host Homes an "altruism" because staff workers and volunteers selflessly care about the well-being of others.

Established in 1987 by CSS, Host Homes provides three major services: therapeutic counseling to youth ages 10-17 and their families; specialized foster care for youth ages 10-17 in a crisis (youth can live up to two weeks in licensed volunteer foster homes); and a Special Friends mentoring program, where a client is matched with an adult role model. In April, Host Homes also launched Project Safe Place, a collaborative effort to help reach other children in need. More than 70 public facilities and buildings in Forsyth County have been designated Safe Places to assist youth who are lost, children running from a bully or gang, or youth escaping problems at home.

Rob Packard, chairman of Host Homes' advisory board, touched on the history of the organization developed to respond to the needs of youth and runaways in crisis in the Winston-Salem area. A committee that included Msgr. Richard Allen, Father Frank Cancro and Sister Francis Sheridan, all serving the Diocese of Charlotte, helped bring the project to fruition with the assistance of New York-based shelter operation Covenant House.

"Covenant House introduced us to the concept of Host Homes, explaining that 'when a host family is a total volunteer and receives no remuneration but is just there because they care for youth, the effect is calming and positive,'" Packard said.

Bishop William G. Curlin addressed the guests by sharing how he learned many years ago the Gospel can be summed up in five words. "They can be recited on one hand: 'you did it to me,'" he said. "That is what Host Homes is all about, helping others."

Mable Stevenson, director, recognized Host Homes volunteers, families, children, board members and staff. "These people have all worked very closely with us, and we owe them a debt of gratitude," she said.

Host Homes has provided placement for 400 children and counseling services for more than 4,500 families. The agency and its responsibilities have also grown in the past decade. The program started with a part-time person; now the staff consists of five full-time and two part-time employees.

Contributions to Host Homes can be sent to 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101.

His Excellency, Bishop William G. Curlin, wishes to make the following announcement:

At his own request, Reverend Dennis Kuhn is granted a leave of absence from priestly ministry, effective immediately.

Clarification

The Charlotte Life Chain is Oct. 12 from 1:30-3 p.m. rain or shine. It will stretch from the Harris Boulevard-Sharon Amity Road intersection down to Sharon Road, and will extend to Southpark.

An article on life chain activities in the Sept. 26 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald* included incorrect information regarding the location of the Charlotte Life Chain.

Hispanic Center,

from page 1

center/multi-purpose facility. Hispanic Center officials have already raised $200,000, and the diocese will lend them $500,000. The multi-purpose building will include offices, classrooms, restroom and shower facilities, and a kitchen.

"We really need a place to get people together and respond to our recreational, social and educational needs," Father Finnerty added. "There is a lot of enthusiasm for the project. People are really behind it."

The Catholic Hispanic Center currently celebrates four Spanish Masses each weekend at the former Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School on Shenandoah Avenue. The fund-raising campaign was announced at weekend Masses Sept. 27-28.

Donation boxes have been placed in Hispanic restaurants and businesses throughout the area, and organizers will also visit Latino neighborhoods to seek funding for the project.

The center, which has been in existence for 25 years, was founded to unite Hispanic Catholics and welcome them into the larger community through programs, liturgy, catechesis and support. Over the years, the composition of the community has changed from Cuban and Ecuadorian to mostly Mexican and Central American.

Father Finnerty hopes to break ground on phase one of the project next fall. No time frame has been set to complete the entire plan. "It all depends. If someone gives us a $4 million gift tomorrow, then we can begin work a lot sooner," he said.

The complex will be built in traditional Hispanic architectural style. It will include a plaza. Architect Carlos De La Croix of Argentina completed the project plans.

The new church will seat 600 become a bilingual parish with both Spanish and English Masses, Father Finnerty said. A home being purchased on the land will serve as a rectory.

Donations to the project can be sent to: The Catholic Hispanic Center, 2117 Shenandoah Ave., Charlotte, N.C. 28205. For more information on the fund-raising effort, call (704) 335-1281.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East | Charlotte, NC 28203 | (704)334-2283

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

“Everyone has an obligation to be at the service of life.”
— Pope John Paul II Evangelium Vitae

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 4
Deacons' Day of Retreat
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

6 p.m.
Confirmation
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

October 5 — 11 a.m.
Confirmation
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

October 6-9
Diocesan Priests' Retreat
Maggie Valley

October 11 — 5 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

October 12— 2 p.m.
Life Chain
Charlotte

3 p.m.
25th & 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

6 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Vincent de Paul Class at St. Ann Church

7:30 p.m.
MACS Education Foundation
“Circle of Celebration ‘97”
Carmel Country Club, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Mary Is Mother Of All Humanity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Sept. 24.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our reflections on the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary show us that she is not only the mother of all Christians, but also the mother of all humanity. In a unique way, Mary freely “cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity in the work of the Savior in restoring supernatural life to souls” (“Lumen Gentium,” 61). Because of this, she acquires a universal spiritual motherhood; she is the mother of all those called to be reborn to eternal life through water and the Spirit.

Mary's motherhood continues in time “until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect” (“Lumen Gentium,” 62). To Christ's priestly intercession as redeemer, the Father joins Mary's intercession as mother. Hence, the Christian people invoke Mary as Advocate, Helper, Benefactress and Mediatrix. She intercedes for us, defends and protects us; she assists us in our needs; she supports those who are falling; and she presents our prayers to Christ, pleading continually on our behalf.

I greet the new students of the Venerable English College and pray that the Lord will bless them abundantly as they begin their studies.

I extend a cordial welcome to the various ecumenical groups present, especially to the executive committee of the World Methodist Council. Thankful to God for the progress made so far in our official dialogue, I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the joint commission in its current work. I send a special greeting to the general secretary, Dr. Hale, who could not be here due to his wife's recent accident, and I pray for her prompt recovery.

I am also pleased to welcome the delegation of the Disciples of Christ on the 20th anniversary of the dialogue between us. May the international commission's continuing work on the theme of the church's mission lead us steadily along the path toward ever greater unity.

I warmly greet the representatives of the Center of Christian-Jewish Understanding. I hope that your visit will further strengthen our mutual understanding and cooperation in the face of so many shared concerns.

Upon all the English-speaking visitors and pilgrims, especially those from England, Wales, Ireland, Nigeria, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan and the United States, I invoke an abundance of divine grace and peace.

Pope Meets Palestinian Delegation

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged the peoples of the Middle East to continue the regional peace process and follow “the path of reconciliation” that already has been marked out. Meeting Sept. 22 with a delegation from the Palestinian Authority, the pope said the reality of the Palestinians is a sad one: “Injustice, violence and fear of the future are still the daily bread of your brothers and sisters.” The delegation meeting the pope was led by Emil M. Jarjoui, a member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and a member of the Palestinian legislative council for Jerusalem.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

The New Children's Crusade

For me, the most momentous event of the summer of '97 was “The Children's Crusade to Death Row.” Several hundred children, some as young as 6 or 7, marched 30 miles — to Waynesburg, Pa. — in three days to protest the death penalty.

The children's destination was the State Correctional Institution at Greene. The children chose this maximum security prison south of Pittsburgh as the focal point of their march because it has an escalating number of death row prisoners, more than 100 of them.

I heard about the August march in the planning stages because I knew some of the children involved. Their families belong to the Bruderhof, meaning Brotherhood, a Christian community of about 3,000 members in eight locations in the United States and England.

Bruderhof members are staunchly pro-life, opposing abortion, physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia and the death penalty.

One had to be impressed with the motivation behind the march. In the words of the children, they wanted “to move hearts.” They chose the march to demonstrate that there is a way to end violence. “Love and compassion for all humanity is the answer,” they said.

The children hoped that by channeling “kid power” they might raise consciousness about the suffering caused by the destruction of life. “Only God can decide when a person should die,” the children stated.

The origins of the march date back to Christmastime in 1995 when some third- and fourth-grade students from the New Meadow Run Bruderhof in Farmington, Pa., began writing to death-row prisoners at SCI Greene. Reggie Lewis, one of the men on death row, surprised the children by writing a play for them, which the Bruderhof children performed on Christmas 1996. Then, in June 1997, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge signed Lewis' death warrant.

The children convinced their parents to drive them to the prison. They marched up to the gates, singing and waving signs to protest the death penalty for Lewis, completely surprising prison officials.

Fortunately, Lewis got a stay of execution. The Bruderhof children were so happy at this news that they decided to march again to the prison. Only this time they would protest the death penalty in itself, and they wouldn't be alone. They mobilized children from all the Bruderhof communities, even those in England.

By the time the march got under way Aug. 18, the children had inspired nearly 1,000 people to become involved. Commendations for the children came in from around the world.

TV and news coverage was extensive, and impressive, as cameras focused on the hundreds of children wearing yellow ponchos with the word “life” emblazoned on the back.

Naturally, opponents of the march also turned up. One Christian minister actually denounced the children, who quoted Christ's message of forgiveness and pleaded, “Choose life, not death.” Their critic said, “Their Bible's perverted.”

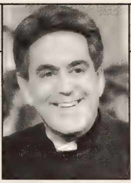
I had the pleasure of meeting with one of the marchers, Daniel Winter, 18, at my home after the march. He had an important insight. He said that, sadly, “the death penalty is the end of the problem, and we need to enter at the root of the problem.” Ending violence, he said, “begins with the family and the education of the children.”

The mayor of Uniontown, Pa., where the children stopped on the way to the prison, said he was proud of the marchers because “these children believe in something and are doing something about it.”

I too am proud of them.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Why Angels?

Raphael, Michael and Gabriel showed up for regular duty in Vatican City recently.

The names of the three Archangels, who are being celebrated in Catholic Masses this week, were used to dub the three computers that act as the new technological "custodians" of the church's proclamation of the Good News.

By accessing the Web site *www.vatican.va,* you'll be guided by these high-tech Archangels through papal discourses, church statistics, even the treasures of the Vatican Museum. At a time when every publisher with an eye to circulation figures has a book about angels on their list, the Vatican seems to be in synch with this current popular fascination.

While the latest trend towards the angelic realm may not be teaching people about theology, the variety of media treatments suggests the need to take angels seriously. Whether it's through films like "Contact" or TV shows like "Touched by an Angel," or books such as Billy Graham's "Angels: God's Secret Agents" or Tern Lynn Taylor's "Guardians of Hope and Messengers of Light," we are being encouraged to believe that "there is somebody up there" looking out for us down here.

The view seems to be there is only one God, and thousands of millions of us in need of undivided attention and special guidance. If "angel" means "messenger," God has many ways of getting his message across. Some may come through human beings with tow trucks who help out stranded drivers and then go off without waiting to be thanked. But some may indeed be more transcendent.

And why should there not be a great hierarchy of beings between us and God? According to one study, around 50 percent of the population has at one time or another had a religious experience that suggests they have had some kind of communication with angels. It may be our experience of the voice of conscience or the sense of some teaching about God which strikes us with a particular freshness at some particular time. In any case, it is the feeling that something comes to us from outside ourselves.

Admittedly, there is no need of angels. Some find they can get on perfectly well without thinking about them, even though the Jewish and Christian traditions document their role in salvation history. Many prefer to concentrate on being spiritually aware of God's direct relationship with the human soul.

But this does not mean that God doesn't work in hidden ways. Indeed, God often gives us more than we realize, or more than we need, and we can only rejoice at the excess of his love for us. God could nurture and help us on earth whether he has the ministry of angels or not, but that does not mean that there is no such ministry.

The accounts of angels in Scriptures, the Torah, and the Koran cannot be easily dismissed. In the Christian story, when the Son of God came to earth to show us that God is not a remote and uncaring figure, but can be addressed as "Father," and that there is no need for intermediaries between God and us, what happened? A choir of angels appeared on a hillside in Bethlehem showing that the exuberant generosity of God provides more than we need, more than we can desire, more than we can ever comprehend.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Let Go, Let God In Your Life," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Former Catholics Who Still Receive Communion

Q. *Our son and his wife left the Catholic Church a few years ago. They have two sons, now ages 10 and 12. These boys were baptized Catholic, but never made their First Communion.*

Recently they visited in our home, and all four of them received Communion, including from the cup.

The daughter-in-law says this is a matter between them and God. How do we respond to that?

Please send us your brochure on ecumenism. A friend told us this explains the Catholic teaching about Protestants receiving Communion in our church.

A. I assume you and, from what you tell me, probably your son's family are basically aware of the Catholic Church's policy on interfaith Communion in the church.

I've discussed these regulations several times in this column, so let's talk about the personal issues that concern you.

You might remind them that they left the Catholic Church on their own initiative, which, if it says anything, says they wanted to separate themselves from Catholic belief and worship.

Thus, what they are doing directly abuses the hospitality of the church and is at very least a thoughtless discourtesy.

One would not act in such a way with former friends. No one would say, "I never want to see you again," and then drop in for a meal whenever he or she felt like it.

Of course, you cannot physically stop them if they persist. You do, however, have a right to tell them how their actions hurt you and violate what you believe.

You can also ask them some obvious and honest questions:

—If you choose not to be a Catholic and say you don't believe what we believe, why do you feel you can drift in and out?

—If you believe the Eucharist is the body and blood of Christ, why aren't you Catholic?

—If you do not believe in the Catholic faith, why do you act as if you do?

—If you do believe, how can you not raise your children Catholic?

Whatever you do, just explain, don't accuse them. No "How could you do this to us?" Or even, "How could you do this to God?"

You cannot know their hearts, but questions such as these may help them become more honest and aboveboard with themselves than they seem to be right now.

Q. *This question arose after the feast of the Assumption. Was Mary assumed into heaven after her death or was she still alive?*

A. Christian writers have disagreed through the centuries whether or not Mary died before she was taken into heaven.

When Pope Pius XII defined the doctrine of the Assumption in 1950, he deliberately avoided settling the controversy.

He said only that at the end of her earthly life (the Latin reads "expleto terrestris vitae cursu") Mary was taken body and soul into heaven.

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship with people of other faiths, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Some Assembly Required

What makes a family? If you had a manual, what would be on the parts list? Our family parts list would include our two children, Andrea and Marty, and us, and our dog, Buddy. Then there's our parents, both sets, our siblings living and dead, cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. On our family parts list are members not related by blood: Pete, Elba, Rebeca and Andrés, Father Tom and several others.

Looking at the long list we imagine a picture of everyone together. We don't have such a picture except in our imaginations. Everyone is seated at a huge table. Food is plentiful and there's great cheer. It's a picture that gives us an idea of how of how we're supposed to look after the parts are put together. The picture is on the large box the family came in. In large bold letters it says on the box "One Big, Happy Family"; in much smaller letters it says "some assembly required."

We find in the box a rather thick instruction book on how to assemble all the parts. Actually it's a photo album. It shows various ways of assembly: There's our family watching TV with the four of us and Buddy; another variation is we gathered around our dining table in prayer. There are several pictures from birthday parties, backyard barbecues, and Christmas gatherings. In the album there are photos from weddings, funerals, graduations, ordinations, and installations. There's a special instruction for the baptism photos: "Add water and pray."

More special instruction says "For more cohesive family life, make regular connections through phone calls, letter writing, sending anniversary and birthday cards." It goes on to say, "For peace and harmony in the family, treat each member with care and honesty."

Not unlike some purchases of exercise equipment, assembly seems never complete. There's always a part missing or inadvertently left out. However, unlike those dust collectors in our basement, our family functions without all the parts assembled, and even when well assembled, it never functions perfectly — there's always a glitch.

Just a few months ago our family assembled to celebrate the 90th birthday of Terri's paternal grandmother, Bynetta (Mama Doe). In just a few days we will gather again in sadness over her death. Though the occasion is not a happy one, there will be happiness at the gathering. We will "eulogize" her in our own way through the stories of how she touched our lives, her sense of humor, her always wanting to feed people. We will laugh; we will cry. There will be reconciliation for some, reunion for all. We will accept her leaving this life as an essential part of life, and make her "home-going" celebration of our family assembled imperfectly again, yet operating well.

Father John J. Murray, Retired Diocesan Priest, Dies at 84

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Father John J. Murray, who served at several parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte following his ordination in 1978, died Sept. 29 at Holy Cross Hospital, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was 84.

Born Aug. 2, 1913, in Phillipsburg, N.J., John Murray was the son of the late John J. Murray and Katharine Kenney Murray. He graduated from St. Phillip and St. James High School in Phillipsburg, and received a bachelor of arts degree in 1934 from Georgetown University. He was conferred a bachelor of laws degree in 1939 from Columbus University, now part of Catholic University of America.

He served as a lieutenant with the U.S. Navy during World War II and retired in 1972 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation following 39 years of service.

In 1975, he approached the rector of Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis., about the possibility of beginning studies for the priesthood. He was accepted, and in November 1978, at the age of 65, was ordained to the priesthood in the Charlotte Diocese by Bishop Michael J. Begley, who had sponsored Murray in the seminary.

Father Murray served as parochial vicar at St. Aloysius Church, Hickory, and, later, as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Forest City. In January 1981 he was assigned to the pastorate of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Morganton, and its mission in Marion, Our Lady of the Angels Church. Bishop John F. Donoghue also appointed him vicar of the Hickory Vicariate.

He was a member of the William T. McShea Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Father Murray retired in June 1990 and resided with his sister and sole survivor, Catherine Murray, in Fort Lauderdale.

Visitation was Oct. 1 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Morganton. Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated a funeral Mass Oct. 2 at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Interment followed at Belmont Abbey Cemetery, Belmont.

Notes of sympathy may be sent to his sister, Catherine Murray, at 888 Intracoastal Dr., Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33304.

Cornerstone To Sponsor AIDS Symposium

BELMONT — A Catholic symposium on AIDS, sponsored by Cornerstone, the AIDS network for the Diocese of Charlotte, will be held Nov. 15 at Queen of the Apostles Church. The conference is designed for clergy, religious, laity and all whose lives have been touched by AIDS.

Bishop William G. Curlin will attend the symposium and address the participants concerning the importance of AIDS ministry in the diocese. Keynote speakers will include Barbara Bell of Asheville, who will focus on "The Changing Faces of AIDS," and Patrick Evans of Myrtle Beach, who will address the spiritual dimensions of this pandemic in his presentation, "The Body of Christ Has AIDS." The conference will also offer workshops on AIDS 101, parish ministry, support groups and clergy.

A highlight of the conference will be the blessing of quilt panels for the AIDS Memorial Quilt by Bishop Curlin. If you are interested in submitting a panel to be blessed, please contact Father Morris Boyd, (704) 252-3151.

For more information on the symposium or to pre-register, contact Father Richard Hokanson, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Belmont, N.C., 28012, or phone (704) 825-5277.

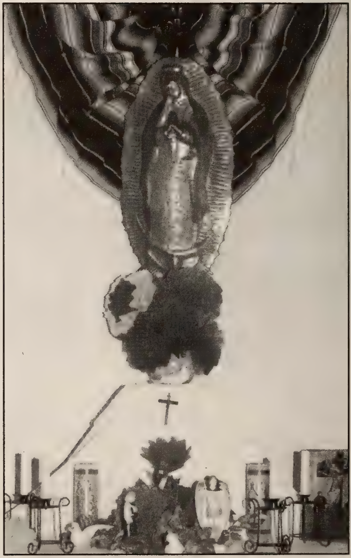
1960-19
ASHEVI

Father Morris Boyd and Gail Powell of St. Joan of Arc parish in Asheville are shown working on a panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. There will be a blessing of quilt panels at the diocesan symposium on AIDS Nov. 15 at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont. Those who are interested in submitting panels in memory of loved ones lost to AIDS are invited to bring them to the symposium. For more information, contact Father Boyd, (704) 252-3151.

Mexican Folk Art On Display At Hickory Museum

Above: Hickory Museum of Art curator Tom Perryman and Father Joseph Waters, pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Taylorsville who spoke at the museum Sept. 25 on saints in the church, discuss an art book illustrating depictions of saints. The folk art exibit runs through Oct. 29.

Right: A typical Mexican family shrine is part of the Miracles of Mexican Folk Art display at the Hickory Museum of Art.



Photos by Kathy Schmugge

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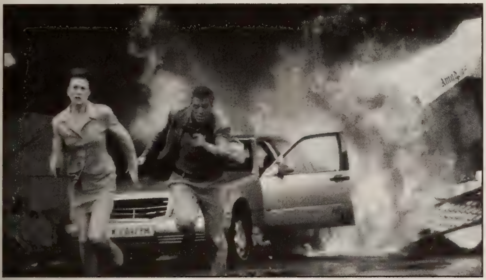
Entertainment



CNS photo from Dreamworks

'The Peacemaker' — Nicole Kidman and George Clooney flee danger in the action-thriller "The Peacemaker." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"In & Out" Serves Up Light-Hearted Humor

NEW YORK (CNS) — Kevin Kline is the comically confused central character who has been shoved out of the closet he never thought he was in in "In & Out."

As wittily written by Paul Rudnick, and zestily directed by Frank Oz, the movie is a light-hearted look at one man's sexual identity crisis — English teacher Howard Brackett's (Kline), to be precise. And precise Howard is, neatly bow-tied each day as he recites sonnets to his sleepy students, who are more interested that he once taught hunky Oscar nominee Cameron Drake (Matt Dillon).

Come Oscar night, his entire hometown of Greenleaf, Ind., is tuned in when Cameron wins the Academy Award and thanks Howard, impulsively blurting out, "And he's gay!" This is news to everyone, especially Howard.

Just as startled is fiancee Emily (Joan Cusack), who is set to marry Howard at week's end, and mom Debbie Reynolds, who wants to throw a wedding no matter what her son's sexual orientation is!

Denying what he considers an absurd accusation, Howard finds himself besieged by ravenous media at his doorstep, especially gay TV tabloid reporter, Peter Malloy (Tom Selleck).

Now everyone eyes him differently; even the priest whose advice non-Catholic Howard seeks in confessional assumes he must be gay since he has not yet slept with his fiancee of three years.

Practicing swaggering at home with an audiotape entitled "Exploring Your Masculinity" doesn't quite work out as planned — nor is Howard able to fend off an ambush kiss from Peter the day before the wedding.

Just as the minister and Emily wait for him to repeat "I do" on the altar, Howard's confusion finally evaporates — as does the ceremony, and perhaps his job and her sanity.

Playing for belly laughs — and they are there from time to time — the comedy barely touches on sex, opting instead to mock gay and straight stereotypes with a broad gentle humor.

A swell ensemble cast delivers dialogue with just the right amount of restraint: "Your mother is a drunk," mama Reynolds sweetly snips to a girl whose mother has opined the Howard-Emily marriage won't last; as Howard's father, Wilford Brimley inquires with deadpan earnestness if Howard will be entering show business since he is gay; and poor Emily wonders if she has wandered into the Twilight Zone when she can't find a red-blooded male even in a straight bar.

Selleck has his best role in years as the pushy reporter, and Dillon's turn as an overnight star a la Brad Pitt is filled with sly wit, as is that of his anorexic model girlfriend (Shalom Harlow) who prefers throwing up to facing the complexities of using a rotary phone.

Some of the humorous stereotypes, as in references to Barbra Streisand, are overdone, and the characters are little more than caricatures who are universally dense, but in a funny way.

Kline exhibits some hilarious physical comedy during the course of his denial behavior, especially in the masculine dance scene that will surely end up a classic clip from his career.

The kiss between Selleck and Kline is discreetly filmed from a distance with Kline's character fighting then fleeing, more confused than ever.

In a comedy of essentially puff-and-fluff, a stand is taken by the community against homophobia, with all manner of straight people claiming to be gay in support of Howard's unjust termination. But this is about as serious as "In & Out" gets, a comedy that carefully serves up enough lighthearted humor not to offend the mainstream audience.

Due to its flippant treatment of homosexuality, brief male kissing scene, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Anaconda" (1997)

Overwrought thriller about an anthropological expedition taking a film crew (led by Jennifer Lopez and Ice Cube far up the Amazon River in search of a primitive tribe, but they pick up a stranded snake hunter (Jon Voight) who soon diverts them into tracking down a valuable but deadly 40-foot reptile. Director Luis Llosa's transparent plot is anchored by Voight's sinister performance, but the grotesque attacks by the undulating animatronic beast are so overdone they become almost comical. Intermittent violence, a few profanities and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III —adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"B.A.P.S." (1997)

Clumsy comedy set in Beverly Hills where two dim young women (Halle Berry and Natalie Desselle) befriend a sickly millionaire (Martin Landau), then are nearly framed for a crime but end up as wealthy heiresses. Director Robert Townsend's mushy comedy is straight out of the dumb-and-dumber school, though its central characters are likable lugheads. Fleeting comic violence, brief toilet humor and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"City of Industry" (1997)

Gritty crime story in which four armed men pull off a big jewel heist, then a murderous double-cross by one of them (Stephen Dorff) causes another (Harvey Keitel) to go gunning for him. Director John Irvin's violent tale of betrayal and revenge is a dark study of hardened criminals, most of whom pay for their greed with their lives. A morally ambiguous ending, intermittent nasty violence, fleeting nudity and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Commandments" (1997)

Blaming God for his pregnant wife's drowning and other personal tragedies, a distraught widower (Aidan Quinn) vows to break all 10 commandments, in the process falling for his late wife's sister (Courteney Cox) whose marriage to a womanizer (Anthony La Paglia) is on the rocks. Writer-director Daniel Taplitz treats the protagonist's heartfelt loss of faith in jarringly comic terms that become sappy and ultimately ludicrous. Fleeting sexual encounters, brief violence, intermittent rough language and some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Liar Liar" (1997)

Unremarkable comedy in which a divorced dad (Jim Carrey) who is a habitual liar, especially defending clients in court, is thrown for a loss when his little boy's birthday wish that dad stop lying comes true. Directed by Tom Shadyac, Carrey's eccentric brand of physical humor is the only reason to see this sappy but occasionally risque tale of a father learning about honesty and caring from his child. Brief comic violence, some sexual references and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Volcano" (1997)

Formula disaster movie with Tommy Lee Jones as head of the Los Angeles emergency office desperately trying to mobilize the city to stem the flow of lava which threatens to engulf it. Directed by Mick Jackson, the lame story focuses on trying to save people while the special effects department concocts scenes of fiery destruction which will surely frighten the young and impressionable. Scenes depicting massive destruction of property with mostly off-screen loss of life and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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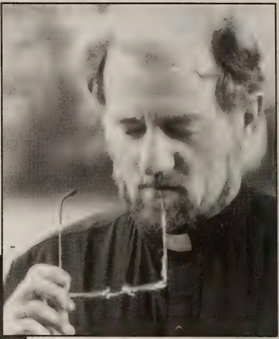

CNS photos top left by Bill Wittman, top right by Cleo Freelance Photo and above by Michael Hoyt

Why I'm Still A Priest

"Why do I stay in the ordained ministry?... There must be something there. And that 'something' is connected to my individual gift of faith," explains Blessed Sacrament Father Eugene LaVerdiere. "It has nothing to do with how anyone else ... experiences the need to respond to God."

By FATHER EUGENE LAVERDIERE, SSS

Many priests and religious-order members left the ordained ministry or religious life in the past three decades, some under dramatic circumstances. It is not for me to judge why they left.

During the same years, many more stayed, attracting little attention. Again, it is not for me to judge why they stayed.

Recently, I heard Bishop Donald Pelotte of Gallup, N.M., thank the people of Waterville, Maine, where he grew up, on the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

"I have been very happy as a priest," he said. "Throughout these 25 years, I never doubted my vocation to the priesthood. I never wavered on my decision to be a priest.

"My vocation comes from God, of course, but God speaks through your family and all kinds of people —neighbors, friends, sisters and priests — in the town where you grow up.

"At first, you can't hear the call, but it is there. Once you begin to hear it, it gets louder and louder, clearer and clearer."

It must have been like that for the first disciples. John's Gospel gives a wonderful example of why some disciples left and why the Twelve stayed.

Jesus had just nourished some 5,000 people with five barley loaves. His disciples had filled 12 baskets "with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat" (John 6:13).

After that, Jesus told the crowd: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever" (John 6:51). Jesus had nourished the 5,000 with his very person.

After hearing him say this, "many (of) his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him" (John 6:66).

The problem was not what Jesus did. The problem was who he claimed to be: the presence of God (I am), with them as nourishment for eternal life (the living bread).

Seeing them leave, Jesus asked the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answered: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (6:67-68).

It was not that they had no alternatives. But none of them had the words of eternal life. The Twelve themselves wanted to hear the words of eternal life, not just for themselves but to hand them on to others.

Jesus' words could bring eternal life to all peoples. But for that, they had to hear them.

Over the years, I have spoken to a respected teacher of theology, Father Francis Costa. In recent years, he always said that "the many changes in the liturgy and in other areas of the church's self-understanding and practice have helped make me an even happier priest."

Father Costa died about two years ago. In one of his last reflections, he said: "If I were a young man again, I would want to be a priest more than ever. No, there is never a dull moment!"

Listening to Bishop Pelotte, re-reading Chapter 6 of John's Gospel and recalling Father Costa's reflections, I had to ask myself why I had stayed.

I was ordained in 1964. I, too, have been happy as a priest. I, too, received a lot of affirmation and love.

A couple with seven children once told me: "It means a lot that you are a priest and celibate. It helps us to be faithful to one another and to nurture our children."

Such affirmation surely made a difference, but what made the critical difference is what I call a sense of mission.

I do not think of myself as a hero. Nor did the disciples consider themselves heroes. But I am intent on continuing Christ's work in the church. I want to bring the Gospel to everyone I can.

It came to me in a conversation with my family. Some second- and third-cousins had left the church and joined another. I had a hard time understanding that. We are a traditional Catholic family from way back.

I ventured, "It must be that the parents left and the children followed." My mother answered: "There must have been nothing there. Even if the parents left, it was no reason for the children to go."

That stopped me. It made me reflect deeper. Why do I stay in the ordained ministry? Even if many of my friends left, it would be no reason for me to go. But for that, as my mother implied, there must be something there. And that "something" is connected to my individual gift of faith. It has nothing to do with how anyone else — mother, father, cousin, friend — experiences the need to respond to God.

I shared my reflections with my brother Gary, a religious brother for many years. We both belong to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

In many ways, we are different from one another. But hearing our mother, we felt the same.

"I like being a brother," Gary said. "As a brother, I can really do something for people."

Father LaVerdiere is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.

Food For Thought

Why does anyone stay in any vocation? Probably for a mix of reasons. But probably not because everything always goes perfectly in their lives or because every day they have the good feeling that their lives have developed precisely as they planned.

I believe, as a married man and parent, that it is important to continue to take one's original decision to get married, one's original desire to become a parent, seriously. Remembering the origin of one's choices, the happiness and meaning attached to them back then, makes a real difference.

Our memories are a gift from God.

But the flow of events in life sometimes makes us forgetful. As each day quickly is succeeded by another, we can be left fatigued, frustrated, confused or otherwise inclined to forget that parenthood or marriage even is a vocation.

Many parents, for example, experience whole periods of time when important needs and concerns expressed first by this child, then by another, begin to dominate life in not-entirely welcome ways.

It is good then to serve oneself a reminder — in prayer? — that "yes, actually I still do want to be a parent. I still choose this, still welcome these children."

David Gibson. Editor. Faith Alive!

Still Sisters, After All These Years

By STAN KONIECZNY

Sister Mary Jacqueline Pratt began her formation as an Ursuline Sister in 1958. The native of Festus, Mo., left before professing first vows, but re-entered the community four years later. Her re-entry was a rather uncommon occurrence at the time.

"There was some fascination with God and God's working in my life that led to my re-entry," Sister Pratt explains 39 years later. "And that fascination goes on and unfolds every day."

It is the reason she stays.

She professed her first vows as an Ursuline in 1964.

"To me, being an Ursuline means continuing the charism of our foundress, St. Angela Merici: to respond to the needs of women in the church and to be of service to God's people in a variety of ways," she says.

Sister Pratt has spent most of her ministry in religious education with special focus on adult catechesis. She also has served in secondary education administration.

Currently, she is prioress for a community of eight Ursulines in St. Louis.

Her community of sisters is a vital force in her ability to carry out her commitment of nearly four decades. "I need the support of women who are like-minded and like-hearted," she explains. "We have a lot of fun together, and we do a lot of faith sharing that supports me in my ministry and life. I am not alone in anything I do."

Marianist Sister Marcy Loehrlein recently became the full-time coordinator of religious education at Holy Rosary Parish in San Antonio, Texas. She is responsible for the development of small faith communities in the parish.

"This fits in with what I am called to do as a Marianist sister. It is very life-giving," she said.

"The church is looking to increase lay involvement, and one way is through small faith communities."

The sisters and their male counterparts — Marianist priests and brothers — have been involved in the formation of lay faith communities since their foundation in 19th-century post-revolutionary France.

One sister echoes the sentiments of all of the sisters interviewed by Stan Konieczny regarding why they've kept their vows for over 35 years: "I have remained in religious life ... because of commitment, energy and love."

CNS photo

"When I entered the Marianist Sisters in 1967, I understood our ministry to be education, but in the broadest sense, addressing not only intellectual growth, but spiritual and emotional growth," she continued.

A native of Evansville, Ind., Sister Loehrlein says that "through thick and thin, God has been with me." She adds: "There have been moments of darkness and light, pain and healing. And there has been a lot of joy."

Sister Clare Boehmer of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ recalls that on a hot July day 37 years ago she committed herself "to a life of deepening relationships with God, my community and those I work with in my ministry. The years between then and now have been a process of discovering what that commitment means for me" and how to live it out.

Although Sister Boehmer was taught by members of the order during her formative years at St. Teresa Academy, East St. Louis, Ill., she looked at a number of religious communities while making decisions about her vocation. Today this educator says: "I find that I energize others and am energized in living out my relationships with members of my religious community, in working with my students and fellow teachers, in my time of prayer and in the many people, events and things which God uses to reveal himself to me," Sister Boehmer said.

"I have remained in religious life for 37 years because of commitment, energy and love."

Konieczny is director of communications for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Ruma, Ill.

Faith In The Marketplace

As a long-time member of a religious order, why have you stayed?

"My community has been wonderful to me. We've given a lot of ourselves to people, and people have given so much back.... It's been a rewarding lifetime in every sense of the word."

— Father Leonard Cordier, CSSR, New Smyrna, Fla.

"Because I feel I have a calling to this community, and I believe this congregation is meeting the needs of God's people in ministering through education and care of the elderly. I also believe the religious life has great value as a witness in the life of the church."

— Sister Mary-Barbara Buckley, OSF, Peoria, Ill.

"For me it would be the community life we have, that I'm living. And I like teaching, which is what we do most of here. And I'm able to have time to deal with my inner self and my outer self. My spiritual life is nourished, both with our Lord and in our community life."

— Brother Bernard Samp, Salinas, Calif.

"Because I feel there is a purpose in religious life, that God has called me to serve and this is where he wants me to fulfill his plan for me in life."

— Sister Mary Cabrini, CSSF, Coraopolis, Pa.

An upcoming edition asks: What would you tell a couple preparing for marriage about exercising forgiveness and reconciliation in homelife? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: **Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.**

In a Nutshell

- "I energize others and am energized" by them, one religious-order member says of her community and others in her life.
- "There have been moments of darkness and light, pain and healing. And there has been a lot of joy," a sister reports of her vocation.
- "My vocation," a bishop says, "comes from God, of course, but God speaks through your family and all kinds of people."

A Commitment Is Just The Beginning

By FATHER JOHN J. CASTELOT

Freely making a personal commitment to God is only the beginning of what may be a lifelong struggle. It is at least somewhat helpful to realize that even outstanding figures in history lived through this tension.

The prophets answered God's call to speak for him in downright hostile situations. Isaiah had a religious experience in which he heard God calling out: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

And the aristocratic Isaiah, who moved easily in royal circles, replied: "Here I am ... send me!" (Isaiah 6:8-9)

God made it painfully clear that Isaiah's mission would be frustrating. People obstinately would refuse to listen to him. But speak Isaiah must, whatever the cost. And the cost was steep.

King Ahaz, who could have averted disaster for himself and his people, cynically blocked out the prophet's message. Still Isaiah persisted, and the lack of response must have driven him to desperation.

Finally the prophet was forced to confine his efforts to his faithful disciples. And had Isaiah lived to see the work of his followers, he would have been happy indeed. But he didn't, though he lived on gloriously in the preaching of his equally committed followers.

The important thing is that Isaiah never was false to his commitment, frustrating though it was.

Jeremiah, far from volunteering his services as a prophet, accepted his vocation reluctantly. Only a late teenager when God called him, Jeremiah knew all too well what awaited him, and he was scared.

Isaiah at least had the comfort of a devoted wife. But God asked Jeremiah to face the world on his own. For 50 years Jeremiah endured mockery, slander, torture, and for 50 years he carried on.

Often it became too much for him, and he broke under the strain. "Woe to me, mother, that you gave me birth! ... I neither borrow nor lend, yet all curse me" (Jeremiah 15:10).

Jeremiah came close to giving up on serving as a channel for God's saving message. But then, he says, it became "like a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones." He explains, "I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it" (20:9b).

Jesus even experienced tension carrying out his vocation. The account of the temptation in the desert portrays a conflict he endured all his life. It came to a head in the garden when he begged his Father to take away this "cup."

But in the same breath Jesus committed himself anew (Mark 14:36).

And on the same occasion he voiced the sentiment of all who embrace a vocation: "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" (14:37).

Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.

People In The News

CNS photo from Vatican

Pope John Paul II greets American folk-rock artist Bob Dylan during a concert for an Italian eucharistic congress in Bologna Sept. 27. Dylan performed in front of the pope during the event.

Honduran Priest Warns Of Strong Voter Apathy Before Elections

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — With less than three months to the general elections, Hondurans are "tired and fed up" with their political leaders, whose "false promises" have led to apathy and disenchantment, said a Honduran church leader. "The fastest growing (political) party is the party of the abstentions," said Father Ovido Rodriguez, vicar general of Tegucigalpa. He spoke in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service. Hondurans were to vote Nov. 30 to elect a successor to President Carlos Roberto Reina, as well as members of congress and municipal authorities. In a system traditionally dominated by two parties, Liberal Party presidential candidate Carlos Flores Facuse leads the race ahead of the National Party candidate, Nora de Melgar, according to the latest polls. Candidates from three smaller parties trail behind the two front-runners. "People's apathy comes from the deceit" of the last three governments, said the vicar general.

Chretien Names Notre Dame Sister To Canadian Senate

OTTAWA (CNS) — Prime Minister Jean Chretien has appointed Notre Dame Sister Mary Alice "Peggy" Butts of Nova Scotia to the Senate. "She is a distinguished educator and social activist who has touched many lives for the better in her native Nova Scotia and across Canada," said an announcement issued by the prime minister's office Sept. 23. Her "outstanding record of community involvement" earned her the prestigious Weiler Award in 1996, as well as a Doctors of Laws Honoris Causa from St. Francis Xavier University in 1997, said the office of the prime minister. Sister Butts, 73, was born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. She retired from the University of Cape Breton in 1994 after 18 years of teaching courses in political theory and Canadian government.

Bethlehem Mayor Says He Won't Be Last Christian Mayor

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Though some political observers say Bethlehem Mayor Hana Nasser may well be the last Christian mayor of the city, he is not worried. Nasser said there is a move to pass a bylaw for the Palestinian National Authority to assure that the mayors of eight towns with a strong Christian presence will always be Christians. "Even if there is a Muslim majority in these towns, we know this is not democratic, but we Palestinians understand ... we have to keep this historical understanding," Nasser said. "I will be happy when this bylaw is fixed. ... It is a farsighted decision to keep the Christian character of these towns. It is important the Christian voices are heard."

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After Two Quakes, Assisi Mourns Dead, Loss Of Art Treasures

CNS photo from Reuters

Sunday Mass is held outside the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi Sept. 28, two days after two earthquakes caused extensive damage to the basilica. Four people were killed when parts of the centuries-old ceiling collapsed.

By JOHN THAVIS

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Assisi, the Italian town of St. Francis, frescoes and prayers, was transformed into a town of tears by two powerful earthquakes that struck hours apart.

Two Conventual Franciscan friars and two experts from Italy's Culture Ministry were killed when sections of the vaulted ceiling of the upper Basilica of St. Francis collapsed during the second tremor Sept. 26. The victims were buried in debris up to 10 feet deep.

Serious damage was also reported to other religious monuments in the central Italian hill town.

Pope John Paul II sent his condolences for those killed — including seven others in the regions of Umbria and Marche — and said he was deeply concerned about damage to the artistic patrimony in one of the most popular pilgrimage sites in the world.

The quakes destroyed two frescoes by the 13th-century masters Giotto and Cimabue, but left relatively intact Giotto's famous 28 frescoes depicting the life of St. Francis, which line the walls of the upper church. Workmen piled chunks of stone and masonry on the lawn outside, separating those that held colored fragments of the wall paintings. Most were tiny pieces, but one block bore the painted head of a cherub.

The tragedy in the basilica prompted a global lament.

"It's as if a giant hand grabbed Assisi and shook it, first up and down and then from side to side," said Antonio Paulucci, art historian, as he gazed up at a large crack in the basilica bell tower. One eyewitness said the tower had swayed several feet during the second tremor.

Two days after the quakes struck, the mood in the town was somber as church officials and religious orders assessed the damage and made tentative plans to carry out repairs. Sunday Masses were celebrated outside, in courtyards and squares next to the churches, all of which remained closed for safety reasons.

Father Giandomenico Nicola, top Franciscan official in Assisi, said one of the few areas relatively untouched by the tremors was the crypt of St. Francis in the lower basilica, where the saint's body rests. The friars had just finished celebrating morning Mass there when the second, stronger quake hit.

Father Nicola was upstairs at the time with a group of about 20 people, including friars, Culture Ministry experts and journalists, inspecting the minor damage caused by the first quake, when he felt the church shake violently and saw part of the painted inner ceiling crumble and explode to the ground some 60 feet below.

"Everything was jumping around and the dust was flying. There were piles of debris in front of me. The people standing near me were completely white; they looked like plaster statues," he said.

Father Nicola and most of the group managed to make their way out of the church without serious injury. The two friars killed near the main altar and pulled out shortly thereafter were 48-year- old Italian Father Angelo Api, a seminary instructor, and Borowiec Zdzislaw, a 25-year-old Pole who recently made his profession to the order and who had arrived in Assisi 10 days earlier. The bodies of the art experts, Bruno Brunacci and Claudio Bugiantella, were pulled out several hours later.

Father Nicola said the basilica had been closed to most visitors as a precaution following the first tremor, which struck at 2 a.m. He decided to open it to the group of experts after Italian civil protection officials said the risk of a second major quake was remote.

Several of the priests had to move out because their rooms were damaged, along with other historic sections of the monastery.

Father Pasquale Magro, who runs the monastic museum, said the significant frescoes irretrievably lost were Cimabue's ceiling portrait of St. Mark and an early Giotto depiction of St. Jerome. The other frescoes in the church probably have small cracks or other repairable damage, he said.

But experts also suspected structural damage to the walls of the complex, which has stood on the site for 700 years.

Throughout the medieval town, sadness, sympathy and faint hope were evident. Although police were discouraging tour groups from visiting, several hundred pilgrims wandered along the narrow stone streets, glancing up at the cracked walls, reading the death notices and stopping outside the locked churches. Many of the narrower streets were littered with fallen masonry and were blocked off.

On the steps of the Basilica of St. Clare, next to a cordoned-off porch strewn with chunks of stone, Tony Anning and his wife sat writing postcards. Their Anglican church in England has a stained-glass window featuring St. Francis.

"We understand their feelings after the earthquake, but we decided to come because we thought Assisi would not want to be neglected," Anning said.

The doors of the Claretian convent were locked and the nuns evacuated to a safer residence. On one side of the massive church, a technical expert pointed to new cracks that had appeared following aftershocks in the previous few hours. The night before, a loud crash was heard from inside the church, but no one had yet ventured in to check.

The streets were unusually quiet for a sunny September Sunday. A few seconds after one aftershock, which could be felt distinctly, a young woman hurried out of her house and began to cry on her mother's shoulder.

Bob Ryan and Wendy Gaines, a couple from the Boston area, had not known about the damage caused by the quake when they arrived in Assisi. They stood under an ancient gate of the city and, when they looked up and saw huge cracks in the portal, moved back several steps.

"I read about St. Francis and how he devoted his life to others, and the story of St. Clare. It just sounded like a special place," Ryan said. The two said they were disappointed that the churches were closed but said it was still a beautiful town.

Outside the cathedral of St. Rufino, several Franciscan nuns were chatting in the courtyard. Sister Pasqualina Manganiello said she was practically tossed out of bed by the first tremor; she said that in the morning they opened the doors of the 12th-century church and "saw a disaster," with serious damage to the rose window, the apse and the nave.

"Then at our school we had to help the children. They were afraid and crying. We tried to keep their mind off it by singing," she said.

Despite their losses, the nuns appeared in higher spirits than many of the townspeople. Sister Manganiello had a smile on her face.

"We have to try to keep it there, to inspire the others," Sister Manganiello said.

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Sacred Heart Mission Celebrates Golden Jubilee

WADESBORO — Sacred Heart Mission celebrated its 50th anniversary Sept. 28. Bishop William G. Curlin was the principal celebrant at the Golden Jubilee Mass. Father Gerald Lewis, vicar general of the Diocese of Raleigh, was the homilist and recounted the history of the Anson County church. Father Lewis visited the area many times over the years when it was a part of the Diocese of Raleigh. He developed a friendship with the Horne sisters (who helped establish the church), and said the mission has always had a strong faith community. "Your cornerstone is truly Christ Jesus, our Lord," Father Lewis said. "This is a day to proclaim that Sacred Heart parish is alive, that this community of faith will continue to grow and march forward to be a member of the body of Christ."

For more on the church's history, see this week's "Parish Profile" on page 16.

Pictured, clockwise: Bagpiper Jamie Fish leads the processional into the church; Bishop Curlin presides at the jubilee celebration; the bishop sprinkles holy water during the rededication and blessing of the church; Bishop Curlin enjoys a visit after Mass with 10-month-old parishioner Hannah Ryder and her mother, April.

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St. Aloysius Youth Volunteer Recognized By Governor Hunt

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — During World Youth Day, Pope John Paul II called youths to "mobilize their generosity" so "the most needy will be recognized in their dignity and find a means to a respectable existence." Mary Braun, a youth at St. Aloysius Catholic Church who was personally recognized at the annual Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony, has a head start on the pontiff's request through her work with the disabled.

Gov. James Hunt Jr. recognized individuals, organizations and companies for their exemplary service at the August award ceremony held at the Central United Methodist Church in Asheville. Other Catholics were cited indirectly by their awarded organizations and groups.

"Working together, we can accomplish anything," said Gov. Hunt at the ceremony, where the Hickory teen was honored for her volunteer work at Western Carolina Center, a state institution for the developmentally disabled.

Three years ago Mary, now 16, decided that she wanted to spend her summers as a volunteer. With the help of her mother, Sandra, a social worker in Burke County, Mary contacted a service group for teens called "Volunteen." Through Volunteen, she was assigned to Western Carolina Center.

After three summers of service, she is now a veteran volunteer at the center and has established bonds of love with the people. It was not always easy work and she recalled having to adjust to the environment. She worked mostly in one home with a handful of residents, all of them older than 20 years of age. Mary's duties included basic hygiene efforts such as bathing and dressing the patients, and she also chaperoned during field trips.

Since she has been working at the center, Mary has tried to demystify the stereotypes of those traditionally classified as "mentally retarded" or MR. "I have made personal friendships and have grown very attached to the people," she said.

"When I would come into the room, their eyes light up," she added. "They make you feel good because they really love you, with absolutely no pretenses."

When working with children, Mary would read, talk, play, and even teach them. "It is important to make the time, quality time," she said. The teen has also learned much from the way the developmentally disabled live their lives. "They are happy with who they are," a quality she deeply admires.

Mary plans to be a physical therapist one day and feels she certainly has gained valuable experience at the center. In addition to her summer work, she also volunteers at Grace Hospital in Burke County. Her advice to other youth who wish to help the disabled: "Love those in your care. In time you will get used to their differences and develop friendships that you will value forever."

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is daily from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Lawrence For information call the parish, (704) 252-6042.

BELMONT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Belmont Abbey Chapel, located behind the abbey church and monastery. For information, call (704) 399-2701.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at:

St. Gabriel Church. Contact Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for more information.

St. Matthew Church each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass and lasting until the 9 a.m. Saturday Mass. Call (704) 366-9687, or (704) 846-2958, for details.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for details.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call (910) 454-4551.

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Diocesan News Briefs

CRISM Tour

ASHEVILLE — A bus trip for senior Catholics to the Basilica of St. Lawrence for Mass, a meal and tour departs from the Catholic Center in Charlotte and St. Phillip the Apostle Church in Statesville Oct. 23. The cost is $39, and the registration deadline is Oct. 8. Call Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720, for information and registration.

Silver and Golden Celebration

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin presides at the annual silver and golden anniversary celebration Oct. 12 at St. John Neumann Church at 3 p.m. Couples celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage in 1997 register by calling their parish office.

CCHS News

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School senior Denise Hill, daughter of Richard and Debi Hill, was recently named a semifinalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

CCHS Parent Night is Oct. 7 from 7-9 p.m. A senior parent meeting is Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.

A respect life assembly in honor of Respect Life Month with guest speaker Father Richard Hogan is Oct. 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the gymnasium.

The CCHS PTA hosts a freshman class Mass and covered dish supper Oct. 19 at 5 p.m. in the gymnasium.

Biblical Series

CHARLOTTE — A Biblical series on the New Testament Letters of Paul, John, James and Peter is presented each Sunday of October from 8:45-9:45 a.m. in the council room at St. John Neumann Church. There is no charge, and babysitting is available. Call (704) 535-4197 for more information.

Catechetical Conference

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The Charlotte Diocese co-sponsors the province-wide "Visioning Discipleship" catechetical leadership conference Oct. 17-18 at the White Oak Baptist Conference Center. The schedule includes Mass with Bishop Kenneth Untener of Saginaw, Mich; keynote speeches; a concert; and group processing sessions. Father James Hawker and Joanne Frazer of the Charlotte Diocese will attend as facilitators. The cost is $45, which includes meals. Single rooms are available for $46 per person, doubles for $40 per person. For meals or the concert only, the cost is $15 each. To register, contact the Diocese of Charleston, Dept. of Christian Formation — Attn: Conference, 1662 Ingram Rd., Charleston, S.C. 29407.

Carmelite Retreat

DURHAM — The Secular (Third) Order Discalced Carmelites silent retreat led by Discalced Carmelite Father Regis Gordon is Oct. 31-Nov. 2/3 at the Avila Retreat Center. The retreat focuses on St. Therese of Lisieux. Cost is $105 for three days, or $150 for four days. To register, send a $15 check payable to OCDS to Kathy Smith, 3619 Courtland Dr., Durham, N.C. 27707, or call (910) 493-2712 for information.

Spaghetti Supper

HAYESVILLE — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Women's Club spaghetti supper is Oct. 10 in the church commons from 5-7 p.m. Cost is $4.50 for adults, and children eat for free. Eat in or take out. A raffle is also featured, with tickets selling for $1 each of $5 for six. Winner need not be present. Call Barbara Gaitan, (704) 389-6902, for information.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter is Nov. 7-9 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details call Michael or Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom or Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

Living Waters Reflection Center

MAGGIE VALLEY — "I Lift Up My Eyes" is an Oct. 13-19 nature retreat based on Psalm 121 focusing on the splendor of God as seen through the fall colors of the mountains. Cost is $250.

"In Search of the Male Soul" is a Nov. 7-9 retreat directed by Msgr. John J. McSweeney showing men how to incorporate a six-step process for spiritual growth into prayer, service and the demands of daily life. Cost is $90, $160 for couples.

For registration or information, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, (704) 926-3833.

New Mass Schedule

NEWTON — The Mass schedule at St. Joseph Church follows: Saturday — 5:30 p.m.; Sunday — 8, 10 a.m,; Daily — Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12:10 p.m.; Spanish Mass — Sunday at 12:45 p.m.; Confessions — Saturday from 4-5 p.m. or by appointment. The parish office may be contacted at (704) 464-9207.

Contemplative Prayer Group

CHARLOTTE — A contemplative prayer group open to all people regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation or HIV/AIDS status meets every second and fourth Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. at St. Peter Church. Gather at the rear entrance to the sanctuary. For details, call David Brown, (704) 535-3684.

50+ Club Meeting/Fashion Show

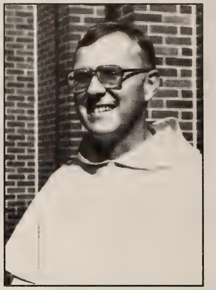
CHARLOTTE — Members of the 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Parish will model fashions at the meeting Oct. 8 at 11 a.m. at the church. Call Joann Halgas, (704) 535-3745 for information.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — Charismatic Mass is celebrated the second Sunday each month at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. Healing service is at 3 p.m. Potluck supper follows Mass.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A healing Mass for people with for HIV/AIDS and terminal illnesses is the second Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information or transportation call (704) 252-3151.



Franciscan Center Day Of Prayer

GREENSBORO — Dominican Father Martin Iott, full-time retreat and parish mission preacher, leads a day of prayer using music, icons and Scripture to illustrate how God uses these gifts to reveal divine favor Oct. 11 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. The cost is $20, which includes lunch, and registration is required. For more information, call (704) 273-2554.

The Catholic News & Herald *welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.*

Around The Diocese

Parish Fairs & Bazaars

CHARLOTTE — The St. Vincent de Paul Church annual Craft and Quilt Fair is Oct. 4 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Proceeds benefit the church building fund.

The Third Annual St. Gabriel PTO Holiday Craft Fair is Oct. 11 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. featuring a variety of handcrafted items. Proceeds support the children of St. Gabriel School and the parish community.

The St. John Neumann Church annual craft bazaar is Oct. 25 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendors are invited to join for $25 per eight-foot table plus one donated item per table for a door prize. Call Colleen Neider, (704) 573-1994, for details.

CLEMMONS — Ye Olde Village Shoppes Craft Bazaar is Oct. 18 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Holy Family Church featuring holiday decorating ideas, youth ministry cafe, baked goods, religious items, children's toys and furniture, country crafts, raffles, silent auction, and Chinese auction gallery. For more information, call the church office, (910) 766-8133.

GASTONIA — The St. Michael Church yard sale is Oct. 4 from 7 a.m.-12 p.m.

The St. Michael Fun Fair is Oct. 11 from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. and features a road race, rides, games, food, raffle and spaghetti dinner. Both events are at the church, and proceeds benefit St. Michael School. Call Laurin, (704) 867-1947, or Alice, (704) 824-4088, for more information.

Musical Events

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte chapters of the American Harp Society and the American Guild of Organists join with a Celtic band and instrumentalists playing harp, flute, hammered dulcimer, handbells, violin and more Oct. 12 at St. Gabriel Church at 3 p.m. Admission is free, and an offering will be taken. For more information, call (704) 342-0891.

The Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte presents Jam for Jesus, an ecumenical, musical family picnic event featuring seven local Christian musical groups, Oct. 18 from 1-6 p.m. at Marshall Park. Among the performers are groups representing Our Lady of Consolation and St. Matthew Catholic churches. For more information, call Bruce Brodowski, (704) 845-4638.

Catholic musicians John Michael Talbot, Tony Melendez and Tom Booth perform in concert Oct. 21 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are $15 each and are available at the St. Thomas Aquinas parish office, Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe or by calling (800) 521-0290.

Secular Franciscans

ASHEVILLE — The Order of Secular Franciscans meets to share in commitment to the apostolic life of the Gospel the second Saturday of each month at the Basilica of St. Lawrence's St. Justin Center. For information, call Helen Turek, (704) 684-1533.

HICKORY — The Fraternity of Brother Francis meets the second Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m. Inquirers are welcome. Call Bill Brockhoff, (704) 464-5113, or Herman Thoni, (704) 294-0347, to confirm the date and location of the next meeting.

Parish Missions

CHARLOTTE — The "Jesus Speaks" mission is at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Oct. 12-15 at 7 p.m. each evening, led by Father Frederick A. Pompei of the Syracuse (N.Y.) Diocese, who will focus on Christ as the "someone of our life" who is there with us through difficulties and joys. Call Mary Kay Crotty, (704) 536-5452, for more information.

GREENSBORO — A team of professional Catholic evangelists presents the Isaiah Parish Mission at St. Paul the Apostle Church from Oct. 20-Oct. 23. Anyone seeking a deeper meaning in their lives to discover or rediscover a personal, living faith is invited. Call Pat Ladew, (910) 282-2963, or Dee Parkes, (910) 643-1700, for details.

World And National News Briefs

Doctrine Committee Answers Theologians On Women's Ordination

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a report sent to all U.S. bishops, their national doctrinal staff has critiqued a recent study by a group of theologians questioning the authoritative character of church teaching on the ordination of women. "In the end," the report says, "the issue (of the church's reservation of priestly ordination to men) turns not on a decision of the church, but on her obedience to Christ and the apostles." It says the theologians' study failed to distinguish sufficiently between ecclesial ministries, subject to church decisions, and "sacramental ordination," which "belongs to God's plan for the sevenfold sacramental economy." The document is a response to the report released earlier this year by a six-member task force of the Catholic Theological Society of America, which argued that there are "serious doubts regarding the nature of the authority of this teaching (against the ordination of women) and its grounds in tradition."

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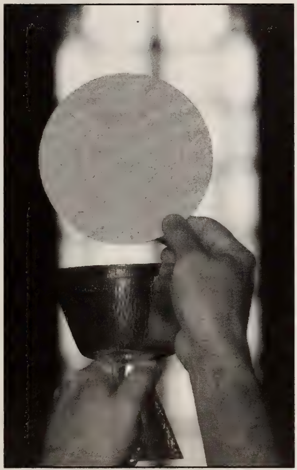
Eucharist Center Of Catholic Life, Bishop Says



CNS photo by Bill Wittman

The liturgy centered on the Eucharist has the ability to transform parishes and cultures, Bishop Donald W. Trautman told a gathering of parish ministers at a conference in Memphis, Tenn. "We cannot make it in this world without divine help," he said.

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie challenged about 300 parish ministers Sept. 20 to allow a "living liturgy" centered on the Eucharist to transform parishes and cultures. Like the early church, we must experience a "living liturgy" that moves beyond church doors to meet the needs of the poor, marginalized, outcasts and sinners, the bishop said in an address to the eighth annual ministries conference sponsored by the Diocese of Memphis, Tenn. The text of his talk, titled "The Centrality of Eucharist: From Christian Initiation to Eternal Life," was released to the Lake Shore Visitor, Erie diocesan newspaper. Bishop Trautman said parish communities learn the secret of this living liturgy when they recognize Christ present in the gathered assembly, the priest, the Scriptures proclaimed and preached and, especially, in the eucharistic elements of Christ's body and blood.

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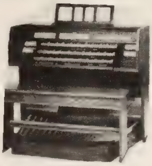

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Celebration Marks Blessing Of L.A. Cathedral Site

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — The last time thousands of Catholics gathered in Los Angeles for a church event, they were welcoming a pope at a baseball stadium. Ten years later, almost to the day and just a mile or so away, more than 15,000 faithful assembled on a bright, warm September afternoon for another historic occasion: to witness the blessing of the ground where the new cathedral church of the Los Angeles Archdiocese will be built. Shortly after 5 p.m. Sept. 21, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony blessed the five-acre site and turned the first shovelful of earth, an action that officially commenced construction of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

Polish Bishops' Official Hails Solidarity-Led Election Victory

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The secretary-general of Poland's bishops conference has welcomed the Solidarity-led opposition election win as a "return to normality." He added that the recent victory had been helped by Pope John Paul II's May-June Polish pilgrimage, as well as by aggressive tactics used by the country's ruling party. "Of course, it is hard to say what kind of establishment will emerge here in future, and how long this winning formation will last," said Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, secretary-general of the Polish bishops' conference.

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Parish Profile

Sacred Heart Mission

WADESBORO — Sacred Heart Church celebrated its 50th jubilee the weekend of Sept. 27-28, a half-century after a handful of Anson County Catholics — a devout mother of four and her devoted daughters among them — laid the foundation for a tightly knit community of faith.

The Horne sisters — Mary Virginia, Ann, Elizabeth and Sarah — were the daughters of James Dudley and Sarah Augusta Horne. James, a Baptist, was a businessman who owned a cotton farm his daughters operated following his death in 1950. Sarah was a Catholic credited with sowing seeds of the faith during the late 19th century in Anson County.

While the Horne's influence is still felt today in the Catholic community, it was General Atlas J. Dargan, a prominent lawyer who later represented Anson County in both houses of the legislature, who was perhaps the first Catholic in the south-central Carolina county. He died in 1883.

For decades, Catholics traveled to Hamlet or Albemarle for Mass. They also gathered in Wadesboro for sporadically celebrated liturgies. But during the World War II years, thousands of soldiers — Catholics included — came to the Anson County region for training. Mass was celebrated in a local theater, and the Horne sisters saw the increased Catholic population as an opportunity to have a church built in their home county.

Bishop Vincent S. Waters agreed on the need for a new church, and in 1946 construction began. The bishop dedicated the church, named in honor of the Sacred Heart, in September 1947.

Meanwhile, plans for a church in Monroe to the west were also being finalized, and the new Our Lady of Lourdes Church was dedicated by Bishop Waters in 1948.

The Fathers of Mercy had been ministering to Monroe and Wadesboro Catholics for several years at the time of the dedications. Benedictine monks had also served the Wadesboro faithful. Father Thomas Walsh, a diocesan priest, was the first resident pastor of Sacred Heart.

In the mid-'50s, Elizabeth and Mary Virginia Horne built a parish hall in memory of their parents. The building became a center for ministerial and social events, and the Hornes themselves are said to have taught CCD classes there.

Although the Horne sisters and a small group of parishioners formed a Catholic stronghold in Anson County that exists to this day, the Catholic population tapered in the following years. The parish hall was virtually abandoned for two decades.

The last surviving Horne sister, Sarah Divine Horne Sutherland, died in December 1994. Like those of her sisters, Sarah's estate continues to benefit the church in North Carolina.

With that same devoted spirit of the Hornes and the charter parishioners of Sacred Heart Church, extensive preparations were made for the 50th anniversary of the church's dedication, including remodeling and beautifying projects throughout the church grounds.

The area's Catholic population is again on the rise, and Madonna Hall, the parish center built by the Hornes, has been refurbished and is now utilized for parish functions. It also serves as the home to Divine Providence Sisters Therésine Gildea, pastoral minister of Sacred Heart Church, and Maxine Tancraitor, director of religious education at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Parishioners, some of whom are founding and long-time members of Sacred Heart, joined Bishop William G. Curlin for a jubilee Mass Sept. 28, and other festivities included an open-house tour, homecoming events, a tree-planting ceremony honoring the memory of the Horne sisters and several community meals. Former and current pastors and parishioners gathered for a weekend of commemorating the past, celebrating the present and praying for the future.

The congregation of 40 families worshiping at Sacred Heart Church are ministered to by Spiritan Fathers Edward Vilkauskas, pastor, and Vincent Donovan, parochial vicar.

Sacred Heart Mission

205 Rutherford St.
Mail: P.O. Box 1123
Wadesboro, NC 28170-1123
(704) 694-5183

Vicariate:
Albemarle

Pastor:
Spiritan Father Edward J. Vilkauskas

Masses:
9 a.m. Sunday

Number of households: **40**

Parochial Vicar:
Spiritan Father Vincent Donovan

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 7 Number 6 • October 10, 1997

In Brazil, Pope Urges Families To Defend Marriage, Life

The pope spent much of his stay in Rio de Janeiro rallying Catholics to strengthen their marriage bonds and to defend their families as precious and irreplaceable gifts.

By CINDY WOODEN

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (CNS) — During a four-day trip to Brazil, Pope John Paul II said the family is a gift that must be defended, and attacks on the values that hold it together must be repelled.

Waving the banner of Catholic teaching on the permanence of marriage and the evil of abortion, the pope spent much of his Oct. 2-5 stay in Rio de Janeiro, rallying Catholic families to defend and strengthen their bonds.

"In the design of God, matrimony — indissoluble matrimony — is the foundation of a healthy and responsible family," he said Oct. 5 during a seaside Mass closing the Second World Meeting of Families.

God wants all people to be happy, the pope told the crowd, which police said numbered between 1.5 million and 2 million people. But God also wants people "to always join fidelity to happiness, because one cannot exist without the other."

Pope John Paul told the couples gathered from around the world that they have a great task before them.

"Be bearers of peace and joy at the heart of the family," he said.

At an evening rally Oct. 4 with families in the Maracana Stadium, the pope told the crowd that "a false message of impossible and inconsistent happiness is being spread in the world today, and it carries with it only desolation and bitterness."

"Happiness is not found by following the way of freedom without truth, because this is the way of irresponsible egoism, which divides and separates families and society," he said.

After listening to the testimonies of families who explained how hardships and tensions were overcome by discovering or putting into practice church teaching, the pope told the crowd, "Defend your families as a precious and irreplaceable gift."

He encouraged them to be faithful to their spouses and to welcome new children as signs of their love for each other and as signs of their hope for the future of humanity.

"Societies that are not interested in children are inhuman and irresponsible," he said.

"Welcome your children with responsible love," the pope said. "Defend them as a gift of God from the moment they are conceived and from the time human life is born from its mother's womb."

The pope prayed "that the abominable crime of abortion, the shame of humanity, will no longer condemn the unborn to the injustice of execution."

"The seed of the new humanity sleeps in the mother's womb. In children's faces there shines the future, the coming millennium, the future which is in God's hands," he said.

Meeting Oct. 3 with participants in an international theological congress, the pope said modern forces of evil are attacking God and human dignity by attacking the family.

"Today it seems that the enemies of God, more than conducting a frontal attack on the author of creation, strike him through his works," he told the more than 2,600 representatives from 77 countries.

The human person is the height of God's creation, he said, and it is through the family that human life is created, welcomed, loved and educated. But the family is one of the main targets of attacks on human dignity.

Pope John Paul listed the main strategies of attack on the family as being situations in which:

— "The equal dignity of the spouses and their necessary diversity and sexual complementarity are not recognized nor respected.

— "Conjugal fidelity and respect for life in all phases of its existence are subverted by a culture which does not admit the transcendence of the human person created in the image and likeness of God."

The pope and Vatican officials repeatedly have affirmed Catholic teaching that marriage must be based on the permanent union of a man and a woman who are open to having children. They have denounced attempts to grant legal recognition to the unions of homosexual couples.

"When the destructive forces of evil manage to separate matrimony from its mission relative to human life, they attack humanity itself, depriving it of the essential guarantees of its future," the pope said.

The pope encouraged the participants to increase their efforts of education, outreach and support for family life, especially in situations where couples are having difficulty.

He also asked them to increase their political involvement and dialogue with government authorities whose decisions

See **Brazil,** page 2

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Laura Stuppnig, a resident of Little Flower Assisted Living Community in Charlotte, and Charlotte Catholic High School senior Elizabeth Hanson enjoy a conversation following the feast day Mass for St. Therese of the Child Jesus on Oct. 1. A group of CCHS seniors attended the Mass and spent time with their friends at the center, named in honor of St. Therese of Lisieux, the 19th-century French Carmelite nun known as the Little Flower for her simple and beautiful faith.

CHD Director Visits Diocese With Message Of Empowerment

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — "' ... Hope — it's yours to give.'" With those words, Father Robert J. Vitillo summed up both the theme of the upcoming 1997 national collection for the Campaign for Human Development (CHD) Nov. 23 and the driving force behind an ongoing effort to empower the powerless.

Father Vitillo, executive director of CHD, capped his Oct. 1-2 visit to the diocese at St. Patrick School in Charlotte with a discussion about the U.S. Catholic bishops' domestic anti-poverty campaign.

The priest of the Patterson (N.J.) Diocese spent two days in North Carolina touring CHD-funded projects in Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Charlotte, and meeting with clergy and lay persons who compose the lifeblood of the campaign in this diocese.

His Charlotte audience listened to a message of historical pertinence and how the strife of the past affects the needy of today.

"The Campaign for Human Development was started in 1969 by the Catholic bishops of the United States," said Father Vitillo, explaining that a key element in the American landscape during the late '60s — characterized by race riots, social discontent and debates over the American presence in the Vietnam War — was the worsening plight of the poor.

The Catholic bishops, he said, realized the need to reach out to the nation's most needy in ways that transcended mere handouts. "They came face to face with the fact that charity was not enough — that our actions would also have to lead to justice and that those structures that created the gaps between the rich and the poor would be changed," he added.

Thus began the campaign, pointed at addressing the "root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community-controlled self-help organizations and through transformative education," Father Vitillo said. Those suffering from poverty themselves compose at least 50 percent of the governing body of each organization, he added, and projects are intended to be operated at parish and community levels.

Some programs also focus on helping those who at times become society's disenfranchised: the elderly, the sick, small business owners, those without political or social influence.

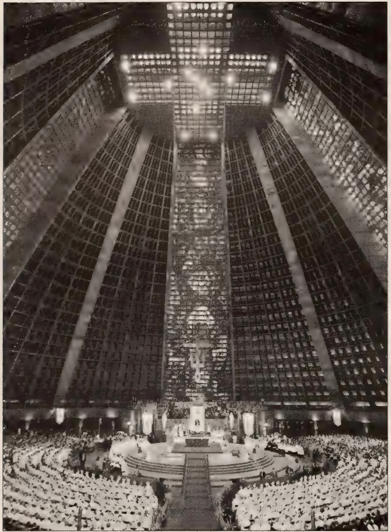
"This is a meeting of friends," said Dr. Barney Offerman, CHD's diocesan director, of the gathering in Charlotte honoring the work of a campaign that celebrates change through personal and social responsibility.

Offerman commended Father Vitillo for his commitment to justice issues since being named CHD's executive director in January and during his decade of work with Caritas Internationalis, a worldwide confederation of Catholic social action and development organizations. The priest was involved in United Nations meetings and joint lobbying efforts at the time.

Father Vitillo also directed the Secretariat for Social Ministries in the Patterson Diocese and served as a liaison with a variety of social service and

See **Vitillo,** page 2

International Congress, Family Gatherings Focal Points Of Pope's Visit



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II celebrates Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Rio de Janeiro Oct. 4. In Brazil, the pope reaffirmed the Catholic Church's opposition to divorce, saying a stable marriage was the foundation of social order.

Brazil, from page 1

have a great influence on the family and its mission to welcome and protect human life.

Celebrating Mass for them the next day in Rio's cathedral, the pope said that while marriage and parenthood belong to the natural order, they also have a spiritual significance, because God created human beings — male and female — in his image and likeness. When couples have children, they participate in the creation of others like themselves, also made in God's image.

"God wants you to be beautiful, to live the fullness of human dignity and the holiness of Christ and to be at the service of love and life," the pope told them.

"You have your beginning in the Creator, and you have been sanctified by the Spirit-Paraclete in order to become the hope of all nations," he said.

While the international congress and family gathering were the focal points of Pope John Paul's visit, he also met upon his arrival and privately with Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

During his Oct. 2 arrival address, the pope spoke of some of the challenges facing Brazil, calling particular attention to the plight of Brazilian street kids and to the huge gap between the country's rich and poor.

"The social imbalances, the unequal and unjust distribution of economic resources that generate conflicts in the city and the countryside, the need for a vast diffusion of basic health and cultural structures, the problem of children abandoned in the large cities, to not cite other things, are a challenge of enormous proportions for the government," he said.

The pope said he hoped the cultural and religious values of the country would serve as "the basis for promoting just decisions in defense of family values and of the country."

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Our U.S. bishops summarized in ten key principles our Catholic tradition of applying faith and moral teachings to economic life.

Principle #3:

We know when an automobile or a tractor or even our bodies are working right. And we know when they are not. What about the economy? How do we determine whether it is working correctly? Is it morally adequate to ask: "Am I getting enough for myself and my family?" "Have I gotten the most I can out of the system?" Or do we recognize that the goods of the earth are meant for all, that God has made us stewards of the earth and not its possessors, that some of us are stronger than others and can all too easily and readily take advantage of our power to get what we can no matter what price others may pay? If we really are brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus, don't we have to ask how everyone is faring, especially those at the bottom?

Principle #3: A fundamental moral measure of any economy is how the poor and vulnerable are faring.

Vitillo Brings CHD Message To Charlotte,

from page 1

advocacy agencies. He was program director for Catholic Charities USA's HIV/AIDS outreach program as well.

During the past several years, Father Vitillo said, self-sufficiency and economic development projects have benefited from the $13 million taken in by CHD's national office each year in recent collections. More than 200 community organizations have received $7.1 million in funding this year.

The Diocese of Charlotte has contributed more than $1 million since the annual collection was instituted. Of those funds, 25 percent has stayed in the diocese.

Father Vitillo detailed some of the arteries into which moneys collected each year in every U.S. diocese flow. In many cities, funded groups are researching ways to influence banks to reinvest money taken in from citizens of poor neighborhoods often designated as "redlined" areas deemed undeserving of mortgages and home improvement loans by those same banks. In one New Mexico town, employees of a tortilla factory produce a local food staple, earning money for themselves and learning firsthand about economic development.

And in the Diocese of Charlotte, employment, youth, education, safety, and housing projects stem from CHD-funded groups like the Charlotte Employment Project and Helping Empower Local People (HELP).

"It is one of the few public organizations that has been able to bridge across racial and denominational grounds to bring a voice to those who in many instances have been voiceless ... " said the Rev. Casey Kimbrough, pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte and local HELP board member, of the nationally funded program. His remarks at St. Patrick School, like Father Vitillo's, focused on how the CHD educates and empowers people to make a difference in their lives and communities.

Earlier in his visit to the diocese, Father Vitillo encountered such funded groups in Greensboro and Winston-Salem that enable the needy to help themselves. After meeting with representatives from Greensboro Urban Ministry and its Project Independence, Father Vitillo traveled to St. Paul the Apostle Church, where he addressed clergy, parishioners, parish coordinators and members of funded groups. He later met with members of Prodigals Community, Inc., a funded group in Winston-Salem.

In Charlotte, Father Vitillo also described new initiatives of the CHD. Such efforts include welfare reform initiatives that introduce state and federal plans effecting real change, educational initiatives benefitting contributors and recipients, and youth initiatives inviting young people to realize how important they can be to the leadership of community improvement.

Msgr. Joseph Kerin, pastor of St. Mark Church in Huntersville and another speaker at the Charlotte presentation, knows of the benefits of CHD involvement in parish and community life. Handed the pastoral assignment of beginning St. Matthew Parish in Charlotte during the mid-1980s, Msgr. Kerin looked to CHD officials to help get his parish involved in community enhancing efforts.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Father Robert J. Vitillo, executive director of the Campaign for Human Development, addresses a Charlotte audience Oct. 1.

Through the campaign's influence, the parish participated in a community improvement project that led to a broader base of outreach to the poor, disenfranchised and needy of south Charlotte. Such involvement, Msgr. Kerin said, can take a parish far beyond contributing to the national collection; it can help shape the community's consciousness.

"Speaking from the point of view of the parish," Msgr. Kerin said, "we are not giving, we are *receiving*."

Father Vitillo reminded his audience to keep a balanced perspective on how to bring about positive transformations. "Part of our work has to involve real anger at the way the injustices exist in our society," he said. "But we have to blend the challenging and exposing of those injustices with some gentleness and humility, and try to help people find their vulnerability, their common values and their common interests in changing the structures of oppression."

The annual collection for the Campaign for Human Development is Nov. 23. For information on CHD and its programs, call Barney Offerman, diocesan director, (704) 331-1738.

Scripture

Readings for the week of October 12-18

Sunday	**Wisdom 7:7-11** **Hebrews 4:12-13** **Mark 10:17-30**
Monday	**Romans 1:1-7** **Luke 11:29-32**
Tuesday	**Roman 1:16-25** **Luke 11:37-41**
Wednesday	**Romans 2:1-11** **Luke 11:42-46**
Thursday	**Romans 3:21-29** **Luke 11:47-54**
Friday	**Romans 4:1-8** **Luke 12:1-7**
Saturday	**2 Timothy 4:9-17** **Luke 10:1-9**

Monsignor William Wellein, Retired Diocesan Priest And Little Flower Chaplain, Dies At 71

Msgr. William Wellein

CHARLOTTE — Monsignor William Wellein, who served the Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh during his 44 years of priesthood, died Oct. 2 at The Little Flower Assisted Living Center, where he served as resident chaplain. He was 71.

Born Sept. 28, 1926, in Baltimore, Md., Msgr. Wellein was the son of the late Mary and Louis Wellein. He attended preparatory and junior colleges at St. Mary's College, North East, Pa. He completed his bachelor's degree in philosophy and a post-graduate Licentiate degree in theology from St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore.

Msgr. Wellein was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Raleigh by Bishop Vincent S. Waters on May 22, 1952. He served that diocese until the formation of the Diocese of Charlotte in 1972. He became a monsignor in 1982.

His last assignment was as pastor of St. Mary Church, Shelby, and Christ the King Mission in Kings Mountain from 1984 until his retirement in July 1996. Other pastoral assignments were at St. John the Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro and missions in Boone and Blowing Rock; Infant of Prague Church in Jacksonville; St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville; St. Catherine Church in Wake Forest and its mission in Butner; Sacred Heart Church in Pinehurst; St. Aloysius Church in Hickory; St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem; and St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

From 1960-65, then-Father Wellein served as director of St. John Vianney Hall Pre-Seminary in Asheville, and then was assigned to Holy Spirit Elementary/Junior High School and parish in Jacksonville.

In 1962, he attended a week-long meeting prior to the Second Vatican Council to discuss male religious vocations as a delegate of Bishop Waters.

For six summers, Msgr. Wellein was devoted to missionary work in the form of motor chapels. Accompanied by assistant priests, he traveled throughout North Carolina to towns that had few Catholics or no Catholic churches and explained the faith. He preached missions, 40-hour devotions and retreats.

For two years after the Korean War and five years during Vietnam, he ministered to thousands of military personnel and their families at Camp Lejeune as auxiliary chaplain. One grateful Marine introduced Msgr. Wellein to aviation which he enjoyed for 30 years, piloting single and multi-engine aircraft.

Msgr. Wellein had been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1953, serving one term on the state council as Right-to-Life chairman. He was on the inter-faith state chapter of Right-to-Life, served on its board of directors from 1974-84, and oversaw several state conventions. When groups began forming in Crisis Pregnancy Centers in Charlotte and Shelby, he assisted their efforts.

Msgr. Wellein was responsible for overseeing the annual Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) from 1978-81.

A 10-year member and two-time chairman of the Presbyteral Council (Priests' Senate), he was also an experienced broadcaster and writer who served as associate editor of *The North Carolina Catholic* newspaper in the 1970s.

Msgr. Wellein is survived by a brother, Clement Wellein, and two sisters, Delores Foard and Theresa Hammer.

Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated a Mass of Christian burial Oct. 7 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. Interment followed in Belmont Abbey Cemetery. Harry and Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be made to the Little Flower Assisted Living Center; Right-to-Life; Holy Angels; St. Mary's Church, Shelby, and Christ the King Mission, Kings Mountain.

Rally Urges Men To Turn Away From Sexual, Sectarian, Racial Sins

By MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There was no tent big enough to contain the nation's largest-ever tent revival. Hundreds of thousands of men sought repentance and reconciliation at the Oct. 4 Promise Keepers rally in Washington, confessing their sins on the Mall and exulting in their salvation through Jesus Christ.

The rally, titled "Stand in the Gap: A Sacred Assembly of Men," addressed the issues of sexual immorality, racism and sectarianism through stirring preaching and pulse-pounding music. Leading Christian evangelists admitted their own sins, asked God's help to do better, and beseeched men at the rally to do the same.

Neither Promise Keepers nor Washington-area police agencies gave crowd estimates. But Catholic University of America sociologist John McCarthy and University of Illinois sociologist Clark McPhail pegged the crowd's size at 480,000 using charts, aerial photographs and 20 years of experience in estimating crowds.

"I know it is thrilling" to be told there were 25,000 men still on Washington's side streets because the Mall was full, but "please do not cheer. Please do not cheer. Please do not cheer," the Rev. Jack Hayford, rally emcee, told the crowd, urging them to make space for the new arrivals.

Rev. Hayford, senior pastor of the First Foursquare Church of Van Nuys, Calif., also asked prayers for elected officials and public servants in the crowd, as well as those not present. They "so often receive our criticism instead of our intercessions," he said.

The rally's only Catholic speaker, Michael Timmis, a layman from the Detroit suburbs, said "we have divided ourselves" with sectarianism and racism. "We must rid ourselves of the disunity that is in our spirits. To be in a place of disunity is to be in sin before God.

"Each of us have been guilty of the sin of division," Timmis added, asking the men to bow their heads and examine their own consciences.

The Rev. A.R. Bernard Sr., senior pastor of the New York Christian Life Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., recalled the life of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in focusing on racism.

"Many white churchmen" who were thought to be allies "traded caution for courage" and "stood by speaking hypocritical irrelevancies" when Rev. King was jailed in Birmingham, Ala., Rev. Bernard said. "They focused on heaven while discounting any relevance to what goes on on earth."

This pattern, he added, was also perpetrated against American Indians, Spanish-Americans and Asian-Americans. "Here we are, a generation later, and we still have to repent," Rev. Bernard said.

John Dawson, international director of urban missions for Youth With a Mission, said that "as an Anglo, I am really embarrassed and ashamed, because it's true." Dawson and speakers from other ethnic groups confessed their own sins before clasping hands together in a sign of unity.

Sexual sin, cited by past Promise Keepers rally participants as the sin they have to struggle against the most by far, took up a large part of the Mall gathering.

The Rev. Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., said, "We commit spiritual adultery with Jesus when we do not love him with passion and we do not love him with fire.... The future of our country will not be determined at the ballot box, but the future of our country will be determined in the prayer closet!"

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

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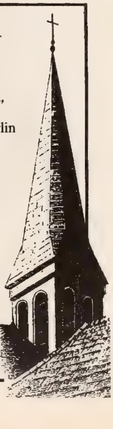

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Some say this is my body, so I can control it even if it means the baby must die!" Jesus says, "This is my body, given up for you, that you may live!" Which way do we live those words?

—Priests for Life, Sept.-Oct. 1997

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 12 — 2 p.m.
Life Chain
Charlotte

3 p.m.
25th & 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

6 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Vincent dePaul Class at St. Ann Church, Charlotte

7:30 p.m.
MACS Education Foundation "Circle of Celebration '97"
Carmel Country Club, Charlotte

October 15 — 2:30 p.m.
Mass, CRISM Day of Reflection
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Knights of Malta Meeting
Charlotte

October 16 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Jefferson

October 18 — 10 a.m.
Mass for Healthcare Workers
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

1 p.m.
"Jam for Jesus"
Marshall Park, Charlotte

October 20-23
Diocese of Knoxville Priests' Retreat
Maggie Valley

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Mary's Mediation Is Gift Of God To Humanity, Says Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Oct. 1.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our reflection on the role of Mary in her son's saving work, we see how fitting it is to describe her as "Mediatrix." St. Paul proclaims Christ as the only mediator (cf. 1 Tim 2:5-6), and excludes any type of "parallel mediation," but he does not rule out "subordinate mediation." In fact, everyone is called to cooperate with Christ in the work of salvation. Mary's maternal mediation derives from Christ's. It is not an obstacle to Christ's unique and perfect mediation, but highlights its fruitfulness and efficacy. Rather than being an obstacle to the believer's immediate union with Christ, Mary's salutary influence facilitates it. As the council teaches: "The church does not hesitate to profess this subordinate role of Mary, which it constantly experiences and recommends to the heartfelt attention of the faithful, so that encouraged by this maternal help they may the more closely adhere to the Mediator and Redeemer" ("Lumen Gentium," 62). Mary's mediation is a magnificent gift of the Father to all humanity.

I am please to greet the new students of the Pontifical Beda College: I invoke upon you God's gifts of wisdom and discernment. To the students of the Pontifical North American College present with their families and friends on the eve of their ordination to the diaconate, I also extend prayerful greetings: May God's grace sustain you in charity and humility in your service of his people. Upon those participating in the Fifth European Radiocommunications Office council meeting, and upon all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Indonesia, Japan, Canada and the United States, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Preach Christ To Address Latin American Concerns, Says Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church must respond to the social and political challenges of life in Latin America, but the responses must always start from a clear preaching of Jesus Christ, Pope John Paul II said. In a written message to the ordinary assembly of the Latin American bishops' council, CELAM, the pope encouraged the bishops to review their structure, their work and their projects because now is "a decisive hour for the church and for humanity." Pope John Paul told the bishops, who were meeting Sept. 30-Oct. 3 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that the upcoming special Synod of Bishops for America will be an opportunity for them to work with the bishops of North America and the Caribbean.

Coming Of Age

Christopher Carstens

When Teens Break Up

It's a sad fact. Most teen-age relationships break up. Sooner or later, you'll be involved in one of those unhappy separations.

Breaking up is one of the hardest experiences in most lives. Nobody enjoys rejection, and getting rejected by somebody you care for hurts.

Whether you're single or married, and even if you're a celibate, finding closeness — love, friendship, respect and affection — is what life's about. When you lose that closeness, it hurts.

If you had to marry the first person you ever dated, things would be really tough.

How would you find out what kind of partners you like — and what kind drive you crazy?

There's no way to learn that without experience.

Why do couples break up?

Sometimes they discover that they really don't share many interests. The young woman who was so charming, so full of life at the party, may not be able to hold a conversation without an audience.

Other couples break up because one wants to be in control all the time, or has a violent temper, or spends way too much time flirting with other people. Those things aren't apparent on the first date. Over time they become obvious, and what was a minor irritation early on can become a real source of friction.

Married couples may weather long periods of difficulty because they are responsible for their kids or because of commitment to the marriage.

But those reasons don't apply to teens.

Hanging in there for years while a boyfriend or girlfriend works out some deep-rooted personal problems is usually a big waste of time.

There are four things to think about in a breakup:

—First, be honest with yourself. Covering your eyes and pretending you're perfectly happy is really unhealthy. The longer you stay in a dissatisfying dating relationship, the more it will bend and change you — and maybe in ways you'll regret later on.

Continuing to date somebody you no longer love and respect is just dumb. It doesn't make sense.

—Second, be honest with your partner. If you really want out of a relationship, say so. Making excuses, being gradual, all those ways to "soften the blow" rarely make it any easier to hear the basic message: "I don't want to go out with you anymore."

The sooner your partner knows the truth, the sooner he or she can start picking up the pieces and looking for somebody who's a better match.

—Third, if you find yourself involved with somebody else, your boyfriend or girlfriend deserves to hear it from you. Nothing hurts more than learning that news through the grapevine.

Have the courage to be honest about it. Yes, there may be tears. Yes, there may be anger. Still, silence is dishonesty, and it's inexcusable.

—Finally, if you're the rejected partner, the only course is accepting reality, nursing your wounds for a while, and diving back into life.

Begging, pleading, bargaining, threatening, phoning repeatedly: All these will fail and just weaken your position.

It isn't uncommon for dating couples to break up, date around, and then find each other again. But a lot of drama and manipulation around the breakup make that almost impossible.

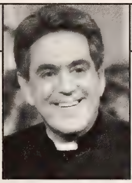
Nobody likes it when relationships end. It hurts. The healthy approach calls for honesty, integrity and dignity — and then getting on with the rest of your life.

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

Dr. Christopher Carstens is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Diana's Legacy for the Rest of Us

We would have preferred that she would have stayed with us longer. We had hoped she could have seen her son crowned king. We wanted her to find happiness but instead she found peace.

For all the fame and glamour, royal trappings and never-ending headlines — for all these the woman born Lady Diana Spencer, later Princess of Wales, will ultimately be remembered as the People's Princess.

But why such a democratic-sounding clamor for one who was once royal? I think the people of Great Britain and the world were as startled by their deep grief and loss and that of their neighbors as they were shocked by the violent death of Princess Diana.

The young woman we first knew as Lady Di was beautiful. But she was more. These days people tend to almost mock the phrase "inner beauty." That's too bad. It was this quality that drew hearts to her. Charming and vulnerable, motherly and elegant, the power of her generous personality touched millions.

We have a need to admire any person who has made a difference. Laying aside all the castle intrigues, tabloid speculations and gratuitous gushings, and after separating the sincere from the insincere, we are left with this: Despite troubles from without and within, she did not despair. She decided somewhere in her own inventory of truths and contradictions to chose life.

She embraced this reality, favoring unloved patients with AIDS, victims of war's savage land mine explosions, defenseless children who still have no voice or advocacy on this earth so far from Eden.

Our God, our King looks for champions of those whom the world calls its least. Diana was one such champion. One among many, thank God, but one of the few we celebrate. Another, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, spoke words of sorrow and loss over Diana's death just days before her own (I will write soon about this amazing nun, already revered by many as a saint.)

Following the tragic news, we sat riveted to our televisions, dumbfounded by scene upon scene of grieving around the world. Streams of bouquets in London, Washington and elsewhere widened into seas, masses of votive candles glowed long into the night, crayon-scrawled love notes from little children and those with a child's heart were wedged between iron palace gates. From all over the globe a steady wave of sympathy from world leaders, celebrities and ordinary folks — all were equally saddened and equally elevated in that moment when they shared their deep feelings.

At the funeral service, as all eyes fixed on musician Elton John, we heard the revised lyrics to his "Candle in the Wind" embodying heartfelt sentiments for his friend:

This torch we'll always carry for our nation's golden child,
And even though we try, the truth brings us to tears.

Death comes to us all and in the terrible void we can see either nothing or eternity. We all get to choose our own legacy to our family of humankind. Princess Diana chose one worth considering: "That we might show kindness in another's troubles and courage in our own."

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Better To Light One Candle" write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Promises Regarding Children in Interfaith Marriages

Q. *Our daughter is marrying a non-Catholic in December. He is a fine man, and goes to Mass with us whenever he visits. They are mid-20s, bright young people. No complications!? We were so wrong.*

Our daughter wanted a Catholic marriage, her fiance agreed. The problems began when they met with the deacon to begin their preparation.

None of us knew our daughter would be required to sign a statement that she would raise their children as Catholics and that he must acknowledge this. He could not agree to that at the present time.

If this had not happened they would have married in the church, and possibly the children would have been raised Catholic. Now neither of these appears likely.

Who won in this situation? It looks like we all lost.

A. Assuming your letter reflects the details accurately, it's clear that serious misinformation and misunderstanding occurred somewhere.

According to present Catholic policy, Catholic partners in a mixed-religion marriage affirm two statements.

—1. They will continue living out their faith in Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church, and

—2. They will "do all in (their) power" to share their faith with the children by having them baptized and raised as Catholics.

First of all, it is worth noting that this adds nothing whatsoever to what any committed Catholic, who is knowledgeable about the sacramental and prayer life of the church, already believes.

To do all in one's power to raise the children Catholic is surely a sincere commitment, but it acknowledges that other critical factors may enter the picture.

Among the most obvious of these is the commitment and obligations the non-Catholic partner may feel because of his or her own Christian faith, and which must be respected as well.

Thus, the spouse who is not Catholic signs or promises nothing on this subject. The priest or deacon assisting the couple affirms only that the non-Catholic is aware of the beliefs of the Catholic.

Obviously, this is quite different from what your daughter says she experienced.

The Catholic Church knows that differences in religious beliefs often cause unfortunate, sometimes tragic, tensions and divisions.

It, therefore, wants to be sure these potential problem areas are faced and dealt with before any marriage involving two religious backgrounds.

As the official Catholic guidelines for ecumenism put it, the couple should "be invited and encouraged to discuss the Catholic baptism and education of the children they will have, and where possible come to a decision on this question before the marriage" (Directory on Ecumenism, 1993; No. 150).

Those words "where possible" recognize that agreement may not be possible until later.

The same guidelines point to certain major concerns the Catholic will need to consider in all this.

In carrying out the duty to transmit the Catholic faith, the Catholic parent

See **Dietzen,** page 11

Spirituality For Today

Father John Catoir

What Is the Internal Forum?

In the Catholic Church, the matrimonial tribunal is an ecclesiastical court. We refer to it as the "external forum" because its proceedings are public.

By contrast, the "internal forum" is the realm of conscience. When a Catholic exercises his or her conscience in these matters, it is referred to as an "internal forum" solution. This is not approved by the church.

In my book, "Where Do You Stand With the Church? The Dilemma of Divorced Catholics" (Alba House, Staten Island, N.Y.), I answer three questions:

a) Why is the church is so strict on marriage?

b) What is an annulment? And

c) What is the internal forum?

Some people come to the conclusion that an annulment is impossible by reason of excessive emotional strain or due to a lack of cooperation from a former spouse. Some do not even believe an annulment is necessary, or they may feel that the tribunal will not render true justice.

Catholics who take the matter into their own hands and marry again without church approval run the risk of rationalization. The church teaches that no one is permitted to begin a new marriage unless the former marriage has been declared null and void by an ecclesiastical tribunal.

Those who disregard this teaching are forbidden to partake of the sacraments. This was decreed in a letter to the bishops of the Catholic Church concerning the reception of holy communion by divorced and remarried members of the faithful, which was issued by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (Sept. 14, 1994).

It reaffirmed Pope John Paul II's apostolic exhortation ("Familiaris Consortio").

This means that Catholics who have entered a new, non-canonical marriage are forbidden to receive the Eucharist, unless they receive a special permission to live as "brother and sister."

Not everyone can accept this teaching. They ask, "What if we are unable to promise such a thing, and what if we believe a serious doubt about the validity of the first marriage still remains? Can we not trust our own inner sense of right and wrong in this matter?"

The official church answer is no, only the tribunal can resolve such a doubt.

In spite of this prohibition many Catholics go forward with an internal-forum solution anyway. For their own reasons they decide to remarry outside the church, believing themselves to be in good faith and free from sin.

They may seek the counsel of a knowledgeable priest, expressing their conviction that the first marriage was a fraud and a disaster.

The priest cannot and does not give them permission because he has not the authority to do so, but he may tell them they have the right to follow their conscience.

The traditional teaching of the church includes the idea that all people have the right and the duty to follow a well-formed conscience, taking care no scandal is given in the process.

The contemporary debate on the limits of the internal forum is one which touches the heart of Catholic moral theology.

Father John Catoir is a CNS columnist.

Law Causes Hardship For Families

By JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER

Joanne Kennedy Frazer

Anna lived in a two-room shack on a small island off the coast of her native land, the oldest of 11 children. Her parents supported the family with subsistence farming, fishing and odd jobs on the mainland. Because employment for their growing children was almost nonexistent, her parents scraped together enough to send Anna to the United States. Her mission: Send money to feed the remaining children and to pay passage for them to join her.

The homeland was Ireland, Bere Island. The year was 1911. Anna Sullivan was my grandmother. She did eventually bring all of her siblings over. My great aunts and uncles, joining other immigrants, took the dirtiest, most menial of jobs in order to survive.

Anna Sullivan's story is not just an Irish one. It is an American story. It seems that each generation witnesses a new wave of immigrants reaching our shores, taking the jobs at the bottom of the economic ladder, hoping that life in this country will mean survival for them and their children.

Today, as in Anna's time, public sentiment seems to have turned against the foreigner. As a result of recently enacted extensive federal immigration and welfare reform legislation, undocumented immigrants who applied after September 1992 for legal permanent residency and who did not leave the country by Sept. 27, 1997, will be barred for three years from receiving their permanent residency.

In the late 80's, Hispanics were given easy access to green cards when there was a push for seasonal workers. In North Carolina, often it is these immigrants who take the lowest-wage, most labor intensive jobs. Many workers who decided to remain in the United States sent for their wives and children, and they applied for legal permanent residency for their families. However, the application process takes five to six years.

For several months, employees of Catholic Social Services Hispanic ministries have been receiving frantic requests for help.

"We have been continually frustrated on behalf of our clients as we search for ways to help them keep their families intact," said Veronica Zambrano at Casa Guadalupe of CSS in Winston-Salem.

According to Toerin Leppink, a social worker with CSS in Asheville, "This law is affecting wives and children of legal residents — people who have themselves applied for legal permanent residency. Families will be torn apart. Children, some of whom have never lived in their native country, will be sent back to face harrowing trips to a homeland where, once they arrive, they have little support or even a place to live. We are hoping for a reprieve in the law."

The good news is Congress has granted a temporary reprieve, but only until Oct. 23.

What can Catholics do? The Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Catholic Conference is urging us to contact our senators and representatives and tell them to permanently extend Section 245(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Contact Senators Helms and Faircloth at Senate Office Buildings, Washington, DC 20510 and your representative at House Office Buildings, Washington, DC 20515. Or call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer is director of the Diocesan Office of Justice & Peace.

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Faith Formation Advisory Board Meets

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

HICKORY — The Diocese of Charlotte's newly formed Faith Formation Advisory Board held its first meeting Sept. 25 at the Catholic Conference Center. The board is the highest consultative body in the diocese in the area of Faith Formation, overseeing all policies ranging from personnel to curriculum. Shown, from left: Laura Sellers; Sister Veronica Grover; Mary Ann Poli; Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin; Sharon Pierce; Earlene Wilkins, chairperson; Carol Brown; Dr. Cris V. Villapando; Joan Mahoney; Rev. Mr. Bill Pivarnik; Camilla Tracy.

The Catholic News & Herald has an opening for a part-time production associate. Candidate will be proficient with Pagemaker 6.5 (a PC environment preferred) and Photoshop 4.0. Position involves layout and pre-press of weekly newspaper. Graphic design experience helpful. Please forward layout/design samples and resume to: The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237, or e-mail CNHNEWS@AOL.COM

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Pope Names 21 New Members To Synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II named 21 additional members for the special Synod of Bishops for America, including four from the U.S.

The new U.S. appointees were Archbishops William J. Levada of San Francisco and Charles J. Chaput of Denver; Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; and Father Richard Neuhaus, director of the New York-based Institute on Religion and Public Policy.

The synod, which will bring together bishops from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, meets Nov. 16-Dec. 12 at the Vatican to discuss the theme "Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ: The Way to Conversion, Communion and Solidarity in America."

All papal appointees are full voting members of the synod.

The four U.S. appointees named by the pope are in addition to 15 delegates and three alternates elected by the NCCB as U.S. delegates.

Here is the complete list of papally appointed synod members:

— Cardinal Miloslav Vlk of Prague, Czech Republic, president of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences.

— Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan, Philippines, secretary-general of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences.

— Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya of Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo, president of the Symposium of Bishops' Conferences of Africa and Madagascar.

— Archbishop Vitorio Pavanello of Campo Grande, Brazil.

— Archbishop Peter A. Sutton of Keewàtin-The Pas, Manitoba.

— Archbishop William J. Levada of San Francisco.

— Archbishop Santiago Martinez Acebes of Burgos, Spain.

— Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver.

— Archbishop Ivan Marin-Lopez of Popayan, Colombia.

— Bishop Willem M. Ellis of Willemstad, Netherlands Antilles.

— Bishop Renato Corti of Novara, Italy.

— Bishop Jacques Bertheletof Saint-Jean-Longueuil, Quebec.

— Auxiliary Bishop Franz Grave of Essen, Germany, president of Adveniat.

— Bishop Cipriano Calderon Polo, vice president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

— Melkite Bishop Pierre Mouallem of Nossa Senhora do Paraiso em Sao Paulo, Brazil.

— Bishop John J. Cunneen of Christchurch, New Zealand.

— Bishop Javier Echevarria Rodriguez, prelate of Opus Dei.

— Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

— Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, superior general of the Legionaries of Christ.

— Sulpician Father Emilius Goulet, general secretary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

— Father Richard Neuhaus, director of the New York-based Institute on Religion and Public Life.

Footsteps in Faith

Maggie Valley Church Embarks On New Faith Formation Program

Ann DeRosa and granddaughter Shannon Dowdy work on their individual God's-eye cross.

Photos courtesy St. Margaret Church

MAGGIE VALLEY — At the table by the fireplace in St. Margaret's parish hall, Tara Weaver, 13, was helping Franciscan Sister Francine Sartor make one of the smaller God's eyes.

Yarn in Advent pink and purple took diamond shape on the crossed sticks. Ann Ketchum, Debbie Cordiale, Cecilia Beebe and Jody Razdrh were absorbed in creating seven other God's eyes that would become part of a special processional cross for St. Margaret Church.

Near the center of the hall, Mike Cordiale, with four-year-old daughter Jenny perched on his shoulders, worked with Razdrh to weave a larger God's eye onto the plain wooden processional cross Don Loetz had made. Other took their turns helping with the big cross.

The cross was carried in procession for Masses on the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, the weekend of Sept. 12-13, and will be used for Masses during Advent.

The project was St. Margaret's first "Footstep in Faith."

The idea for the church's new religious education "visioning" process came out of a search for better ways to conduct the parish's faith formation program on a more comprehensive level that includes all parishioners learning beyond the classroom.

St. Margaret parishioners display the completed God's-eye processional cross.

"Students are so used to class throughout the week that having to come as part of church doesn't exactly thrill them," said Father Eric Houseknecht, St. Margaret's pastoral administrator.

"To have some kind of active participation and an involvement of the entire parish community brings the Gospel message each week to life in a new way," he added.

Father Houseknecht called a meeting of the CCD and RCIA instructors. The group named itself the Visioners of St. Margaret and began discerning how to help participants find out who God is.

The process led to the Visioners' mission statement, coined by group member Don Rankin and adopted by the group: "To facilitate the experience of the presence of Christ in the parish through liturgy, service and celebration."

Liturgy, service and celebration began with "Opening God's House" Sept. 6 and 7.

Parishioners and visitors were invited through pulpit announcements and bulletin flyers to come learn more about the church. Area churches received letters inviting them to attend as well.

Forty-five minute tours, where guides answered questions, preceded the weekend Masses.

Participants got a close look at everything from vestments to the luna (the insert at the monstrance), and the pyx (the small container used to carry the Eucharist to the sick and homebound).

In the parish center, adjacent to the sanctuary, people could sign up for parish catechetical programs and register as members of the parish.

The group later listened to Franciscan Sister Jean Linder narrate the Mass, explaining exactly what was happening and why.

"It was educational," said parishioner Jim Bartholomew. "Every parish should do it at least twice a year. It takes the Mass out of rote."

"I was very impressed," said Blanche Campbell, who attends Maggie Valley First United Methodist Church. "I really felt the Holy Spirit. I think it was great of them to invite us."

Parishioners are now invited to participate in "Footsteps of Faith," the first of which was the making of the God's-eye cross.

"The whole concept is that you begin to bring to life not only what the weekly messages of the lectionary, the words of Christ, are, but you also begin to impact how we celebrate together as a community and how to understand the presence of Christ in our lives," Father Houseknecht said.

"And one of the greatest gifts of teaching is, those who teach, learn....There's a continual outgrowth from that kind of educational opportunity," he added.

Don and Lynn Loetz, who joined the parish two months ago, agreed to act as hosts for the Footsteps event.

For this Footstep, they researched the history of the cross.

"The Feast of the Holy Cross began in 335 (A.D.) when churches in Jerusalem were blessed on the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection," Lynn said. "The 40 days from the Transfiguration to Holy Cross was time of pilgrimage."

Finding out about God's eye itself was harder, but they did locate information.

"According to one legend," Lynn said, "years ago the Mexican people made the God's-eye crosses to signify God watching over them. This is kind of a nice reminder that God is with us every moment of our lives."

Mike Razdrh then demonstrated how to make a God's eye and participants fashioned their own small eyes from rose and teal yarn and popsicle sticks on the tables.

With the large God's eye completed in the center of the cross, the eight smaller eyes were attached to the front and back of the cross to represent Christ' s head, hands and feet.

Thirty-seven parishioners, from toddlers and teens to young adults and retirees, attended and learned about the cross, thus relating Scripture to a Footstep. For CCD students, the program will count toward their faith education.

Other Footsteps in Faith events are planned for the parish until the beginning of Advent. Each liturgical season will feature new events planned by the committee, in addition to the youth class times and adult Scripture classes.

"We know the Spirit's behind the whole thing, or it wouldn't have gotten to this point," Father Houseknecht said. "It was bigger than any of us could envision."

FAITH alive!

Stumbling Again And Again Into Adulthood

By JUDY ESWAY

My husband, who is 59 now, still says, "I don't know what I want to be when I grow up." He's been saying that since he was a mechanical draftsman right out of high school. Years later, while he still was trying to decide his career path, he "fell" into computers.

Many of us stumble through the stages of our life into adulthood in much the same way. We're suddenly there and have no idea how it happened — especially when we hadn't even made up our minds yet that we were ready to go.

Midlife often comes as a surprise. Now what? Children are grown and gone, and we're left with an empty house and our long-forgotten dreams.

Wayne and Vickie's only son is almost finished with college. So Wayne, a college professor, has decided to take early retirement. When asked what he'll do then, he smiles and says: "Nothing. And after that I plan to rest."

He confessed, however, that he's been doing a lot of thinking, wondering if teaching really had been his best career choice. I asked what else he might have done.

"That's the problem," he said. "Other than playing center field for the New York Yankees, my childhood dream, I don't know." He thought for a moment, then said quietly, "I guess ... writing."

I didn't ask, but I got the feeling it may have been the first time he said it aloud. (Don't we all instinctively know the power of words? Words can totally disrupt a life. But now it was out.)

"But because I didn't think I had the discipline, or could make a living at it ...," his voice trailed off. "Maybe I came in the back door. Maybe that's why I taught English and literature."

I don't know whether Wayne will decide to take up writing, but he certainly is well-prepared for it. Twenty-five years immersed in English and literature? A perfect apprenticeship for any writer.

It seems God is always one step ahead of us, remembering our dreams, quietly getting things ready for when we finally arrive.

I've always been a lingerer. I especially savored the years when the children were growing up. In my book "Letting Go: Reflections and Prayers for Midlife," I wrote:

"I'm trying, God, you know I am, to experience life as a fantastic piece of music. I don't want to stay too long with a note that's meant to be a staccato, even when it jabs my soul and makes me bleed. I need to move on with the music and flow and dance with it.

"But you know how I tend to linger too long, not trusting that the next measure will touch and embrace me as much as the last."

It is still a challenge for me to keep up with the music, but I'm better at it now. I've learned that I simply cannot grow emotionally or spiritually when I'm stuck in the past.

Now that I'm in my late 50s, I'm amazed at how lovely this time of life is. I don't know why I dreaded it so much. It's peaceful and quiet, and a new creativity has taken me by surprise.

I sense that God has been digging a deep well inside me as I've matured. Exciting new ideas are beginning to surface.

When I ponder the next stage, older adulthood, I think of my friend Irving. He turned 80 this year. I met him several years ago, shortly after he lost his beloved wife of 50 years. He told me of his awful pain and loneliness, and of the times he wanted to die.

Eventually, Irving took a part-time job in a supermarket. One day he offered to carry a woman's groceries out to her car, and the next day they had dinner together. Irving and his "lady friend" fell in love.

He could have stayed in his empty house, where he might well have become a bitter old man. It took courage to take that job. But because he did, Irving now has many new friends and even has found love again.

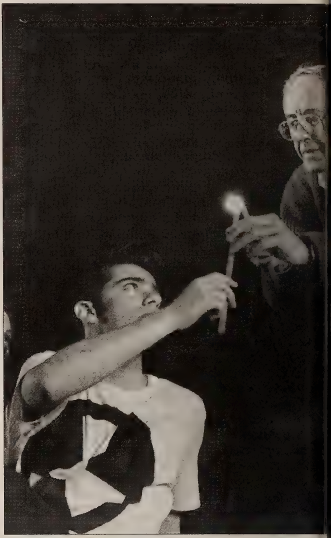
We are meant to thrive at every stage of life. If we temporarily forget our dreams, linger too long in one place, or think we'll die from the pain, it's comforting to know that God is still with us.

And even if we don't know what we want to be when we grow up, God knows. A little stumbling might be good. It could indicate that we're not holding on too tightly to anything that keeps us from moving ahead.

Chances are that we'll be fortunate and will land right in the place that God has prepared for us all along.

Esway wrote "Real Life/Real Spirituality (for Busy People Who Want to Pray)" and "Letting Go: Reflections and Prayers for Midlife," Twenty-Third Publications.

"Even if we don't know what we want to be when we grow up, God knows. A little stumbling might be good," assures Judy Esway in her article on rediscovering the stages of adulthood. "It could indicate we're not holding on too tightly to anything that keeps us from moving ahead."



How The Human Spirit Grows

By FATHER JOHN J. CASTELOT

The universal experience of growing up presents inescapable challenges to everyone.

As people pass from one stage to another in life, they have to adapt, adjust, make important choices. Even Jesus "advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man" (Luke 2:52).

The Gospels' temptation scenario dramatizes the harrowing choices Jesus faced throughout life.

St. Paul, his faithful follower, acknowledged: "When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things" (1 Corinthians 13:11). His growth as a heroic Christian demanded much from Paul.

God seems always to be calling people from old, comfortable ways into new, uncomfortable ones. Answering these calls causes inevitable growing pains.

Abraham was called by God "to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go" (Hebrews 11:8). Abraham trusted God and became, eventually, the father of many nations.

God led Jacob from his comfortable but stifling dependence on his doting mother to responsible independence and leadership.

Jesus called his original disciples from their jobs as fishermen to a new role as "fishers of men" (Mark 1:17), and the transition was not easy for them.

For some people the call to move from reliance on themselves to dependence on God proved too much. The rich man of the Gospel, who found the move impossible, "went away sad, for he had many possessions."

This man failed to realize, as Jesus went on to tell his disciples, that "for human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God" (Mark 10:22,27).

Paul again, in a rare autobiographical mood, expressed his desire to grow into increased intimacy with Christ, but realized that this involved the "sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to (Jesus') death, if somehow I may attain to resurrection from the dead."

And Paul frankly admits: "It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it." Then, he says:

"Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling in Christ Jesus....

"And if you have a different attitude, this too God will reveal to you. Only, with regard to what we have attained, continue on the same course" (Philippians 3:10-16).

Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.

In A Nutshell

- God seems always to call people forward, from one familiar life stage into another that is unfamiliar.
- People can thrive at each stage — developing and sharing gifts then offered by God.
- Can even the very young thrive spiritually? St. Therese of Lisieux, 24 when she died, now will be titled doctor (teacher) of the church, the pope announced.

Adulthood: Time Of Crisis, Time Of Opportunity

By FATHER ROBERT L. KINAST

Talking with a college graduate recently, I asked about his plans for the future. "I don't really have definite plans," he answered. "I'm just not ready to become an adult yet."

As troubling as this comment might be to the professors who taught him and his parents, who paid for his education, the young man had a clear sense of what the word "adult" means. As an adult he would be expected to take responsibility for his life and contribute something worthwhile to others.

The process of doing this is filled with opportunities, challenges and crises which psychologists have analyzed over the past 50 years.

One of the best-known theorists of human-life stages is Abraham Maslow. Reacting against the idea that external conditioning determines human behavior, Maslow concentrated on healthy human beings and tried to explain why they were creative, purposeful and happy.

He concluded that they successfully had met what were called the five basic needs of healthy adult living: survival (food, clothing, shelter); safety; belonging and love; esteem and self-respect; and self-actualization (openness, independence, compassion).

None of these needs is taken care of once and for all. One good meal does not last a lifetime. A single "I love you" does not satisfy the lifelong need for belonging and love.

While these needs remain constant throughout adult life, how they are met is a creative challenge. Thus, parents who feel secure in guiding younger children have to become equally secure in guiding them as adolescents.

Another influential life-cycle theorist was the late Erik Erikson. He described eight stages of human development, the last three of which characterize adults.

At each stage Erikson saw a struggle centered around a basic conflict:

— For young adults, the struggle between intimacy and isolation.

— For mid-life adults, the struggle between generativity and stagnation.

— For mature adults, the struggle between integrity and despair.

The best-known struggle in this schema is the mid-life crisis. At a point when individuals should be most productive, they may find themselves stuck in a boring job or no longer feeling excited about their marriage and family.

Erikson believed there was a corresponding virtue or strength to help a person successfully negotiate each stage. So each stage of development contains possibilities for new experience that the other stages did not have.

For example, the person moving from midlife to mature adulthood is offered the gift of wisdom, which helps in making sense of the past events, relationships and activities in one's life-seeing them as parts of a whole.

A mid-life adult may feel stagnant in his marriage because he never fully entered the experience of human intimacy that the marriage offered. His crisis may really be an invitation to fall in love with his wife again.

In 1982 Professor Carol Gilligan raised an important criticism about these life-cycle theories: Either they were based on studies of men only or assumed that male experience was normative. Her research showed that women experience and handle life stages differently.

For example, men tend to form their identity first, then relate to others out of that self-awareness, whereas women form their identity through the process of relating to others.

This criticism contains an important reminder that all human-development theories are broad descriptions of what remains a personal, creative and mysterious life process.

The sooner that recent college graduate realizes this, the more eager he will be to become an adult.

Father Kinast is director of the Center for Theological Reflection, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.

Food For Thought

Often others our age are experiencing dilemmas and challenges similar to those currently troubling us. Sharing perplexities and insights with peers makes us feel much less alone.

But the insights and experiences of others not our age also can prove beneficial. And it is not just a matter of the older ones telling the younger ones how things should be.

Those who are younger may welcome an awareness that those who are older once struggled to learn to raise children or to balance career and homelife.

And no doubt about it, those a little younger can rejuvenate those a little older. When the context is positive, the older ones may relish chances to learn from the young.

All of which undoubtedly is why the U.S. Catholic bishops, in their recent pastoral plan for ministry with young adults, urged, for example, that parishes establish a committee "to connect older and younger adults in like professions." Again, the bishops encouraged "the formation of ongoing intergenerational small faith communities."

There is a time to be in the company of others basically our own age. There is a time, too, to be with others basically not our own age.

Faith In The Marketplace

What is unique about your current stage of adulthood?

"That so much of my life now is dictated by the needs and demands of parenting my teen-age children. When they were little the demands were more physical, but now they are more spiritual and mental."

— Tony Judge, Brooklyn, N.Y.

"I'm a Catholic priest with cerebral palsy.... I'm into middle age, I'm in a state of transition. I will not be as independent as I was, and I must look forward to trusting ever more deeply in God's love to take care of me."

— Father Phil Moriarty, New Cambria, Mo.

"I've reached the point in my life where I've accepted myself the way I am."

—Tina Miller, San Francisco, Calif.

An upcoming edition asks: For you, in your "real world," what does being Godlike mean? If you would like to respond for possible publication, write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

"A mid-life adult may feel stagnant in his marriage because he never fully entered the experience of human intimacy," observes Father Robert L. Kinast. "His crisis may really be an invitation to fall in love with his wife again."

CNS photo by Cleo Photography,

People In The News

Teens Get Undeserved Bad Rap, Says Author

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Teens have been given an undeservedly bad rap, according to a San Francisco psychiatrist and author of a new book called "The Romance of Risk: Why Teenagers Do the Things They Do." "Our culture is afraid of teens," Dr. Lynn Ponton told Catholic News Service during a telephone interview while she was in Washington in late September to promote her book. She said she has had parents come up to her during book signings desperate for advice. She assures them it's never too late to help a teen in trouble. She also advises parents of younger children that it's never too early to gear up for the teen years. A key time to get ready is when children are between the ages of 11 and 13, a time when "they're still talking to you," she said.

Lawmaker May Hold Up U.S. Payments To U.N. Over Abortion

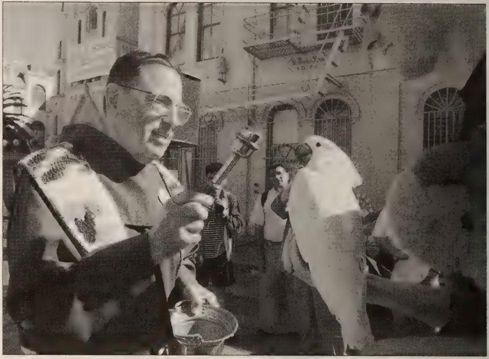
NEW YORK (CNS) — Payment of U.S. arrears to the United Nations could be endangered by the integration of abortion into the work of its agencies, according to the chairman of a congressional subcommittee with jurisdiction in that area. U.S. Rep. Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J., told Catholic News Service Oct. 1 that he gave U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Anan a warning "shot across the bow" at a meeting he attended two days earlier at U.N. headquarters in New York. Smith, who chairs the House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, said in a telephone interview from his office in Washington that he told the secretary-general abortion was a "consensus breaker," and the United Nations already had a "full plate" of other work to occupy its energies.

Aging Adult Disabled Population Seen Challenging Caregivers

SPRING VALLEY, Calif. (CNS) — A major issue confronting caregivers of developmentally disabled adults is the aging of the disabled population, according to a Benedictine nun. Advances in medical care have dramatically extended the life expectancy of persons with disabilities, and finding projects older disabled adults can undertake is a challenge, said Benedictine Sister Kathryn Jennings. She is founder and executive director of Noah Homes, a facility in Spring Valley about 10 miles east of San Diego, which serves adults with such disabilities as mental retardation and autism. Noah Homes has launched a horticulture program to provide greenhouse work for residents as they age. "Working in the dirt, with plants and soil, is very energizing, very healing" for them, said Sister Jennings.

Prayer Groups Work To 'Liven Up The Church' In Lithuania

KAUNAS, Lithuania (CNS) — Leaders of Lithuania's charismatic Catholic community, "Living Stones," say they are working to "liven up the church" in their country. Group leaders plan renewal conferences and Life in the Spirit seminars and keep in contact with dozens of prayer groups nationwide. "There's a renewal under way in Lithuania's Catholic Church," said "Living Stones" core group member Dale Kuraite.



CNS photo by Larry A. Brazil

Bird Blessing — A pet owner presents his cockatoo named Screamin' Jay Hawkins to Franciscan Father Floyd A. Lotito for a blessing outside St. Boniface Church in San Francisco Oct. 4. Hundreds of people brought their pets to be blessed by friars at the church on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

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For information on the Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207. Telephone 704-331-1709 or 377-6871.

All Saints' Day Is Holy, But No Obligation This Year

WASHINGTON (CNS) — All Saints' Day will be a holy day for U.S. Catholics this year, but not a holy day of obligation.

That is because this year Nov. 1 falls on a Saturday.

In 1991 the U.S. bishops voted to lift the obligation of attending Mass for U.S. Catholics on three specific holy days of obligation whenever those feasts occur on a Saturday or a Monday.

The three are:

— The feast of Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1.

— The feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15.

— The feast of All Saints, Nov. 1.

When those days fall on a Saturday or Monday, their liturgical celebration remains the same: They are among those major feasts in the liturgical calendar that are called solemnities.

The only difference is that the obligation to attend Mass is lifted. Catholics are still invited and encouraged to celebrate those feasts by attending Mass.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception remains a holy day of obligation for U.S. Catholics, even though Dec. 8 falls on a Monday this year, unless a dispensation has been given locally.

When they approved the dispensation for the other three feasts, the bishops did not include the Immaculate Conception, the national patronal feast, in the list.

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Sponsored by CORNERSTONE, the AIDS network of the Diocese of Charlotte
Saturday, November 15, 1997
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Queen of the Apostles Church
Belmont, NC 28012
(I-85, exit #26, near McDonald's)

Clergy, laity and all whose lives have been touched by AIDS are invited.
Speakers, workshops, prayer, support, food, fellowship
Bishop William G. Curlin's blessing of quilt panels
Donation: $10
Box lunch served to all who pre-register by Nov. 10
To pre-register or for more information, contact Rev. Richard P. Hokanson, Pastor, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 Main St., Belmont, NC 28012, (704) 825-5277.

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Dietzen, from page 5

"will do so with respect for the religious freedom and conscience of the other parent and with due regard for the unity and permanence of the marriage, and for the maintenance of the communion of the family" (No. 151).

In other words, the church believes the stability and health of the marriage are among the major values to protect when working out these decisions.

I believe all this puts quite another perspective on what happened, or should have happened, with your daughter and her partner.

Of course, if the non-Catholic refuses even to consider raising the children Catholic, a different element arises which the local bishop must weigh in judging whether a "just and reasonable cause" exists for permitting a mixed, or other interfaith, marriage.

These Catholic policies may be found in the Code of Canon Law and, more extensively, in the Vatican's Directory on Ecumenism quoted above.

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship with people of other faiths, is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Parish, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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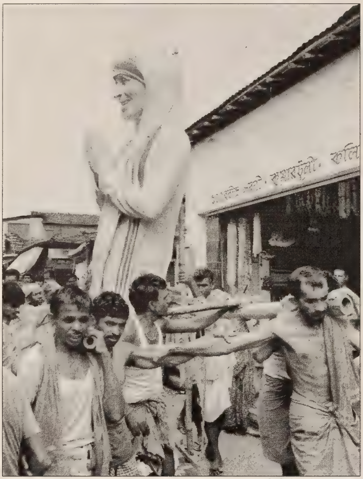
Pope Says Mother Teresa's Sainthood Cause Will Proceed Normally

By CINDY WOODEN

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT TO BRAZIL (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the normal procedures should be used in investigating the sainthood cause of Mother Teresa, whom many considered a living saint.



CNS photo from Reuters

A clay statue of Mother Teresa is carried through the streets of Calcutta Oct. 5. The statue was displayed for the Hindu festival of Durga Puja.

While the pope has made clear his deep admiration for the late nun, he indicated that the Vatican canonization process would not be overridden in her case. He made the remarks Oct. 2 on a plane taking him to Brazil.

Church rules say sainthood causes can begin to be considered only after a five-year waiting period and often take many more years to complete. Asked by reporters if the process would be speeded up for Mother Teresa, the pope answered: "I think it is necessary to follow the normal way."

The pope spent about 30 minutes chatting with journalists aboard his chartered Alitalia jet. Several of his comments responded to questions about the church's relations with Jews and an upcoming Vatican symposium on the "Christian roots" of anti-Semitism.

On Sept. 30, French bishops publicly apologized for the "silence" of French church leaders during anti-Jewish policies of World War II. The French bishops also highlighted the anti-Semitic character of some church teachings in past centuries.

Asked if the Vatican would make a similar declaration, the pope replied: "We have already asked pardon for the past. What is interesting is that it is always the Catholic Church and the pope who ask forgiveness.

"Meanwhile, others remain silent. But maybe that is the way it should be," he said with a smile.

Asked if he would issue a long-awaited document on anti- Semitism after the Vatican-sponsored symposium Oct. 30-Nov. 1, the pope said that "one must listen, know what is said, then decide what to do with these results."

He added that "the attitudes at the time of the Holocaust are key. One must not forget there were other Holocausts, and they should not be forgotten."

The pope left at 10 a.m. from Rome on an 11-and-a-half-hour flight to Rio de Janeiro, where he was to preside over a world meeting of families. He told journalists on his plane, "I have a very simple message: The future of humanity passes through the family."

Birthright Offers Assistance To Women In Crisis Pregnancies

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Dr. Bill Rabil, a retired surgeon and St. Leo parishioner, talks with Terry Weaver, national Birthright director, during a break.

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — Women in the Winston-Salem area facing crisis pregnancies have a place to turn for help: Birthright, a pro-life crisis pregnancy service.

That was the message delivered to participants of a Friendship Counseling Seminar Sept. 20 at St. Leo the Great Church. Sponsored by Birthright, the workshop featured Terry Weaver, U.S. national Birthright director.

Weaver discussed the philosophy and purpose of the organization that has been in operation in Winston-Salem since 1968. The Triad office receives 800 calls and 200 pregnancy tests per year with only four regular volunteers. Reviewing the charter, she talked about the mission of the organization. "It is the right of every woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born," she said, restating Birthright's guiding principle.

"These women need our hope, love and concern," Weaver added, emphasizing that volunteers must put aside all prejudice and recognize that women in crisis are made in the image of God and are deserving of love.

She also said in order to give women hope, volunteers had to collect and update their knowledge of available resources for pregnant women and women with small children. A motto such as "let's make this pregnancy work for you" requires staying abreast of current programs, Weaver added.

Dr. Martha Shuping, a longtime Birthright volunteer who holds a master's degree in pastoral ministry, tried to give volunteers confidence in their unique ability to help. "I remember how some new volunteers felt intimidated by answering crisis phone calls and dropped out of the program saying, 'I'm not sure what to say,'" she recalled. "Love and hope are the most positive things you can give a person in a crisis pregnancy, and anyone can do that by showing God's love."

In her experience in counseling, Shuping said that most individuals make a decision to abort in a panic state, not realizing the viable options. "Let them know that you can help and are on their side," she said. "Lead them into better choices with information."

Shuping also called the work of a Birthright volunteer "friendship counseling," and encouraged volunteers to reflect back on their life experiences and use the things that worked for them.

Local OB/GYN specialist Dr. Dick Finn discussed current abortion methods and their possible complications. He said the key to stopping abortion is convincing individuals that the practice destroys human lives.

All the speakers repeated the need for prayer and the need to accept individuals who come for help in a loving and nonjudgmental way.

Birthright volunteers are needed. For information about Birthright in Winston-Salem and upcoming training sessions, call Denise Zajicek, (910) 723-2204.

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WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

October 19, 1997

"The celebration of the Eucharist constitutes the central moment in which our mission effort becomes real to stimulate a responsible sharing on the part of every baptized person, every Christian family and every Church institution." **— Pope John Paul II**

Celebrating 175 Years ...

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith was founded in Lyons, France in 1822 by a young French laywoman by the name of Pauline Jaricot. While Pauline never traveled to the missions, she served the missionary work of the Church by raising funds and organizing prayer groups. Pauline gathered friends and workers in a family silk mill into "circles of ten," asking each person to pray daily for the Missions and sacrifice *(and what a sacrifice it was!)* a penny-a-week. In Pauline's day, assistance was sent to the young church in our own country and to the missions of China. From this idea emerged the Propagation of the Faith which today has become the basic means of support for the Catholic Missions of the world.

SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO

October 10, 1997

Dear Friends in Christ:

As we celebrate World Mission Sunday on October 18-19, we are mindful of our preparations for the coming 2000th anniversary of the birth of our Lord. Those preparations this year focus on a most missionary theme: "Jesus Christ, the one Savior of the world, yesterday, today and forever."

Today, there are millions of people who have not heard of the salvation found only in Jesus Christ. In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope John Paul II speaks of those "who have not yet been reached by the Good News of salvation." Our Holy Father states: "To a certain degree...each of us is personally responsible, before God, for those...who are 'without faith.'"

On World Mission Sunday, each of us is asked to take our part in the Church's mission to all peoples; we can do this especially through prayer and participation in the Eucharist. Through the Propagation of the Faith we can offer financial assistance to the Church in the missions, as it proclaims the Gospel among two-thirds of our human family.

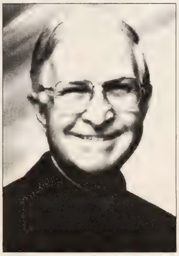
This year marks the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Propagation of the Faith by a young French laywoman, Pauline Jaricot. The young Church in the U.S. benefited greatly from the early support offered by the Catholics of Europe through the Propagation of the Faith. Today, young churches of Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and Latin America depend greatly on such continued assistance.

We ask your prayers and generous response on World Mission Sunday so that the Good News might be proclaimed among those of the mission areas of the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

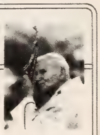
+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte



World Mission News

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 19, 1997



"I hope with all my heart that on the threshold of the new Millennium the whole Church will experience a new impulse of missionary commitment."

— POPE JOHN PAUL II

This World Mission Sunday, recommit yourself to the Church's worldwide mission!
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175th Anniversary of **THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH**

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THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH 175 YEARS

***The Society for* THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH**
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Diocesan News Briefs

TRYON — St. John the Baptist Church presents its annual bazaar Oct. 25 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. in the church hall featuring heirloom-quality gifts, unique decorations, specialty items, a cafe, barbecue lunches, baked goods, jewelry, and a raffle. For raffle tickets or more information, call (704) 894-3790. At left, Joan McAdam and Alice Schlaak admire gifts.

Family Educators Group

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators (CAFE), western North Carolina's Catholic home school support group, meets the third Friday of each month for a family potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Laurentine Hall at St. Lawrence Basilica. Call Sheryl Oligny, (704) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (704) 645-6990, for details.

Marian Conference and Retreat

BELMONT — The Third Annual Marian Conference and Retreat is Nov. 7-8 at Belmont Abbey College featuring Father Jovo Zovko of Bosnia-Herzegovina and guest speakers Wayne Weible, Jack Socco, Father Giordano Belanich, Jerry Morin, and Benedictine Father Jacques Daley. Music will be provided by Al Barbarino and Schola Cantorum Carolinae Borealis. Cost is $39 for adults, and $20 for those 18 and under. To register, call (803) 626-9577.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a program for couples who want to improve their troubled marriage, works to build relationships between husbands and wives. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program, but it is open to people of all faiths. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230. The program begins Oct. 17. Those who have registered are asked to return their completed applications as soon as possible.

CCHS Events

CHARLOTTE — A respect life assembly in honor of Respect Life Month with guest speaker Father Richard Hogan is Oct. 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the gymnasium.

The CCHS PTA hosts a freshman class Mass and covered dish supper Oct. 19 at 5 p.m. in the gymnasium.

Biblical Series

CHARLOTTE — A Biblical series on the New Testament Letters of Paul, John, James and Peter is presented each Sunday of October from 8:45-9:45 a.m. in the council room at St. John Neumann Church. There is no charge, and baby-sitting is available. Call (704) 535-4197 for more information.

Catechetical Conference

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The Charlotte Diocese co-sponsors the province-wide "Visioning Discipleship" catechetical leadership conference Oct. 17-18 at the White Oak Baptist Conference Center. The schedule includes Mass with Bishop Kenneth Untener of Saginaw, Mich; keynote speeches; a concert; and group processing sessions. Father James Hawker and Joanne Frazer of the Charlotte Diocese will attend as facilitators. The cost is $45 for the conference, which includes meals. Single rooms are available for $46 per person, doubles for $40 per person. For meals or the concert only, the cost is $15 each. To register, contact the Diocese of Charleston, Dept. of Christian Formation — Attn: Conference, 1662 Ingram Rd., Charleston, S.C. 29407.

Barbecue Dinner

CONCORD — St. James Church hosts its 46th annual barbecue dinner Oct. 15 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. A complete dinner or three sandwiches is $6. Take-out orders and hot dogs will be available. Call (704) 786-9131 for details.

Carmelite Retreat

DURHAM — The Secular (Third) Order Discalced Carmelites sponsor a silent retreat led by Discalced Carmelite Father Regis Gordon Oct. 31-Nov. 2/3 at the Avila Retreat Center. The retreat will focus on St. Therese of Lisieux. The cost is $105 for three days, or $150 for four days (Sunday evening/Monday morning are optional). To register, send a $15 check payable to OCDS to Kathy Smith, 3619 Courtland Dr., Durham, N.C. 27707, or call (910) 493-2712 for information.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter is Nov. 7-9 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details call Michael or Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom or Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

Charismatic Mass

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass in High Point is celebrated the third Thursday of each month in the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel at 7:30 p.m.

Living Waters Reflection Center

MAGGIE VALLEY — Help build Living Waters Endowment Fund. Attend a $100-a-plate dinner at the center Oct. 12. Call (704) 926-3833 for information.

"In Search of the Male Soul" is a Nov. 7-9 retreat for men directed by Msgr. John McSweeney focusing on spiritual growth through a six-step process of change, prayer and service to others. Cost is $90.

For registration or information, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, (704) 926-3833.

New Mass Schedule

NEWTON — The complete Mass schedule at St. Joseph Church is now as follows: Saturday — 5:30 p.m.; Sunday — 8, 10 a.m. Daily Masses are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8:30 a.m., and Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12:10 p.m. Spanish Mass is Sunday at 12:45 p.m. Confessions are Saturday from 4-5 p.m. or by appointment. The parish office can be contacted at (704) 464-9207.

Lasagna Luncheon

SHELBY — St. Mary Church hosts a lasagna luncheon Oct. 23 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets are $6 each and are available at the door or by calling (704) 487-7697. Carry-outs are available, and to arrange deliveries within Shelby city limits (minimum five orders), call Mary, (704) 538-7187, or Heather, (704) 482-6355.

Widowed, Separated, Divorced Support

SYLVA — A program of spiritual renewal for widowed, separated and divorced persons in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate is Oct. 19 from 12:30-2 p.m. at St. Mary Church. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert are provided. For details, call Belle Harcourt, (704) 586-0463, during the day or Mary Brogan, (704) 497-9452, in the evenings.

Abortion Counselors Workshop

WINSTON-SALEM — Dr. David Reardon, researcher and author, is the featured speaker at a post-abortion counseling workshop Oct. 28-29 at the Radisson Inn for professional counselors, social workers, pregnancy center volunteers, nurses, parish respect life leaders and peer counselors. Call Dr. Martha Shuping, (910) 659-1342, for more information.

For Charlotte-area counselors, a breakfast is scheduled for Oct. 29 at 8:30 a.m. at Charter Pines Hospital. Call Jennifer Cisney, (910) 362-1980, for information.

The Catholic News & Herald *welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.*

Around The Diocese

Parish Fairs & Bazaars

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church annual craft bazaar is Oct. 25 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendors are invited to join for $25 per eight-foot table plus one donated item per table for a door prize. Call Colleen Neider, (704) 573-1994, for details.

CLEMMONS — Ye Olde Village Shoppes Craft Bazaar is Oct. 18 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Holy Family Church featuring holiday decorating ideas, youth ministry cafe, baked goods, religious items, children's toys and furniture, country crafts, raffles, silent auction, and Chinese auction gallery. For more information, call the church office, (910) 766-8133.

Musical Events

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte chapters of the American Harp Society and the American Guild of Organists join with a Celtic band and instrumentalists playing harp, flute, hammered dulcimer, handbells, violin and more Oct. 12 at St. Gabriel Church at 3 p.m. Admission is free, and an offering will be taken. For more information, call (704) 342-0891.

The Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte presents Jam for Jesus '97, an ecumenical, musical family picnic event featuring seven local Christian musical groups, Oct. 18 from 1-6 p.m. at Marshall Park. Among the performers are groups representing Our Lady of Consolation and St. Matthew Catholic churches. For more information, call Bruce Brodowski, (704) 845-4638.

Catholic musicians John Michael Talbot, Tony Melendez and Tom Booth perform in concert Oct. 21 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are $15 each and are available at the St. Thomas Aquinas parish office, Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe or by calling (800) 521-0290.

Parish Missions

CHARLOTTE — The "Jesus Speaks" mission is at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Oct. 12-15 at 7 p.m. each evening, led by Father Frederick A. Pompei of the Syracuse (N.Y.) Diocese, who will focus on Christ as the "someone of our life" who is there with us through difficulties and joys. Call Mary Kay Crotty, (704) 536-5452, for more information.

GREENSBORO — A team of professional Catholic evangelists presents the Isaiah Parish Mission at St. Paul the Apostle Church from Oct. 20-Oct. 23. Anyone seeking a deeper meaning in their lives to discover or rediscover a personal, living faith is invited. Call Pat Ladew, (910) 282-2963, or Dee Parkes, (910) 643-1700, for details.

Parish Profile

St. Matthew Church

St. Matthew
8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway
Charlotte, N.C. 28277
(704) 543-7677

Vicariate: **Charlotte**

Pastor: **Capuchin Father Edmund Walker**

Parochial Vicars: **Capuchin Fathers Stephen Hoyt and Robert Yurgel**

Permanent Deacons: **Rev. Mr. James Hamrlik, Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej**

Masses: **Sat.: 5:30 p.m.; Sun.: 8, 10 a.m., 12 p.m.**

Number of parishioners: **9,591**

Number of families: **2,741**

CHARLOTTE — Several hundred Catholics gathered for the first Masses celebrated as St. Matthew Parish in south Charlotte 11 years ago. Today, the parish is one of the largest in the Carolinas and its membership continues to thrive.

Father (now Msgr.) Joseph Kerin was chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte when Bishop John F. Donoghue appointed him pastor of the new parish created on Sept. 21, 1986, the feast of St. Matthew. Father Kerin celebrated the parish's first two Sunday Masses in early November in a local cinema, and liturgies in a Lutheran Church and Charlotte Latin School followed. The movie theater Masses continued until 1989.

In December 1988, Father Kerin was bestowed the title of prelate of honor, thereby making him a monsignor.

As parish membership quickly grew to 600 families and a fund drive was begun to construct a parish center. The facility was dedicated on July 22, 1989, and Bishop Donoghue, Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley and Msgr. Kerin celebrated the dedication Mass in the new building.

For seven years, the parish center served as a sanctuary, classroom area, basketball court and reception hall. With more than 1,500 people attending Masses, discussions ensued about the need to build a new sanctuary on the property.

After about 18 months of planning and a year of designing, groundbreaking took place in October 1994. Following another year and a half of construction, the new 36,000 square foot sanctuary was dedicated by Bishop William G. Curlin on March 17, 1996. Almost 2,150 families composed the congregation at the time.

The sanctuary seats 1,874, making it the largest Catholic church building in the Carolinas. A small eucharistic chapel is utilized for adoration and makes the Blessed Sacrament visible to the congregation in the main sanctuary. Above the altar is a stained glass depiction of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. The piece was designed and crafted in Statesville. The peak of the interior ceiling is 52 feet high, and the large baptismal font is located in the center aisle.

In addition to the eucharistic chapel, meeting rooms, offices, a library, a bridal room, a choir rehearsal hall, a sacristy, and rooms for ushers and altar servers are also part of the complex.

In July 1996, the Capuchin Fathers from the Province of the Stigmata of St. Francis arrived at St. Matthew to assume the pastorate there. Capuchin Father Edmund Walker was appointed pastor.

An active faith formation program consisting of more than 1,500 students — from 3-year-olds to confirmation candidates — highlights parish life and is administered by 220 teachers and assistants as well as 72 peer ministers. A variety of parish organizations and commissions tend to parish and community needs through liturgical, family, social, athletic and other forms of outreach.

A tithing parish, St. Matthew also reaches out through a number of service programs and efforts.

In 1997, the church has hosted diocesan and community events such as the diocesan jubilee Mass Jan. 12 and the two-day presentation by Catholic theologian Dr. Scott Hahn on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

St. Matthew Parish continues to grow at a rapid rate, having welcomed 89 families to its registry in September. The congregation of almost 9,600 parishioners celebrates the sacramental life of the church with Father Walker, who continues as pastor, and Capuchin Fathers Stephen Hoyt and Robert Yurgel, parochial vicars.

Williams-Dearborn
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Serving the People of Mecklenburg and Union Counties

The Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte
presents
Jam for 97 Jesus
Rodney Baucom, M.C.
Through the Medium of Music we are also
one
in the body of Christ!
An Interdenominational
Family Picnic in the Park
Love offering requested
Bring your own food
and non-alcoholic drink
and join us at
Marshall Park
Charlotte, NC
October 18, 1997
1 - 6 pm
Music by
St. Andrew United Methodist Church Brass Band
Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church Gospel Choir
Revelation Quartet - Indian Trail Baptist Church
A Few Young Fishermen - Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
Alive in the Spirit - St. Matthews Catholic Church Choir
Resurrection Lutheran Church Choir
Calvary Church Inside Outside Band

MONASTIC GUEST PROGRAM
Month long monastic contemplative experience within the enclosure of a Trappist-Cistercian community. Requirements: Ability to live the full monastic schedule.
Prayer
Work
Community Events
Silence & Solitude
— All lived within the Community —
Because of the nature of the Monastic Guest Program, it is available only to men. Our Retreat Program, however, is open to both women and men for private retreats.
No offering required
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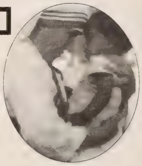
Br. John Corrigan, O.C.S.O.
Retreat Program:
Br. Stephen Petronek, O.C.S.O.
Mepkin Abbey
HC 69, Box 800
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
(803) 761-8509



"The Greatest Destroyer of Love and Peace is Abortion."

— Mother Teresa of Calcutta

As Christian churches, we believe that the Bible is the Word of God; therefore, in accordance with Scripture we proclaim that:

† **HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED** from conception to death. The lives of human beings are distinct and separate from all other life, in that we are created in God's image. (Genesis 1:27; Jeremiah 1:5)

† **THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE IS AN ESSENTIAL** tenet of the Christian faith, and a protective safeguard for our society. When the life of any human being is devalued for arbitrary reasons (stage of development, age, health, race, religion, political beliefs) all human life is at risk.

† **ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN.** Every abortion takes the life of an unborn child in the womb. (Psalm 139:13-16; Exodus 20:13)

† **ABORTION HURTS WOMEN.** Mothers, fathers, siblings, family members, and society as a whole are damaged by the taking of innocent life. Additionally, the abortion procedure can bring permanent injury to the woman — physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

† **ADOPTION IS A LOVING OPTION.** Statistics are clear. Babies are never aborted because they are unwanted. Many families are waiting to adopt your baby, regardless of the circumstances.

† **JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS.** God stands ready to forgive the sin of abortion for all who acknowledge it as sin, repent, and seek to be conformed to His image by grace, according to sound, biblical instruction. (1 John 1:9; 1 Peter 3:18) Jesus is also the God who heals and restores. His love is great enough to cover and heal all of our past sins.

† **THERE IS A BETTER WAY.** We stand today in the CHARLOTTE LIFE CHAIN for the sanctity of human life and offering hope to our city. If you are hurting from a past abortion or if you are facing an unplanned pregnancy, please call any of the churches listed below. Jesus cares about you and your child, and so do we.

God's Promise

"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants…." Deuteronomy 30:19

Abundant Life Community Church
Albermarle First Assembly of God
Arlington Baptist Church
Back Creek A.R.P. Church
Calvary Baptist Church
Carmel Baptist Church
Chapman Memorial Baptist
Christ Covenant Presbyterian (PCA)
Christ the King Lutheran Church
Covenant Baptist Church
Crown of Glory
Derita Baptist Church
Eastern Hills Baptist Church
Eastway Drive Church of God
Ebenezer A.R.P. Church
First Alliance Church
Freedom Presbyterian Church (PCA)
Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church
Garr Memorial Church
Grace Covenant Church
Hickory Grove Baptist Church
Idlewild Christian Church
Joy Christian Fellowship
Lamplight Church
Life Church Assembly of God
Lighthouse Christian Fellowship
Messiah Lutheran Church
Mt. Harmony Baptist Church
Mulberry Baptist Church
New Hope Baptist Church
New Life Church of Charlotte (Pineville)
Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church
Rod of God
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
St. Ann Catholic Church
St. Anne Catholic Church, Rock Hill
St. Gabriel Catholic Church
St. Giles Presbyterian Church (EPC)
St. John Neumann Catholic Church
St. Luke Catholic Church
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
St. Matthew Catholic Church
St. Patrick Cathedral
St. Peter Catholic Church
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church
Statesville Road Baptist Church
Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church

First Assembly of God
Pineville Church of the Nazarene
Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church
Prosperity Presbyterian Church
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church
Sunset Road Baptist Church
Thomasboro Baptist Church
Trinity Church of the Nazarene
First Pentecostal Holiness Church
First Baptist Church of Charlotte
First Baptist Church, Indian Trail
First Baptist Church, Weddington
Resurrection Lutheran Church
Weddington United Methodist Church

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NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 7 • October 17, 1997

Clinton's Second Veto Of Abortion Ban Decried

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Clinton's second veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act has not resolved the issue and will spark an intensified effort to override it, according to the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman.

In a statement issued following the Oct. 10 veto, Helen Alvare said the president's action "will only ensure a renewed grass- roots effort by Catholics and other people of good will to win the congressional support needed to override his veto."

Alvare, who is director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said the president "ignored an overwhelming consensus of legislators, religious leaders, medical professionals and the American people: the violent killing of children in the very process of being born disgraces our nation."

"We will not rest until everything possible has been done to end the horror of partial-birth abortion," she said.

In a 296-132 vote Oct. 8, the House approved the Senate's slightly amended version of a bill that would ban the controversial procedure except to save the mother's life. The House had passed its version of the ban in March.

The latest House vote is more than the two-thirds necessary to override a veto, but the Senate vote of 64-36 in May was three votes short.

Clinton vetoed an earlier version of the bill in 1996. Responding to the veto, Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., chief sponsor of the bill, said Clinton "will go down in history as the president whose veto had to be overridden in order to protect innocent babies from a brutal, heinous death."

He predicted the House will override the veto, adding, "We will work tirelessly to get the last few votes needed in the Senate." Earlier, Canady had said he did not expect a vote to override the anticipated veto until 1998.

In a separate statement Oct. 10, Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia said he was "saddened and appalled" by the veto.

"It is even more disturbing that the president continues to permit a procedure that the majority of Americans find despicable," he said.

Recalling that October is Respect Life Month, the cardinal urged prayers for defenders of life and supporters of the ban. He also urged people to pray "most of all, for those like President Clinton who feel it is not necessary to protect our nation's most vulnerable children."

In an Oct. 10 statement, Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., expressed "deep disappointment" over the veto of a bill that had bipartisan support and the endorsement of the American Medical Association.

Smith, a Catholic, noted that the same day he vetoed the ban, Clinton issued a proclamation declaring Oct. 12 National Children's Day 1997 and calling for the nurturing of the potential "within each new infant."

"This same president OK'd the slaughter of thousands of babies," said Smith. "What about the potential for them, Mr. President?" he asked.

Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, said the veto "means that each year thousands of living babies will be pulled feet-first from the womb and their heads punctured — unless Congress overrides the veto."

He said Oct. 10 that the veto came "despite lopsided, bipartisan majorities" in Congress and "despite enactment of similar bans by 15 states."

Johnson also commented on Clinton's proclamation of National Children's Day. "Why can't he recognize that it is radically inconsistent with that appeal to permit the brutal killing of a mostly delivered infant in a partial-birth abortion?" he asked in a statement.

Benedictine Father Paul Marx, founder of Human Life International, said Oct. 10 that "partial-birth abortion is infanticide and, like all forms of abortion, it is consummate evil."

In a statement issued at the organization's headquarters in Front Royal, Va., Father Marx said, "Clinton's failure to uphold the congressional ban of this procedure clearly demonstrates his moral depravity and signals the total moral collapse of this nation."

Before the veto, Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, sent Clinton a letter, urging him to sign the ban into law. "Partial-birth abortion transcends the accustomed bounds of the abortion debate, it is more accurately seen as a form of infanticide," the bishop said. Similar letters also were sent to the president by Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles and Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis.

And in an Oct. 9 statement, Bishop Edward J. O'Donnell of Lafayette, La., warned that "pro-life people and others who oppose the veto will gear up for a January campaign to enlist support for an override."

ADOPTION:
The Loving
Option

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

An estimated 8,000 people representing area congregations gathered along city streets Oct. 12 for the Charlotte Life Chain. Pictured with Bishop William G. Curlin are St. John Neumann Church parishioners Mary Beth Sardinia, Dan Morris and Mary Blanchard. Hundreds of North American cities have formed Life Chains in October to commemorate Respect Life Month.

Couples Celebrate Silver, Golden Jubilees At Mass

By **KATHY SCHMUGGE**
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — With the affirmation of perfect weather on Oct. 12, love and life were honored at a special event at St. John Neumann Catholic Church by approximately 300 couples and their families during the Charlotte Diocese's annual 25th and 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration.

Bishop William G. Curlin praised the couples during his homily, calling them "a source of hope for the world." He said the problems of today's society such as high divorce rates, abortion and euthanasia would be abolished if more people would have the same unselfish love for one another as these spouses have had throughout their married years.

"Marriage is the greatest act of faith," Bishop Curlin said, recalling the words his first pastor told him as a young priest. "Do the bride and groom know what tomorrow will bring? Sickness, what do they know of sickness? They are both in perfect health. They can't even know what 'for worse' could be...but they have faith in one another and are willing to die for each other."

See **Jubilees**, page 2

Golden, Silver Jubilees, From Page 1

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Rita and Anthony Kawalec of Our Lady of Assumption Church celebrated 50 years of marriage this year. As for advice to younger couples on making their marriage last, Mr. Kawalec jokingly replied: "Keep your fingers crossed!"

Martha and Jose Ybarra of Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte certainly relate to those words. As a young couple, they fled from Cuba 50 years ago, and went from having everything to owning one pair of shoes and a couple of shirts and pants. Mrs. Ybarro said their marriage lasted because of their faith in God, a faith which was constantly tested in a Hispanic country where religious persecution is a sad reality even today.

As for practical advice, Mrs. Ybarra added, "Don't argue about what is bothering you right away. Sleep on it and then discuss it calmly the next day."

Otillie Cozma, who also celebrated 50 years of marriage, lives by a different rule, a rule that might provide a better night's rest for some. "Never go to bed angry," said the St. John Neumann parishioner.

She added two other important rules in her marriage: "Don't argue with the boss and always agree with the cook." It was fairly obvious that the cook was the boss in that household and that was just fine for her husband, Victor, who felt the secret to a successful marriage was to avoid unnecessary arguments.

Not forgetting to communicate with God is another important secret to success, according to Dick and Diane McDonald, parishioners at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory celebrating 25 years of marriage. They both also encourage family prayer.

The event, sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Ministry, was organized by Barbara Bazluki, assistant to the executive director of Catholic Social Services. The planning started back in June when parishes were asked to submit names of couples who were celebrating their 25th or 50th year anniversary in 1997. "Because of the growing popularity of this event, we have had to invite only those couples who fit that category," she said, but as in previous years, other couples also attended to renew their vows and receive Bishop Curlin's special blessing.

Dot and Peter King of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe have seen the fruits of their 50 years of marriage. "We are blessed with a big family and we are all still in the church," Mrs. King said. Her husband attributes their happiness to their tremendous love for the Lord first and then each other. "We were taught the virtues and tried to live them," he added.

In his closing remarks, Bishop Curlin prayed that the couples' families follow their lesson in living. "May your children, grandchildren and their children call you blessed because, through your Christ-like love, you have shown grace in action," he said.

If you would like to advertise in THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD please contact Gene Sullivan at 331-1722

Court Clears Way For Assisted Suicide Law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court Oct. 14 cleared the way for an Oregon law that legalizes assisted suicide to take effect.

By declining to revive a lawsuit blocking the law, the court made it possible for the state's assisted suicide law to take effect, nearly three years after it was narrowly approved in a voter referendum.

The law may be short-lived, however, because Oregon voters were beginning a mail-in vote on whether to repeal it. Known as the Death with Dignity Act, the law passed with 51 percent of the vote in 1994 but has never taken effect because of lawsuits.

In its action the Supreme Court, without comment, declined to revive a challenge to the law filed by a terminally ill woman and two doctors.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the case on the grounds that the trio lacked the appropriate legal standing to challenge the law. Earlier, a federal judge in Oregon had struck down the law as unconstitutional. The 9th Circuit's finding that the plaintiffs lacked standing reversed that judgment, effectively reinstating the law.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that laws in the states of Washington and New York prohibiting assisted suicide are constitutional. But the court's opinion made it clear that the justices do not consider the issue closed and suggested they might be open to hearing cases that approach assisted suicide law from other angles.

"Throughout the nation, Americans are engaged in an earnest and profound debate," wrote Chief Justice William Rehnquist in June. "Our holding permits this debate to continue."

Oregon was using a mail-in voting procedure to consider the Legislature's attempt to reverse the 1994 referendum. The ballots will be counted Nov. 4.

James Bopp Jr., attorney for the trio who attempted to block the law, said in a statement that the Death With Dignity Act has a great many dangerous flaws from which voters cannot expect the courts to protect them.

His statement, released by the National Right to Life Committee, said the law lacks requirements such as a mental health evaluation and other safeguards from misdiagnosis, family pressures or depression that might induce people to seek assisted suicide.

"Oregon's voters have the opportunity and responsibility to reinstate the safety net of suicide prevention and treatment protections for the most vulnerable in our society," Bopp said.

In light of the Supreme Court's refusal to reopen the appeal, lower courts will now have to reconsider their rulings before the law can take effect. Depending upon how quickly those courts act, the law might take effect before the Nov. 4 election date.

The Death with Dignity Act also could be blocked if another suit is filed by people who can demonstrate they would be more directly affected by the law than could the original three plaintiffs.

David Schuman, deputy attorney general for Oregon, said early in October that such a lawsuit was likely.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Our U.S. bishops summarized in ten key principles our Catholic tradition of applying faith and moral teachings to economic life.

Principle #4:

As Christians we recognize that there is something distinctive about human beings, something that sets us apart from other living parts of the world. We express this by saying that we are created in the image and likeness of God. Whether male or female, each human being is a precious gift from God. Whether we come from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, or indigenous American backgrounds, every human being is a member of the one family that is of God's making. How do we show respect and reverence for this unique gift at all stages of life, not only at the beginning or the end?

Principle #4: All people have a right to life and to secure the basic necessities of life (e.g. food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, safe environment, economic security).

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue
Rock Hill, S.C. 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

DAY WITH THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Thursday, November 20 or
Saturday, November 22,
1997
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fr. David Valtierra, C.O.

A fall tradition at the Oratory. Significant sections from Luke, the Gospel for the upcoming Liturgical year, will be shared, read and reflected on using the Oratory style of familiar treatment of the Word. The same program is offered both days. The schedule includes prayer and Mass.

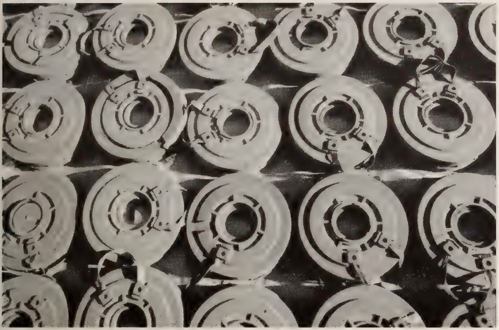
$25 (lunch included)
Pre-register by November 14

Scripture

Readings for the week of October 19-25

Sunday	Isaiah 53:10-11 Hebrews 4:14-16 Mark 10:35-45
Monday	Romans 4:20-25 Luke 12:13-21
Tuesday	Romans 5:12,15,17-21 Luke 12:35-38
Wednesday	Romans 6:12-18 Luke 12:39-48
Thursday	Romans 6:19-23 Luke 12:49-53
Friday	Romans 7:18-25 Luke 12:54-59
Saturday	Romans 8:1-11 Luke 13:1-9

Church Leaders Laud Nobel Prize For Campaign to Ban Land Mines


CNS photo from Reuters

Deactivated land mines are lined up in the sand near a refugee camp in the southern Algerian desert in April this year. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its coordinator, Jodie Williams, won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, the Nobel committee announced Oct. 10.

,By JENNIFER E. REED

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Church leaders said they hoped to see greater international involvement in the campaign to ban land mines following the announcement of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

John Carr, secretary of Department of Social Development and World Peace for the U.S. Catholic Conference, said the award "is a way to shine a light on these hidden killers."

"My hope is that people will see in the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize ... reason to join the effort. In particular, I hope that the U.S. government will rethink its position and join the growing global consensus to ban these indiscriminate weapons," Carr, a spokesman for the Catholic Campaign to Ban Landmines, told Catholic News Service Oct. 10.

Earlier that day, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced its decision to award the peace prize "in equal parts" to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and to Jody Williams, a U.S. citizen who coordinates the campaign, which began in 1991. The international campaign is a grouping of more than 1,000 nongovernmental organizations in nearly 60 countries united in the effort to ban anti-personnel land mines.

On Sept. 17, President Clinton announced that he would not commit the United States to the terms of a treaty, which was agreed upon by representatives of more than 100 countries and due to be signed in December in Ottawa.

In a statement Oct. 10, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J, chairman of the U.S. bishops international policy committee, congratulated the campaign and Williams "for the richly deserved recognition" of the peace prize.

"We will continue to urge our government to rethink its opposition to the Ottawa treaty and join the 100 other nations who will sign the global ban in December," said the archbishop.

The Catholic Campaign to Ban Landmines, made up of nearly 20 Catholic organizations, is part of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Mercy Sister Janice Ryan, coordinator of the Catholic campaign, told CNS Oct. 10 that the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize will give "incredible exposure" to "the humanitarian crisis caused by land mines."

The international campaign reportedly was to give the prize of $994,000 to land-mine victims worldwide. The prize was to be presented at a Dec. 10 ceremony in Oslo, Norway.

An estimated 26,000 people a year are killed or maimed by the land mines, and more than 100 million land mines remain throughout the world.

Following the announcement of the award, U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said in a statement: "This award will help encourage the nations of the world to seize this fragile moment to begin banning these weapons forever. I hope it will help my country to join the process."

The senator was one of several public officials who wrote to the Nobel Committee to support the nominations of the international campaign and Williams for the prize. Williams is from Putney, Vt.

At the Vatican, U.S. Sacred Heart Sister Marjorie Keenan, an official at the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said the council is "certainly happy for any recognition of the splendid work being done by several nongovernmental organizations on the question of banning land mines."

Pope, Argentine President Discuss Situation In Cuba

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II and Argentine President Carlos Menem discussed religious freedom and the overall human rights picture in Cuba during a private meeting at the Vatican Oct. 11.

Menem, speaking at a press conference later in the day, said the pope had asked him to inform Cuban President Fidel Castro that the church needs and expects greater freedom to operate in the Caribbean island.

A particular issue raised by the pope concerned the Cuban church's request for permission for about 100 foreign priests to be allowed into the country to help prepare the pope's pastoral visit there Jan. 21-25.

Menem said he would relay the pope's concerns during an Inter- American conference in Venezuela in November.

The pope and Castro met for the first time last year, an encounter that paved the way for the first papal visit to Cuba, home to some 4.5 million Catholics. Preparations for the visit have involved the Vatican, local church leaders and state officials, and the level of cooperation has drawn Vatican praise.

But in recent weeks, Vatican officials said they were disappointed that Cuban authorities have made few substantial concessions in the area of religious freedom. They said they had expected more progress in the period leading up to the pope's arrival.

One official said that if there was no movement on the church's requests in Cuba, the ppe's speeches may reflect the Vatican's disappointment. The church enjoys basic freedom of worship in Cuba, but is seeking more space for its social and educative programs, a bigger media presence and more freedom of entry for foreign missionaries.

St. Patrick Cathedral

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For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

Partial Birth Abortion transcends the accustomed bounds of the abortion debate and is more accurately seen as a form of infanticide. The American people are pleading with their elected leaders to reject this inhumane procedure.

Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla
Bishop of Cleveland
President, NCCB/USCC

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 18
10 a.m.
Mass for Healthcare Workers
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

1 p.m.
"Jam for Jesus"
Marshall Park, Charlotte

October 20-23
Diocese of Knoxville Priests' Retreat
Maggie Valley

October 25
6 p.m.
100th Anniversary Mass and Celebration
St. Phillip the Apostle Church, Statesville

October 26
11 a.m.
50th Anniversary Mass and Celebration for
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
High Point Convention Center, High Point

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Healthy Families Lead to Healthy Society, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Oct. 8.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The World Day of the Family, which has just been celebrated in Rio De Janeiro in Brazil, remains vivid in my mind and heart. The church recognizes and teaches that the family is an essential part of God's plan for the human race; it is the privileged place for personal and social development. The family, as a gift and a responsibility, is the hope of humanity. When the family is fostered, the human person is fostered; when the family is attacked, the human person is attacked. Today human life and the family are being confronted by a fundamental challenge. In the name of a false freedom divorced from objective truth, rules and prohibitions are brought into question. The broad and easy way of subjective choices, economic advantages and immediate pleasures becomes the rule. In reality, however, man and woman's true happiness is based on the experience of love in which mutual fidelity, the spirit of sacrifice and generous dedication to the good of the other lead to a sharing of thoughts, emotions and actions, thereby easing life's sufferings and increasing its joys. God's plan for the family is a message of hope: faithful love open to life is both possible and joyous; generous acceptance of the church's teaching contributes to a more just, peaceful and loving human society.

Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, Scotland, Denmark, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan and the United States, I invoke God's abundant blessings.

Pope Donates $200,000 Toward U. N. Refugee Relief Efforts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II donated $200,000 toward U.N. relief efforts for refugees in Rwanda, Angola and Balkan republics. The pope presented the check during a private meeting Oct. 9 with Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Vatican Radio reported. Ogata expressed gratitude for the contribution and for the moral support on refugee issues offered by the pope, the Vatican and the many Catholic relief agencies working around the world.

Pope Says Legalization of Drugs Not Answer To Drug Abuse Problem

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Legalizing or decriminalizing of so-called "soft" drugs would send the public a message that using such drugs is not harmful, Pope John Paul II said. Legalization or decriminalization will not diminish drug abuse and addiction, nor address its causes, the pope said Oct. 11 during a meeting sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers.

Meeting Teachers a Half-Century Later

By Antoinette Bosco

The actress Patricia Neal once said: "A master can tell you what he expects of you. A teacher, though, awakens your own expectations."

I've never heard a definition of teacher better put — and that's how I would characterize the nuns who taught me some 50 years ago. Now some of my former teachers have asked me to visit them and talk about my life and work. I consider that a great compliment.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet staffed the elementary school, high school and college that I attended in my home city of Albany, N.Y. Not many people can say they had such continuity in their education. But I did, and the older I get the more I appreciate the extra value I gained from being in the classrooms of these nuns.

In the decades that followed, ridiculing nuns became the thing to do, sometimes in good humor, like off-Broadway's long-running "Nunsense," and sometimes seemingly in bitterness, like Christopher Durang's play, "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All to You."

Yes, the nuns were strict, but they had to be, with 40 to 80 youths in a class. And yes, I'm sure some were tyrants. But I was lucky. My nun teachers seemed to have one goal in mind: to instill confidence in me that I could do good work when I completed my education.

Now many of them have died, but some are active retirees living at the St. Joseph Provincial House in Latham, N.Y. At long last I will have the opportunity to thank them for their great impact on my life. I remember their names and reflect now on the gifts they passed on to their students.

Sister Charles Garnier (now, Sister Winifred), my high school Latin teacher, had such a sense of humor that she helped us translate the popular 1940s song "Mairsie Doats" into Latin! She also introduced me to the North American martyrs, the Jesuits who came from France to Christianize Native-Americans and were murdered, a story that fascinated me. (St. Charles Garnier was one of the martyrs.)

It was because of this teacher that 20 years later I researched these Jesuit stories and wrote my second book on "Joseph the Huron," one of the Native-Americans converted by the "Blackrobes."

Sister Jerome Joseph brought me music and introduced me to C.S. Lewis.

Sister Theophane inspired me to care deeply about the social and human needs of people, and understand the role of politics in this.

Sister Emily Joseph had such a smile that you felt joy as you entered her classroom.

Sister Anna Theresa, the librarian, was so human. She gave me a treasure before she died, her little black book of writings. My favorite is "A hot head seems so much more pardonable than a cold heart."

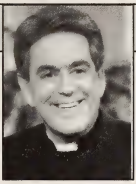
Admiral H. C. Rickover once wrote, "All great philosophers have understood that the education of youth is the primary function of society — the means by which humanity's inheritance is transmitted from one generation to another.... Each one of us is heir to all of the ideas and accomplishments of every human being who has ever lived."

Those wonderful women who gave me so much to get started on in life will probably be surprised to learn that they are great philosophers.

Antoinette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Jewish Sukkot: Makeshift Huts Meet the Everlasting

During this week the Jewish Pilgrimage festival of Sukkot (Booths) commands the Jewish people to construct a "not too solid" dwelling for seven days in commemoration of the wandering of the Israelites in the desert.

Into the booth is gathered all the cornucopia of God's good creation. The injunction in Exodus 23:16 reads: "You shall observe the festival of harvest, of the first fruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall observe the festival of ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor."

In fact, even today, Jews who celebrate make a hut consisting of three makeshift walls and a roof which I am told is the last element secured. It must be covered with tree branches so that the evening sky is framed like a tray of diamonds.

Each member of the family adds her or his own personal touches as the structure is hoisted, sturdied and decorated. In some families costly drapes are drawn over the frames. Others add oriental rugs or tapestries. From the branches of the roof dangle pomegranates, wreaths of almonds and corncobs, even decanters of oil — all pungent reminders of the magnanimity of the Creator. Yet the booths are supposed to remain makeshift and temporary to call to mind human vulnerability and how ultimately we all depend upon God for shelter.

Author Blu Greenberg emphasizes the regulation that the shelter must be makeshift in her illustrative book "How to Run a Traditional Household". Several years ago, her husband Yitz, a rabbi, celebrated the first night's meal in a large shelter with a hundred members of his congregation. It was a very windy night. After the first course, the rabbi decided to move the crowd inside because of the powerful winds.

"We looked like a group of refugees as we sadly trudged out of our beautiful sukkah with our dishes and cutlery in hand. Ten minutes after we had set ourselves up in the social hall and had just begun to resume our meal, we heard the sounds of a terrible crash: The sukkah had completely collapsed."

All the glass windows, bamboo poles, evergreens, fabric and decorations had instantly collapsed into one huge heap of rubble. There were gasps of horror and a long moment of silence as everyone pondered fearfully what might have happened to them. But the rabbi, seeking to restore the festive mood, broke the silence by saying, "Well, at least we know it was a *kosher* sukkah!"

As Jewish families gather together in their fragile shelters to celebrate the waning days of harvest just before the first blast of winter, Sukkot provides a rich symbol for our environment, our planet, and surely ourselves.

Are not all cosmic and human frames shaky with fragile, temporary supports which will eventually fail and fall? And yet their weakness is our strength. For God is there to steady His Creation and remind us of His love for us who are "the work of His hands." This week with the rabbi we can all confidently intone the sukkot *she-he-heyanu* prayer: "Surely we are all in God's shelter."

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Out of the Ordinary" write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

The First Historical Mention of Jesus

***Q.** Jesus Christ is surely one of the greatest figures in history. Can you tell us if he is mentioned anywhere other than in the Bible?*

A. I assume you are asking about early Christian history, around the time the New Testament was being formed.

For us Christians, who believe that the coming of Jesus was the pivotal point in human history, it's difficult to imagine how little interest he aroused apart from his own small community of followers.

From any viewpoint other than faith, he was, after all, merely the leader of a tiny off-shoot group of Jews, in a spectacularly insignificant corner of the Roman Empire.

The first historical mention of Jesus outside the circle of Christians apparently was by Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian who eventually won the close friendship of Vespasian and other Roman emperors.

This historian's works, especially "The Antiquities of the Jews," completed about the year 94, were highly prized resources by St. Jerome and other early church fathers.

Toward the end of the book, Josephus describes how, under the procurator Albinus, there was brought before a group of judges "the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James" (Book XX 9.1).

This would have been James the apostle, one of the three disciples closest to our Lord, who died as a martyr in the year 44.

An earlier mention of Jesus in the "Antiquities" as a miracle worker who rose three days after dying was almost certainly added later by a Christian "copy editor."

The first mention of Jesus by a pagan writer seems to be by the Roman historian Gaius Suetonius. In his Life of Claudius (perhaps about 120 A.D.) he writes, "Since the Jews made continual disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he (Claudius) expelled them from Rome."

This is generally accepted as referring to the early Christians and to Christ, though the timing is rather faulty. Claudius was emperor some years after Christ.

The Church and Scriptural Truths

***Q.** A PBS television program on the Book of Genesis noted that after Cain killed Abel, God banished him from the territory and marked him somehow.*

Cain then was afraid that anyone who recognized him would kill him. Who was he afraid of? Who was there to kill him?

Cain went east and married and built a great city. How could he marry a non- existent woman?

A. Such biblical dilemmas are another proof that not all, if indeed any, parts of the Bible can be read as straight history in the modern sense of that word.

This is true at all stages, but in a particular way for the "pre-history" portion of Genesis, generally Chapters 1 to 11.

See **Dietzen,** page 11

Reflections on two priests: Father John Murray and Monsignor William Wellein

By Karen Duncan Miller

I had two profound spiritual experiences within a period of one week. Each took place at the Mass of Christian burial for a retired priest of the Charlotte Diocese. Both priests had been influential in my life.

The first took place on Oct. 2, the feast of the Guardian Angels, at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton for Father John Murray. The second was Oct. 7, the feast of the Holy Rosary, at St. Patrick's Cathedral for Msgr. William Wellein.

Each man was a holy and dedicated priest. Each had been a friend and counselor at challenging times in my life. Father Murray had been there to listen and comfort when I was having a difficult time with an authority. He encouraged me without condemning the other person in any way.

My husband had helped take care of Msgr. Wellein when he had his first heart attack many years ago, and he became a loyal friend of our growing family. He later gave us counseling at a very stressful time in our relationship. As well as being available, both priests were generous and faithful in offering their prayers for myself and my family.

When I first learned of Father Murray's death, I regretted that I had not been a more faithful correspondent in his retirement years. I almost immediately thought of Msgr. Wellein as well and was determined to write him in the near future. When Bishop Curlin announced Msgr. Wellein's death at the end of the Mass for Father Murray, I was crushed. I was sad that they were no longer here in our midst but even sadder that I had lost my opportunity to return their kindness to me in some small way. But there was joy in knowing that both Father Murray and Msgr. Wellein would no longer suffer physical pain and had indeed "gone home." But there was much, much more.

These were no ordinary funerals. Both Bishop Curlin's homily in Morganton and Msgr. James Jones' homily in Charlotte heightened my awareness and awe of the priesthood by leaps and bounds. I came away with a new appreciation of and desire to pray unceasingly for our priests and for vocations. What an indescribable gift to be called! What a privilege to pray for and love our priests as brothers in Christ! Yes, they are human; yes, they fight the same temptations we all do. But they act in the person of Christ.

We must teach our children to cherish our priests. We must pray for all priests to be the holy men God intends for them to be so that our young men will want to follow their examples.

As my heart was lifted at each homily, it was exalted at each consecration. To see the raised hands of so many priests, to hear the chorus of voices changing the humble host into the precious body and the common wine into the precious blood emphasized for me that miraculous moment which occurs at each and every celebration of the Eucharist.

It was a privilege and a pleasure to know these two compassionate and devoted men. There have been many other equally holy priests who have touched my life. May I not neglect them in friendship and prayer, and may many of our sons follow in their footsteps.

Karen Duncan Miller is a parishioner of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory.

Pictured in front from left are Harry Grim, Father Anthony Marcaccio and Gail Grim; in middle, John Engler, Dr. Don Joyce and Ray Farris; and in back, Tony Lopez-Ibanez, Jim Kelley, Chuck Grace and Bob Gallagher, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C.

Order of Malta Invests Charlotte Parishioners

WASHINGTON — Seven parishioners of the Diocese of Charlotte were invested in the Order of Malta Sept. 13 during a liturgy celebrated by Cardinal James Hickey at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.

John Engler, Ray Farris, Bob Gallagher, Gail Grim, Tony Lopez-Ibanez, Dr. Don Joyce and Jim Kelley were among almost 50 men and women from around the country invested as Dames and Knights of Magistral Grace into the order.

Chuck Grace and Harry Grim were also part of the Sept. 13 group. They were invested into the order's American Association in 1992 and '93, respectively, and transferred their memberships to the Federal Association after Bishop William G. Curlin helped establish a Malta group based in the diocesan see city.

Father Anthony Marcaccio, Bishop Curlin's priest-secretary and administrator of St. John Neumann Parish in Charlotte, concelebrated the solemn liturgy of investiture.

The eight knights and one dame are now members of the oldest order of chivalry in existence. The Knights of Malta was founded in the Holy Land during the 11th century as a religious confraternity. A group of men maintaining a Christian hospital were its originators, and the group received approval as a religious order in 1113.

Primarily tending to the poor and to hospital work, it became an international military order in the 12th century and was a strong religious, military and political entity for more than 500 years. Headquarters have been located in the Holy Land, Rhodes, Malta and, since 1834, Rome.

Dames and Knights of Magistral Grace compose one of four classifications in the current membership of the order. That category is open to both men and women without noble lineage.

The other classifications are Knights of Justice, Knights of Obedience, and Knights of Honor and Devotion and of Grace and Devotion. Each of these three classifications requires noble lineage for inclusion.

The combined chivalric and religious order is devoted to a variety of hospital and charitable work throughout the world. Members must be willing to participate in the activities of the order — both spiritual activities and personal service to the sick and the poor.

As an internationally recognized sovereign state, the Order of Malta maintains full diplomatic relationships with the Vatican and more than 50 countries.

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Parish Makes Polish Connection

NORTH WILKESBORO — The congregation of St. John Baptist de la Salle Church made a global connection recently when the parish hosted the Folk Dance and Song Ensemble from Wroclaw, Poland, at the 9 a.m. Mass on Sept. 28.

The 30 members of the ensemble were guests of the Charlotte Sister Cities Committee and took part in the UNC-Charlotte International Festival '97 as the featured entertainment on the UNCC campus Sept. 27.

Founded in 1952, the dance and song group has performed more than 2,000 concerts around the world. This was their first trip to the United States.

The cultural exchange gathered Catholics from two sides of the world for Communion, prayer and song at the Sept. 28 Mass. Following the liturgy, the ensemble performed two Polish hymns. A breakfast continued the festivities, where the group sang and danced many selections from their repertoire.

The Charlotte Sister Cities Committee is a private, non-profit organization responsible for coordinating the exchanges between citizens of Charlotte and the seven cities sharing official relationships formed by municipal governments. Wroclaw has been a sister city of Charlotte since 1993.

Father Frank Cintula, pastor of St. John Church, traveled to Wroclaw in May as part of a delegation representing the Charlotte committee. In addition to encountering the ambiance of the 1,000-year-old city while it hosted the 46th International Eucharistic Congress, Father Cintula also learned of its spirit — one that has withstood war, political upheaval and environmental disaster.

Wroclaw made worldwide news in July when catastrophic floods attacked the region, killing dozens and leaving behind a swath of devastation.

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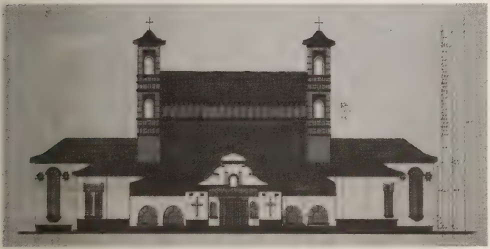


Fotos por Joann Keane

Por MIKE KROKOS

CHARLOTTE – Un terreno de 16 acres en Tuckasegee Road, en el noroeste de Charlotte, será donde se construirá el futuro Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte.

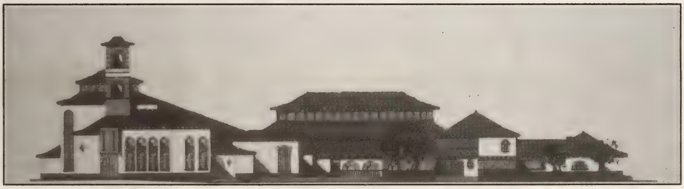
El Padre Vicentino, Vicente Finnerty, director del ministerio hispano de la Diócesis, dijo que el proyecto, que se construirá en tres fases, consistirá de una iglesia, un centro comunitario, una guardería infantil y una clínica de salud para cubrir las necesidades de la creciente comunidad hispana en la Diócesis. El Programa Hispano del Servicio Social Católico se mudará también para el nuevo local. El costo total de este proyecto es de unos cinco millones de dólares.

"Nosotros hemos querido hacer esto por mucho tiempo", dijo el Padre Finnerty el 26 de septiembre cuando anunció el comienzo de una campaña de cuatro meses para recaudar $300,000.00 para construir la primera fase del proyecto que consistirá de un centro comunitario de uso múltiple y que tendrá un valor de $1 millón de dólares. El centro ha recaudado $200,000 entre diferentes actividades y donaciones y la Diócesis hará un préstamo de $500,000. Este edificio incluirá oficinas, salones de clase, baños con duchas y una cocina.

"Nosotros necesitamos un lugar para

Continua en la página 2

Dibujos arquitectónicos del futuro Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte. Elevación frontal de la futura iglesia (arriba). Vista general del conjunto mirando desde Tuckasegee Road (derecha).



Fotos por Joann Keane

¿Qué es un Año Santo?

En la tradición católica romana, un Año Santo, o Jubileo, es un gran evento religioso. Es un año de perdón de los pecados y también del castigo por los pecados, es un año de reconciliación entre adversarios, de conversión y de recepción del Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Es un tiempo de solidaridad, esperanza, justicia y compromiso para servir a Dios con alegría y en paz con nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Un año de jubileo es, sobre todo, el año de Cristo, quien brinda vida y gracia a la humanidad.

El origen del Jubileo cristiano data desde los tiempos bíblicos. La Ley de Moisés prescribía un año especial para el pueblo judío: "Declararás santo el año cincuenta y proclamarás la liberación para todos los habitantes de la tierra. Será para ustedes un año de jubileo. Los que habían tenido que empeñar su propiedad, la recobrarán. Los esclavos regresarán a su familia. Este año cincuenta será un año de jubileo. No sembrarás ni segarás los rebrotes, ni vendimiarás la viña sin cultivar, pues es año jubilar, que será consagrado para ustedes. Comerás de lo que el campo produce por sí solo" (Levítico 25:10-14). La trompeta que se usó en este año para anunciar el jubileo era un cuerno de cabra que en hebreo se llamaba Yobel, y de ella proviene la palabra jubileo. La celebración de este año también incluye la restitución de la tierra a sus dueños originales, la cancelación de las deudas, la liberación de los esclavos, y el descanso de la tierra. En el Nuevo Testamento, Jesús se presenta como El que hace que se cumpla el antiguo jubileo, porque El ha venido "para publicar un año feliz lleno de los favores de Yavé" (Isaías 61:1-2).

Una nota interesante es que en casi todos los países, el tiempo se cuenta desde antes y después de la venida de Cristo al mundo, aunque hoy pocas personas se hayan percatado de los orígenes de este cálculo. Para los cristianos, por lo tanto, el Jubileo del Año 2000 es importante porque será la celebración del 2,000 aniversario del nacimiento de Cristo (aparte de las diferencias de un conteo cronológico exacto). Lo que es más, será el primer Año Santo que marca la llegada de un nuevo milenio, ya que el primer Jubileo fue proclamado por el Papa Bonifacio VIII en 1300.

Entonces para los cristianos, el Año del Jubileo debe ser una gran oración de alabanza y acción de gracias a Dios por el don de la Encarnación de su Hijo y la Redención que El nos trae.

El Jubileo es llamado Año Santo, no sólo porque se inicia, está marcado y termina con actos santos y solemnes, sino también porque su propósito es alentar la santidad de la vida. En realidad, éste fue convocado para fortalecer la fe, alentar obras de caridad y comunión fraternal dentro de la Iglesia y la sociedad y hacer un llamado a los cristianos a ser más sinceros en su fe en Cristo, el único Salvador.

Un Jubileo puede ser "ordinario" si es que cae después de un período determinado de años y "extraordinario" cuando es proclamado por algún hecho significativo. Hasta la fecha, han habido veinticinco Años Santos "ordinarios"; el año 2000 será el 26º. La costumbre de llamar "extraordinarios" a los jubileos empezó en el siglo XVI y éstos pueden variar en duración, desde algunos días hasta un año. En este siglo, hubo dos jubileos extraordinarios: en 1933, proclamado por el Papa Pío XI, para conmemorar el 1,900 aniversario de la Redención y, en 1983, proclamado por el Papa Juan Pablo II, para conmemorar 1,950 años de la Redención por Cristo por su Muerte y Resurrección en el año 33. El año 1987 fue proclamado como año Mariano por el Papa Juan Pablo II.

(Este extracto de www.vatican.va/ jubilee apareció en el boletín Jubilee 2000 del Secretariado para el Tercer Milenio del NCCB/USCC.)

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Queridos amigos y amigas en Cristo:

En estos días celebramos el 12 de octubre, el día de la raza hispana. Es un día cuando tomamos conciencia de la riqueza de nuestra historia, de nuestra cultura, de nuestras tradiciones y de nuestra espiritualidad.

A mí me parece que es un día sumamente importante. Es importante porque es un día para darnos cuenta de la gran riqueza con que Dios ha dotado a nuestros pueblos. A veces, como hispanos, tendemos a despreciar lo nuestro. Parte de nuestra historia incluye épocas de opresión, de dominación, de injusticia. Esto nos ha marcado.

Entonces, el 12 de octubre es un día cuando queremos afirmar con nobleza, con sencillez nuestra dignidad como hijos de Dios, como hispanos. Tal vez yo les pueda ayudar al recordarles nuestros grandes valores espirituales.

Primero, la espiritualidad de los hispanos tiene aguante. La espiritualidad es una realidad que ha estado viva a lo largo de su peregrinaje por la historia humana. La fe está bien enraizada en nuestros pueblos. Se manifiesta de muchas maneras. A veces es en forma de oración, novenas, canciones y gestos sagrados.

Se manifiesta también en las relaciones personales y la hospitalidad. Nuestra gente sabe dar de lo poco que tiene y no le cuesta. La casa de uno es la casa de todos. Las relaciones personales son muy cálidas. Para el hispano, la persona es importante y se toma el tiempo para poner esto de relieve en nuestras relaciones personales.

Otras veces, nuestra espiritualidad se muestra con la tolerancia, la paciencia, la fortaleza y la esperanza en medio del sufrimiento y las dificultades. Al mismo tiempo, nuestra espiritualidad, nuestra manera de creer en Dios, no es puro aguantar y tolerar. También inspira la lucha por la libertad, la justicia y la paz.

Con frecuencia nuestro espíritu católico se manifiesta en compromiso y perdón como también en celebración, fiesta, danzas, imágenes y símbolos sagrados. Altarcitos, imágenes y velas en la casa son sacramentales, signos de la presencia de Dios. Las pastorelas, las posadas, los nacimientos, el vía crucis, las peregrinaciones, las procesiones y las bendiciones que ofrecen las madres, los padres y los abuelos son manifestaciones de esta espiritualidad y fe profunda.

Los hispanos encuentran a Dios, de una manera especial, en los brazos de la Virgen María. Es por eso que María, la Madre de Dios, toda bondad, compasión, protección, inspiración, modelo…. está en el corazón de la espiritualidad hispana.

En estos días que celebramos nuestra raza, los animo a hacer dos cosas. Primero, tomar conciencia nuevamente de lo bello de lo nuestro. Segundo, comprometerse en conservar y enseñar lo nuestro. Sería una verdadera tragedia perder estos aspectos tan ricos de nuestra espiritualidad. Nuestros hijos necesitan experimentarlos, acogerlos, vivirlos. Que no nos avergoncemos de lo nuestro.

Viene de la página 1

que la gente pueda reunirse y para responder a las necesidades recreativas, sociales y educacionales", el Padre Finnerty añadió. "Hay mucho entusiasmo por este proyecto. La gente verdaderamente está apoyándolo". El Centro Católico Hispano actualmente celebra cuatro Misas en español cada fin de semana en lo que era el antiguo colegio católico de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, en Shenandoah Avenue esquina a The Plaza. La campaña para recaudar fondos se anunció en todas las Misas el fin de semana del 27 y 28 de septiembre.

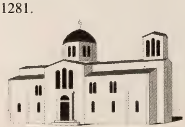
Receptáculos para donaciones han sido instalados en restaurantes y negocios hispanos del área y se han organizado grupos que visitarán vecindarios con población hispana para recaudar fondos para este proyecto.

El Centro, que existe hace 25 años, se fundó para unir a la comunidad hispana e incorporarla a una comunidad mayor a través de programas, de la liturgia, de la catequesis y de apoyo. A través de los años, el núcleo de la comunidad ha cambiado de cubanos y ecuatorianos a mayormente mexicanos y centroamericanos.

El Padre Finnerty espera comenzar la obra de la primera fase el próximo otoño. No se ha señalado fecha para completar toda la obra. "Todo depende. Si alguien nos hace una donación de $4 millones mañana, entonces podremos comenzar el trabajo mucho más temprano", dijo él.

Los edificios se construirán en un estilo arquitectónico tradicionalmente hispano, el cual se usa frecuentemente en el sur de la Florida. El proyecto incluirá una plaza al frente de la iglesia. El arquitecto argentino Carlos De La Croix, completó los planos y dibujos del proyecto. La iglesia sentará a 600 personas y eventualmente será una parroquia bilingüe con Misas en español e inglés, dijo el Padre Finnerty. Se ha comprado una casa al frente del terreno, la cual servirá como rectoría.

Se pueden enviar donaciones para este proyecto al Centro Católico Hispano, 2117 Shenandoah Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205. Para más información sobre el esfuerzo de recaudación llamen al (704) 335-1281.



El Papa reta al Brasil a fomentar justicia social y prosperidad

Foto CNS de Reuters

EL PAPA EN BRASIL – Su santidad Juan Pablo II con el presidente Fernando Henrique Cardoso y su esposa Ruth Cardoso a su llegada a Brasil el 2 de octubre. A su llegada por una visita de cuatro días, el Papa desafió a los brasileños a promover justicia social y prosperidad en esa nación.

RIO DE JANEIRO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II desafió a los brasileños y a su gobierno para que promuevan la justicia social y la prosperidad para todas las personas del país.

Al llegar a la base aérea de Galeao el 2 de octubre, el Papa pidió que se prestara una atención especial a las dificultades de los chicos callejeros del Brasil, y a la enorme brecha entre los ricos y los pobres del país.

El Papa volvió su atención a dos segmentos de la población que a menudo se enfrentan a la discriminación y a la pobreza grave: Los pueblos indígenas y los brasileños de ancestro africano.

Los descendientes de los habitantes originales del país, dijo él, han sembrado en la cultura brasileña "un sentido profundo de la familia, del respeto por los antecesores y de la intimidad y el cariño familiares. Ellos merecen toda nuestra atención, para que puedan vivir su cultura con dignidad".

Los descendientes de los esclavos africanos traídos al país durante el período colonial, dijo el Papa, también han enriquecido a la cultura del país.

"Estos brasileños de origen africano merecen, tienen el derecho al máximo respeto por los rasgos fundamentales de su cultura y pueden justamente solicitarlos y esperarlos".

Refiriéndose a la imponente estatua de Cristo que mira sobre la ciudad, el Papa oró para que "Cristo el Redentor, que desde las alturas del Corcovado abre Sus brazos en la forma de la cruz, iluminara a las familias, a la comunidad eclesiástica y a toda la sociedad temporal con la luz que viene de lo alto".

La Virgen María, Mediadora

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO, (VIS).— En la Audiencia General del miércoles 1ro. de octubre, celebrada en la Plaza de San Pedro, el Santo Padre recordó que el Concilio Vaticano II da a María el título de «Mediadora» al afirmar que «con su múltiple intercesión continúa obteniéndonos los dones de la salvación eterna».

En la Encíclica «Redemptoris Mater», dijo el Papa, «recuerdo que 'la mediación de María está íntimamente unida a su maternidad, y posee un carácter específicamente materno que la distingue del de las demás criaturas'».

El Concilio afirma que «María es 'para nosotros la madre en el orden de la gracia'». Este título «aclara que la Virgen coopera con Cristo en el renacimiento espiritual de la humanidad».

Juan Pablo II indicó que «la mediación materna de María no oscurece la única y perfecta mediación de Cristo. (...) De Cristo deriva el valor de la mediación de María, y por tanto — añadió con el Concilio— el influjo saludable de la Bienaventurada Virgen, 'de ninguna manera impide la unión inmediata de los creyentes con Cristo, sino que la facilita'».

«Al proclamar a Cristo único mediador, el texto de la Carta de San Pablo a Timoteo excluye toda mediación paralela, pero no una mediación subordinada. (...) Es posible participar en la mediación de Cristo en diversos ámbitos de la obra de la salvación. (...) En esta voluntad de suscitar participaciones en la única mediación de Cristo, se manifiesta el amor gratuito de Dios que quiere compartir lo que posee». El Papa señaló a continuación que la mediación materna de la Virgen es «un don del Padre para la humanidad». Y terminó subrayando que «María desarrolla su acción materna en continua dependencia con la mediación de Cristo, y de El recibe todo lo que su corazón quiere dar a los hombres».

¿Tiene Vigencia el Rosario?

La tradición de la Iglesia ha dedicado el mes de octubre al rosario a la Virgen. El rosario es una oración simple y teológicamente rica en recuerdos bíblicos. Por esto los cristianos lo prefieren y lo rezan con frecuencia, conscientes de su auténtica dimensión evangélica, de la cual los Papas nos han hablado en numerosos documentos.

La oración del Rosario, en el triple movimiento de sus misterios (gozosos: infancia; dolorosos: pasión; gloriosos: resurrección, bajada del Espíritu Santo y glorificación de la Virgen María), es una alabanza y una imploración a María para que interceda por nosotros, que no siempre vivimos como Dios lo desea. María es la Madre de la fidelidad, la mujer de fe. Una mujer cercana a nosotros, semejante a nosotros. Una mujer casada, que vivió y compartió la ternura de un hombre en el seno de un hogar. Una creyente que conoce, como nosotros, la dificultad de creer, pero que, llegado el momento, dijo sí a Dios sin vacilar. Una madre que, como todas las madres, conoció la inquietud, cuando el pequeño había cogido frío o cuando el adolescente no regresaba a la hora prevista. Una madre que aceptó no ser ni única ni primera en el corazón de su hijo. Una mujer valiente que acompañó a este hijo ultrajado y maltratado hasta el pie de la cruz. ¡María!

Familiar del Espíritu desde su concepción y que espera, en oración con los apóstoles, la manifestación prodigiosa de este Espíritu el día de Pentecostés

Invocada sin cesar por millones de cristianos porque cada uno sabe que ella es la mejor abogada de los humildes y de los humillados.

Redescubramos y valoricemos siempre, más en este mes de octubre, el santo rosario, como oración personal y familiar, dirigida a aquella que es Madre de los fieles y Madre de la Iglesia.

Sacerdote hondureño advierte sobre apatía antes de elecciones

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — Con menos de tres meses hasta las elecciones generales, los hondureños están «cansados y hastiados» de sus dirigentes políticos, cuyas "falsas promesas" han llevado a la apatía y el desencanto, dijo un dirigente eclesiástico hondureño.

"El partido político de mayor crecimiento es el de las abstenciones", dijo el Padre Ovidio Rodríguez, vicario general de Tegucigalpa. El habló en una entrevista telefónica con el Catholic News Service.

Los hondureños habrían de ir a votar el 30 de noviembre para elegir a un sucesor del Presidente Carlos Roberto Reina, los miembros del Congreso y las autoridades municipales.

En un sistema dominado tradicionalmente por dos partidos, el candidato presidencial del Partido Liberal, Carlos Flores Facuse, encabeza la contienda por delante de la candidata del Partido Nacional, Nora de Melgar, según las encuestas más recientes.

Los candidatos de tres partidos más pequeños van a la zaga de los delanteros.

"La apatía del pueblo resulta del engaño" de los tres gobiernos más recientes, dijo el vicario general.

"Hay tanta corrupción oficial que la gente no cree ya en los dirigentes políticos", agregó él.

El ex-presidente del Partido Nacional, Rafael Callejas (1990-94), se enfrenta actualmente a una serie de acusaciones sobre abuso de poder y uso indebido de millones de dólares de fondos públicos durante su permanencia en el cargo.

Los procedimientos legales ya han empezado a solicitar que el Congreso suspenda la inmunidad de Callejas al enjuiciamiento, garantizada por el hecho de que el ex-presidente es ahora miembro del Parlamento centroamericano.

"No podemos decir al pueblo desde el púlpito por qué partido han de votar en noviembre", dijo el Padre Rodríguez. Pero él dijo que estaría "invitando a los electores" a mirar a los candidatos fuera de los dos partidos principales.

El Padre Rodríguez dijo que los principales problemas a que se enfrentan los dirigentes del país son la superación de la pobreza cada vez mayor y la delincuencia.

El culpó del empobrecimiento a los cursos de acción económicos neoliberales, implantados en 1990 por primera vez por Callejas, que sólo han beneficiado a los sectores orientados hacia la exportación, dijo él.

"Lo que ha sido globalizado en Honduras es la pobreza", agregó él.

LA BASILICA DE SAN FRANCISCO — Ciudadanos y turistas en Asís miran a la Basílica de San Francisco después que un terremoto sacudió la zona del centro de Italia el 26 de septiembre. Dos monjes y dos trabajadores murieron cuando la cúpula pintada al fresco de la basílica se derrumbó, cayendo al suelo. (Foto CNS de Reuters)

Obispo dice que la Eucaristía es el centro de la vida católica

ERIE, Pennsylvania (CNS) — Monseñor Donald W. Trautman, Obispo de Erie, desafió a 300 ministros parroquiales el 20 de septiembre a permitir que una "liturgia viviente" que se centre en la Eucaristía transforme a las parroquias y a las culturas.

Como la Iglesia del principio, debemos experimentar una "liturgia viviente", que se mueva más allá de las puertas de la Iglesia para satisfacer las necesidades de los pobres, de los marginados, de los descastados y de los pecadores, dijo el obispo en un discurso ante la octava conferencia anual de ministerios, auspiciada por la Diócesis de Memphis, Tennessee.

El texto de su charla, titulada "La Centralidad de la Eucaristía, desde la Iniciación Cristiana hasta la Vida Eterna", fue publicado en el "Lake Shore Visitor", el periódico diocesano de Erie.

Monseñor Trautman dijo que las comunidades parroquiales aprenden el secreto de esta liturgia viviente cuando reconocen a Cristo presente en la asamblea reunida, en el sacerdote, en las Escrituras que se proclaman y predican y, especialmente, en los elementos eucarísticos del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo.

"La Eucaristía suministra el medio mejor y más poderoso para formarnos como el Cuerpo de Cristo", dijo Monseñor Trautman, ex-director del Comité de Liturgia de la Conferencia Nacional de Obispos Católicos.

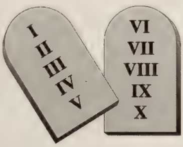
Laguna de inmigración a punto de caducar extendida por 3 semanas

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Horas antes de que caducara, el Congreso dio una extensión de tres semanas a un programa que permite a los inmigrantes ilegales permanecer en los Estados Unidos con sus familias mientras aguardan sus visas.

La acción adoptada el 30 de septiembre da una posposición temporal a posiblemente millares de personas que se enfrentaban a tener que dejar a sus familias y solicitar la residencia en los Estados Unidos desde sus países de origen. Desde que el programa empezó en 1994, más de medio millón de personas se han aprovechado del mismo.

El programa permite a las personas que son elegibles de otro modo para los permisos de residencia en los Estados Unidos, pero que han estado viviendo aquí ilegalmente, pagar una multa de $1,000 y después quedarse en este país mientras se tramitan sus solicitudes.

La extensión del programa hasta el 23 de octubre fue aprobada por el Senado en votación de 99 contra 0 el 30 de septiembre, y en votación de 355 contra 57 en la Cámara de Representantes un día antes.



Sexto Mandamiento "No cometerás adulterio"

Continuamos con los mandamientos de la Ley comentando sobre el sexto mandamiento.

La relación más plena, profunda y exclusiva entre dos personas es la de un hombre y una mujer unidos por el matrimonio. Es la alianza cimentada sobre el mutuo amor y la mutua donación de sus personas, querida y establecida por el Creador desde el principio, en bien de la vida, ya que en ella el hombre y la mujer se complementan y ayudan mutuamente y en función de la prolongación de la vida. Un lugar primordial en la alianza matrimonial lo ocupa la sexualidad, y Dios dispuso en el *Sexto Mandamiento* que su ejercicio sería exclusivamente llevado a cabo en la misma. Toda relación y satisfacción sexual fuera del ámbito del matrimonio está prohibida.

Actitudes equivocadas. Aparte del *adulterio* que es la directa e injusta traición a la alianza nupcial, podemos recordar: la *fornicación,* que es la unión carnal entre un hombre y una mujer no casados; la *unión libre* y la *unión a prueba,* que en realidad son formas públicas de fornicación; el *divorcio,* que es la ruptura de la alianza matrimonial y que desemboca casi siempre en un permanente adulterio de uno o ambos cónyuges; el *incesto,* que es la relación carnal entre parientes dentro de los grados en que está prohibido el matrimonio; la *prostitución* que es una forma de satisfacer la lujuria; la *violación,* que es la violenta agresión sexual contra otra persona; la *homosexualidad,* que es la búsqueda de placer sexual con personas del mismo sexo; la *masturbación,* que es la búsqueda solitaria de la satisfacción sexual y, en fin, la *pornografía* que degrada la sexualidad para reducirla a un sensualismo corrupto y corruptor.

Actitud Cristiana. El auténtico cristiano sabe valorar la grandeza de la sexualidad humana y respetar el racional y noble fin de su ejercicio. Tiene en gran consideración al matrimonio, instituido por el Creador y santificado con un Sacramento por Jesucristo. Según su propio estado de vida, vive su castidad: si es casado, evitando toda infidelidad conyugal. Si es soltero evitando todo deseo, pensamiento y acción relacionados con la satisfacción sexual. Busca además evitar los peligros que dificultan su castidad tanto de soltero como de casado y procura el dominio de sí mismo con la entrega a sus deberes, con la mortificación de los sentidos y con la oración

(Comentario al Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica — Edición Española – con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo).

Semana nacional de migración de 1998 fijada entre el 5 y 11 de enero

WASHINGTON (CNS) – “Llamados a Ser Uno en el Espíritu” es el tema de la Semana Nacional de la Migración para 1998, fijada entre el 5 y el 11 de enero.

Un folleto publicado por la Conferencia Católica de los Estados Unidos para la semana ofrece estadísticas sobre migración, inserciones recomendadas para los boletines parroquiales, e información sobre la legislación federal pendiente que afectá a los inmigrantes.

También incluye una lista de medios por los cuales una persona, familia, parroquia o escuela podría “surtir un efecto positivo sobre las vidas de los inmigrantes y refugiados”.

En una introducción al folleto, Monseñor John S. Cummins, Obispo de Oakland, California, presidente del Comité sobre Migración de los obispos estadounidenses, se lamentó de la atmósfera actual en los Estados Unidos, en la cual “se teme y convierte en chivo expiatorios a los inmigrantes y refugiados porque no los conocemos como personas”.

“Estas actitudes son especialmente asombrosas porque la mayoría de los ciudadanos estadounidenses son ellos mismos inmigrantes o descendientes de inmigrantes”, dijo el Obispo. “Cuán infortunado es que esta nación de inmigrantes parezca estar cerrando la puerta no solamente a su herencia, sino también a su futuro”.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

GANE $50.00
EL PROGRAMA HISPANO NECESITA UN NUEVO NOMBRE

Gane $50.00 simplemente dándole un nuevo nombre al Programa Hispano. El nuevo programa de Catholic Social Services, una agencia sin fines de lucro, está buscando un nuevo nombre que refleje nuestros cambios. El programa ahora incluye dos trabajadores sociales, una asistente administrativa, y pronto un abogado para servir a la comunidad hispana. Nosotros nos enfocamos en ayudar a la comunidad latinoamericana a recibir servicios comunitarios y sociales. Puede ser que necesite ayuda para asegurar empleo, asistencia financiera, o simplemente una traducción de una carta oficial. ¡Aquí le podremos ayudar! ¡Nosotros estamos para servir a la comunidad!

POR FAVOR ENVÍEN SUS SUGERENCIAS ANTES DEL 31 DE OCTUBRE

PROGRAMA HISPANO
2117 SHENANDOAH AVENUE
CHARLOTTE, NC 28205
LLAMENOS AL 335-8827 — FAX: 335-1281

Nombre:____________________
Dirección:____________________
____
Teléfono:____________________
Nuevo Nombre Para El Programa Hispano:
____

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO *St. Joseph*, 326 S. Park St. (910) 629-0221	todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE *St. Lawrence*, 97 Haywood St. (704) 252-6042	todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE *Our Lady of the Americas*, 105 Hayde Rd. (910) 428-3051	todos los sábados 5 pm los domingos 11 am y 2 pm confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE *Sacred Heart*, Main St. & Summit	3er. domingo del mes 6 pm
CHARLOTTE *Centro Católico Hispano* Shenandoah Ave.y The Plaza (704) 335-1281	todos los sábados 7 pm confesiones 6:15-6:45 pm los domingos 10:30 am y 7 pm confesiones 9:45-10:15 am
CLEMMONS ***Holy Family***, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. (910) 766-8133	todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON *Sagrado Corazón*, Rt. 601 (910) 632-8009	todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY *Immaculate Conception*, 1024 W. Main St. (704) 245-4017	todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA *St. Michael*, 708 St.Michael's Ln. (704) 867 6212	3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO *St. Mary*, 812 Duke St., (910) 272-8650	todos los domingos 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE *Immaculate Conception*, 208 7th. Ave.W.. (704)693-6901	todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT *Cristo Rey*, 1505 East Kivett Dr. (910) 884-0244	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
JEFFERSON *San Francisco de Asis*, Main y Ivy (910) 246-9151	2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS *St. Joseph*, 108 St.Joseph St.	todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE *Holy Cross*, 616 S.Cherry St. (910) 996-5109	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON *St. Dorothy*, 148 St.Dorothy's Lane (704) 735-5575	todos los domingos 12 pm
MONROE *Our Lady of Lourdes*, Deese y Franklin Streets	todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON *St. Charles Borromeo*, 714 W. Union St. (704) 437-3108	todos los domingos 5 pm
MOUNT AIRY *Holy Angels*, 1208 North Main St. (910) 786-8147	todos los domingos 6 pm
NEWTON *St. Joseph*, 720 West 13th. St., (704) 464-9207	todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO *St. John Church*, 275 C.C. Wright School Rd. (910)838-5562	1er., 3er., 5to. domingo del mes 6 pm
REIDSVILLE *Holy Infant*, 1042 Freeway Dr., (910) 342-1448	todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY *Sacred Heart*, 128 N.Fulton St. (704) 633-0591	todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA *St.Francis of Rome*, Hendrix Rd. (910) 372-8846	1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE *St. Phillip the Apostle*, 525 Camden Dr (704) 872-2579	1er. domingo del mes 2 pm
TAYLORSVILLE *Holy Trinity*, 665 W. Main Ave. (704) 632-8009	do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE *Our Lady of the Highways*, 943 Ball Park Rd. (910)475-2732	todos los domingos 12 pm
WINSTON-SALEM *Our Lady of Mercy*, 1919 S. Main St. (704) 722-7001	todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE *Christ the King*, U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd. (910) 463-5533	todos los domingos 12 pm

Entertainment

CNS photo from TriStar

'SEVEN YEARS' — Jamyang Wangchuk, as the Dalai Lama, and Brad Pitt, as mountain climber Heinrich Harrer, star in "Seven Years in Tibet." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may beinappropriate for children under 13.

Seven Years In Tibet

Movie Lacks In Story, But Not Beauty

NEW YORK (CNS) — On the surface, "Seven Years in Tibet" (TriStar) is visually stunning, but its beauty remains mostly superficial.

The movie is based on the memoirs of octogenarian Heinrich Harrer, only recently revealed to have been a Nazi SS member when his mountain climbing expedition set out to conquer the peaks of the Himalayas in 1939, but ended up interred in a British prisoner-of-war camp in northern India.

Sporting gleaming golden locks that make him look like a poster boy for the Aryan ˋubermensch, Brad Pitt's Harrer callously leaves behind his very pregnant wife in favor of mountaineering, but the expedition is cut short when they are arrested in British-held territory as POWs and expected to sit still for the duration of the war.

Instead, egotistical Harrer escapes in 1942, reluctantly teaming with fellow escapee Peter Aufschnaiter (David Thewlis) as they trek 1,500 miles to Tibet and ferret themselves into the holy city of Lhasa, normally forbidden to foreigners.

There Aufschnaiter marries a local seamstress (Lhakpa Tsamchoe) while Harrer is summoned to meet the teenage Dalai Lama (Jamyang Wangchuk), who calls him "yellowhead" and asks to be tutored about the wide world outside remote Tibet.

Impressed by his student's Buddhist beliefs, Harrer starts losing some of his monumental arrogance and gaining more respect for the peaceful Tibetans while the aggressive Chinese prepare to annex their land by power of might.

The bond of friendship between the mountain climber and Tibet's spiritual leader deepens and upon leaving the country Harrer makes a concerted effort to build a relationship with the son he has never seen.

Sentimentality triumphs over spirituality in director Jean-Jacques Annaud's scenic but somewhat shallow story.

Handsome Pitt is not terribly moving as Harrer, what with his on-again, off-again accent and a transformation that seems not much more than going from an unpleasant to a pleasant personality. This is hardly compelling. Any true spiritual conversion is hollowly rendered, and tagging on a final father-son bonding comes off as schmaltzy in light of Harrer's strong Nazi ties he glossed over in his memoirs.

On the other hand, young Wangchuk is captivating as the Dalai Lama, humble and pure, yet still a youngster eager to learn about (to him) the strange exotic world of cinemas and automobiles. He brings an innate natural charm to his first acting role.

The vistas of the Himalayan foothills (and the Andes stepping in for the peaks) are exquisite as is the re-creation in Argentina of the forbidden city of Lhasa. One gets an intriguing glimpse at the culture of Tibetans and can certainly sympathize with their treatment at the hands of a more powerful neighbor.

But the essential story about Harrer remains oddly bland, and although the movie has its visual compensations, its lofty story remains basically earthbound.

Because of brief battlefield violence and a gory mountaineering accident, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Love Always

Film Takes Lengthy Road To Romance

NEW YORK (CNS) — Unsure if she wants to settle down, a young woman delays answering a marriage proposal by taking to the road in "Love Always" (Legacy).

Julia (Marisa Ryan), 22, leaves Spokane and her devoted lover Mark (Michael Reilly Burke) in the opening scene to see a little more of the world.

Six months later, living in San Diego with a dour brother and an engaged couple, Julia gets a postcard proposal from Mark, who has just passed the bar and wants to marry her.

Julia decides to go see him, but she takes a very roundabout route — likely an unconscious stalling tactic as she makes up her mind.

At first hitching towards Washington state, she gets detoured to Las Vegas, decides to see her San Diego friends get married in Boston, then heads back West, all the while riding alongside an assortment of eccentrics or criminally inclined characters.

Screenplay writer-director Jude Pauline Eberhard makes her directing debut with this modest but routine road movie.

Its biggest plus is the very naturalistic performance of Ryan as the central character in search of what life may hold for her before she makes a permanent commitment with all that marriage entails.

The script, however, is flawed, presenting a humdrum series of quirky characters the audience barely gets a handle on before it's on to the next roadside pick-up.

As a result, the movie becomes very episodic without being particularly involving.

Nor does the script clearly establish that cashier Julia would like to act, and the underwritten character of her brother just doesn't fit into the movie with any rhyme or reason.

The tone of the film is very earnest throughout as Julia seeks to "find" herself, but from the opening scene between Mark and Julia, it seems clear they are opposites without being complementary.

Several scenes are mildly comical as Julia must endure the company of a crazed speed-demon, gets picked up by her favorite funky female band, and accidentally breaks an artist's prized life-size ceramic cow.

But the overall effect is that of a fragmented story with good intentions and an emotionally honest ending, but not one likely to be remembered a day later.

Due to a bedroom scene with brief nudity, intermittent rough language and occasional profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

TV Reviews For Week Of October 26

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are capsule reviews of theatrical films to be shown on national television the week of Oct. 26:

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 8-10 p.m. EST (Fox) "Wolf" (1994). Bitten by a dying wolf he's accidentally run over, a Manhattan book editor (Jack Nicholson) fears he is turning into a fanged beast capable of attacking his estranged wife (Kate Nelligan), traitorous colleague (James Spader) or new love interest (Michelle Pfeiffer). Director Mike Nichols' elegant take on a classic monster myth may not scare anyone but will engross viewers in Nicholson's performance as the anguished wolfman trying to cling to his diminishing humanity. Brief but intense violence, implied affairs and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was R — restricted.

Friday, Oct. 31, 8:05-10 p.m. EST (TBS) "Teen Wolf" (1985). High school lad (Michael J. Fox) becomes a big man on campus when he discovers that he is a werewolf in this moderately funny teenage comedy. Directed by Rod Daniel, the movie is marred by jokes about alcohol and drugs as well as some vulgarity and sexually oriented humor. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG — parental guidance suggested.

Saturday, Nov. 1, noon-2 p.m. EST (UPN) "Teen Witch" (1989). Sappy little story about a teen (Robyn Lively) who learns that she is a witch, uses her magic powers to become the most popular girl in school but discovers what she really wants is to be liked for herself. Directed by Dorian Walker, there is nothing magical about the inane plot or its trite treatment. Sexually suggestive scene, number of sexual references. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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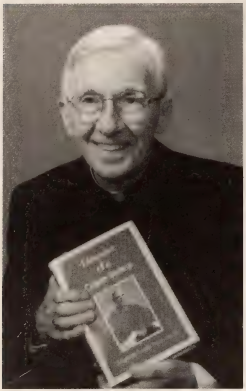
People In The News



Bishop Boudreaux

Retired Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux Dies

HOUMA, La. (CNS) — Retired Bishop Warren L. Boudreaux of Houma-Thibodaux died Oct. 6 in Thibodaux of heart failure following a prolonged illness. The diocese's founding bishop was 79. His funeral was held Oct. 9 at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Houma, with interment in the Bishop's Crypt in the cathedral. Bishop Boudreaux had attended every session of the Second Vatican Council, "and voted for every line of every document," said a statement from the diocese announcing his death.

Prominent Underground Chinese Bishop Arrested

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Su Zhimin of Baoding, China, a prominent member of the underground Catholic Church, was being held by the Baoding Public Security Bureau after months in hiding. The bishop's Oct. 8 arrest in Xinji, China, was reported Oct. 11 by the Cardinal Kung Foundation in Stamford, Conn. At the Vatican, an official said "two diverse sources" had confirmed Bishop Su's arrest. The last time Bishop Su was arrested was in late April or May 1996, together with Auxiliary Bishop An Shuxin and a hundred of the faithful from Donglu, site of a Marian shrine. Missionary and press reports have said police subsequently sequestered and partially destroyed the shrine. Joseph Kung, head of the Cardinal Kung Foundation, said Oct. 13 that "no one knows exactly what happened to Bishop Su." He said that beginning in May 1996, Bishop Su managed to go into hiding in various places until his arrest Oct. 8.

Boggs Confirmed As U.S. Ambassador To Holy See

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Senate Oct. 9 confirmed without objection the nomination of former congresswoman Corinne "Lindy" Boggs as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. Boggs, 81, was nominated by President Clinton to replace former Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn as ambassador. Flynn left the post Sept. 20. During her confirmation hearing Sept. 23 before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, she was praised by Republican as well as Democratic members of Congress, including committee chairman Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.

Vatican Newspaper Criticizes Award of Nobel Prize To Playwright

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper criticized the awarding of the Nobel Prize for Literature to an Italian playwright whose works have disparaged the church. In an editorial printed within hours of the Oct. 9 announcement, L'Osservatore Romano said the selection of Dario Fo for the prestigious annual prize had "surpassed the limits of any imagination." Among his more than 70 works, the writer is best known outside of Italy for his play "The Accidental Death of an Anarchist" concerning right-wing bomb attacks in 1969 Italy, and his one-man show "Mistero Buffo" ("Comic Mystery"), which satirizes religion and politics. When it was first broadcast in Italy in 1977, the Vatican called "Mistero Buffo" the "most blasphemous show in the history of television."

Cardinal Yago of Ivory Coast Dies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Bernard Yago, the retired archbishop of Abidjan in the Ivory Coast and a longtime proponent of "Africanization" of the church, died at age 81, the Vatican said. A telegram from Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, offered condolences and said the cardinal had been a "faithful servant" to the church. He died Oct. 5. Cardinal Yago was Ivory Coast's first cardinal and its first native bishop. In 1960, he became the first African to be consecrated a bishop by a pope, in a Vatican ceremony presided over by Pope John XXIII.

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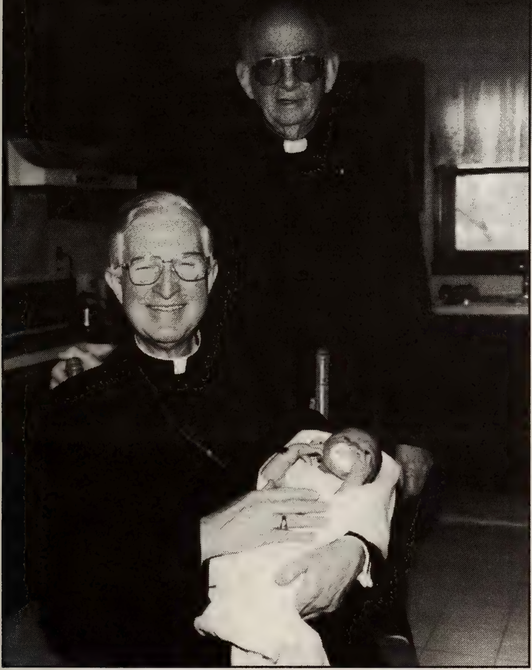

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Diocesan News Briefs

Immaculate Heart of Mary Celebration
HIGH POINT — Bishop William G. Curlin presides at the 50th anniversary celebration of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Oct. 26 at 11 a.m. at the High Point Theater. A luncheon at the Radisson Hotel follows. Pictured from left are liturgy commission members Charlene Sumser, Wanda Garrett and Margaret Haarsgaard, who are designing a banner for inclusion in the liturgy.

Marian Conference and Retreat

BELMONT — The Third Annual Marian Conference and Retreat is Nov. 7-8 at Belmont Abbey College featuring Father Jovo Zovko of Bosnia-Herzegovina and guest speakers Wayne Weible, Jack Socco, Father Giordano Belanich, Jerry Morin, and Benedictine Father Jacques Daley. Music will be provided by Al Barbarino and Schola Cantorum Carolinae Borealis. Cost is $39 for adults, and $20 for those 18 and under. To register, call (803) 626-9577.

Infancy Narratives Program

BOONE — Scripture scholar and lecturer Susan Brady is the featured speaker at "Unto Us A Child is Born," an infancy narratives program, Nov. 1 at St. Elizabeth Church from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. A $5 per person donation is requested, and child care and lunch are provided. Please bring your Bible, and register by calling Carol Brown, (704) 264-1761.

CCHS News

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic Alumni Association hosts a homecoming tailgating party Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the school parking lot. Game time is 7:30 p.m. All alumni are invited.

The CCHS Fine Arts department presents the murder mystery play "While the Lights Were Out" Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. in the gymnasium. General admission tickets are $4 each.

Concert

CHARLOTTE — Catholic musicians John Michael Talbot, Tony Melendez and Tom Booth perform in concert Oct. 21 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are $15 each and are available at the St. Thomas Aquinas parish office, Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe or by calling (800) 521-0290.

Biblical Series

CHARLOTTE — A Biblical series on the New Testament Letters of Paul, John, James and Peter is presented each Sunday of October from 8:45-9:45 a.m. in the council room at St. John Neumann Church. There is no charge, and baby-sitting is available. Call (704) 535-4197 for more information.

Charismatic Conference

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Charismatic Prayer Groups of S.C. sponsors "Towards the Third Millennium: Jesus Christ, the One Savior of the World," the South Carolina Charismatic Conference, Oct. 24-26 at St. John Neumann School in Columbia. Father Paul Williams leads a healing service and Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR, is keynote speaker. Advance registration fee is $25, or pay $30 on site. Contact Carlos Lamar, (803) 889-6264, or Ron Falter, (803) 782-1471, for more information.

Carmelite Retreat

DURHAM — The Secular (Third) Order Discalced Carmelites sponsor a silent retreat led by Discalced Carmelite Father Regis Gordon Oct. 31-Nov. 2/3 at the Avila Retreat Center. The retreat will focus on St. Therese of Lisieux. The cost is $105 for three days, or $150 for four days (Sunday evening/Monday morning are optional). To register, send a $15 check payable to OCDS to Kathy Smith, 3619 Courtland Dr., Durham, N.C. 27707, or call (910) 493-2712 for information.

Parish Mission

GREENSBORO — A team of professional Catholic evangelists presents the Isaiah Parish Mission at St. Paul the Apostle Church from Oct. 20-Oct. 23. Anyone seeking a deeper meaning in their lives to discover or rediscover a personal, living faith is invited. Call Pat Ladew, (910) 282-2963, or Dee Parkes, (910) 643-1700, for details.

Sisters of Mercy Retreat

HAMPTONVILLE — Well of Mercy, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, offers the "Be Still, Be Quiet, Be Alone" retreat Nov. 7-9 focusing on a communal experience of rest and contemplative quiet. Space is limited to 14 participants, and the cost is $85 per person. For registration or information, call (704) 539-5449.

World Community Day

HICKORY — A World Community Day ecumenical worship service is Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. in St. Aloysius Catholic Church and the topic is "The Legacy of the Medieval Women Mystics." Call Carole Marmorato, (704) 256-8956, for details.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — The next marriage encounter is Nov. 7-9 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information call Michael and Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181, and for reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

Jesuit House of Prayer

HOT SPRINGS — "12 Steps to Wholeness," a retreat for recovering alcoholic men, is Nov. 21-23 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Space is limited to 17 participants, and early registration is requested. For registration or information, call (704) 622-7366, or Don at (423) 483-7850.

Fire in the Mountains

MAGGIE VALLEY — The diocesan Office of Faith Formation presents Fire in the Mountains '97, focusing on "God's Presence Here and Now — Living a Sacramental Life," Nov. 15 from 9:15-4 p.m. at the Lake Junaluska Conference Center. Mercy Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin facilitates talks on church teaching, reflection and group discussion.

Living Waters Reflection Center

MAGGIE VALLEY — "In Search of the Male Soul" is a Nov. 7-9 retreat for men directed by Msgr. John McSweeney focusing on spiritual growth through a six-step process of change, prayer and service to others. Cost is $90.

For registration or information, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, (704) 926-3833.

Lasagna Luncheon

SHELBY — St. Mary Church hosts a lasagna luncheon Oct. 23 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets are $6 each and are available at the door or by calling (704) 487-7697. Carry-outs are available, and to arrange deliveries within Shelby city limits (minimum five orders), call Mary, (704) 538-7187, or Heather, (704) 482-6355.

Living Rosary

WINSTON-SALEM — A living rosary will be prayed Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. on the green beside St. Leo the Great Church. Several parish groups will be represented, and everyone is invited. The gathering will be inside the church in case of rain.

Abortion Counselors Workshop

WINSTON-SALEM — Dr. David Reardon, researcher and author, is the featured speaker at a post-abortion counseling workshop Oct. 28-29 at the Radisson Inn for professional counselors, social workers, pregnancy center volunteers, nurses, parish respect life leaders and peer counselors. Call Dr. Martha Shuping, (910) 659-1342, for more information.

For Charlotte-area counselors, a breakfast is scheduled for Oct. 29 at 8:30 a.m. at Charter Pines Hospital. Call Jennifer Cisney, (910) 362-1980, for information.

The Catholic News & Herald *welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.*

Around The Diocese

Parish Fairs & Bazaars

BREVARD — The Sacred Heart Church annual craft fair is Nov. 7 and 8 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day and features a variety of crafts, baked and canned goods, holiday items, a raffle and a cafe.

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church annual craft bazaar is Oct. 25 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and features handmade crafts, prizes, a raffle and concessions. Call Colleen Neider, (704) 573-1994, for details.

KING — Good Shepherd Church presents its annual craft bazaar Oct. 25 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at King Recreation Acres. Highlights include handmade gifts, crafts, baked goods, a raffle, a drawing, breakfast and lunch. Proceeds benefit the Good Shepherd Building Fund. Call Leslie Brown, (910) 969-5595, for details and directions.

TRYON — St. John the Baptist Church's annual craft bazaar is Oct. 25 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. in the church hall featuring heirloom-quality gifts, unique decorations, specialty items, a cafe, barbecue lunches, baked goods, jewelry and a raffle. For raffle tickets or more information, call (704) 894-3790.

World And National News Briefs

Vatican Calls For International Debt Reduction For Year 2000

ROME (CNS) — Celebrating the year 2000 as a real jubilee requires finding ways to alleviate the foreign debt burden of the world's poorest countries, a Vatican official said. "One cannot celebrate the jubilee without making a commitment to justice and peace," said Msgr. Diarmuid Martin, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. "One cannot celebrate the jubilee without being concerned about the great inequalities which exist in our world," he said in a statement read Oct. 8 at a Rome conference on overcoming the international debt crisis.

Senate Offering Help In Restoring Basilica

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Senate Oct. 6 approved a resolution offering technical assistance in restoring the artwork of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi after a series of earthquakes severely damaged the Italian shrine. The resolution, introduced by Republican Sen. Pete Domenici of New Mexico, an Italian-American, noted the artistic importance of the frescoes in the historic basilica and offered the restoration help of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art and any other U.S. art museums with pertinent experience. It was approved by unanimous consent, a procedure that does not involve an actual full vote, but the implicit agreement of the body at the discretion of the president of the Senate.

Vatican Concerned About Cuba's Progress On Religious Freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba just months away, Vatican officials are concerned about a lack of progress on religious freedom issues in the country. The papal visit Jan. 21-25 will proceed as planned, said officials, but in an atmosphere of mutual wariness by church and state. Unless Cuban President Fidel Castro's regime makes major concessions to the church, the pope may have tough things to say about church rights when he arrives, officials said.

Archdiocese Gives Details On Cruise To Cuba For Papal Mass

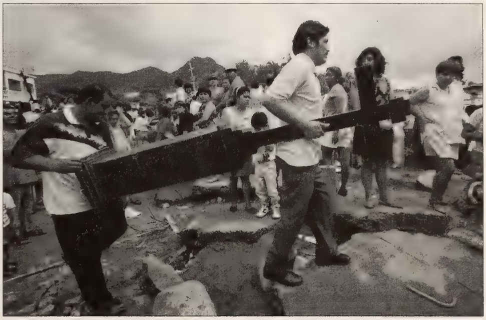
MIAMI (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Miami confirmed Oct. 7 that it has chartered a ship to take pilgrims to Cuba during Pope John Paul II's visit in January 1998. The ship will have a capacity for between 1,056 and 1,250 people. It will sail from the Port of Miami on Friday afternoon, Jan. 23, dock in Havana on Saturday morning and remain there until after the papal Mass on Sunday, arriving back in Miami on Monday morning, Jan. 26.

Program Seeks To Replenish Diminishing Pool of Catholic Teachers

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — Enrollment in Catholic schools may be on the rise, but the pool of teachers to educate students is diminishing, says an expert in Catholic education who is recruiting education majors this fall to teach in Catholic schools. Approximately 2.6 million students attend the nation's Catholic schools and enrollment has been climbing since 1992, according to figures from the National Catholic Educational Association. But "Catholic schools have a hard time recruiting teachers," says Father Ron Nuzzi, an associate at the Center for Catholic Education at the University of Dayton.

Court Declines Case on Death Sentence

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court opened its term Oct. 6 by turning down appeals of cases involving placement of a foster child with a homosexual couple and the death sentence of a man who killed two people at an abortion clinic. In the latter case, the court left intact the conviction and death sentence of Paul Hill, a former Presbyterian minister who killed Dr. John Britton and James Barrett, a volunteer escort, outside a Florida abortion clinic in 1994. The court also left standing a ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court throwing out a Catholic father's objection to his son being placed in foster care with a homosexual couple.



CNS photo from Reuters

POST-HURRICANE CLEANUP — Parishioners of Nuestra Senora de la Sagrada Familia church in Acapulco, Mexico, carry away a cross used for an outdoor Mass Oct. 12 next to where their church once stood. The building was washed away in a massive mudslide after Hurricane Pauline swept through the area Oct. 9.

Dietzen, from page 5

Church that the Scriptural truth of these stories lies not in their scientific accuracy, since the writers did not profess to be giving scientific descriptions of creation and early human history.

They were writing truths of faith: that the world came from the loving hand of God; that humans were created in his image and were meant to live intimately with him; that evil came into creation through human prideful desire to be like God; that even then God had plans to restore the broken unity, and so on.

We can become tied up in endless conflicts and contradictions of this sort if we don't acknowledge that many literary forms were utilized by the biblical authors to convey their message.

At least, as I say, this is what the Catholic Church teaches, as explained in its official documents on biblical interpretation.

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Parish Profile

Sacred Heart Church

SALISBURY — Almost a century before any Catholic diocese in North Carolina was established, a small group of Rowan County Catholics gathered in Salisbury to celebrate their faith. That early presence led to the foundation of Sacred Heart Church, a parish rich in history and spirit.

The Roueche family, immigrants from Alsace, France, settled in Salisbury in the late 1830s. With the handful of Catholics living in the area attending, the Roueches hosted what was perhaps the first Mass celebrated in Salisbury. Father Timothy Cronin of the Charleston (S.C.) Diocese celebrated, and periodically returned to the town until his death in 1842.

Sacred Heart Church
128 N. Fulton St.
Salisbury, N.C. 28144
(704) 633-0591

Vicariate: Albemarle

Pastor: Very Rev. Thomas P. Clements, VF

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Mr. Patrick Vallandingham

Mass Schedule: Sat.: 5:30 p.m.; Sun.: 7:45, 9 a.m.; 12 noon;
Spanish Mass: 4 p.m.

Number of parishioners: 1,733

Number of households: 603

Missionary priests visited Salisbury from time to time to celebrate liturgies in private homes during the next few decades. The local congregation grew, thanks in part to a number of converts to the faith. Cardinal James Gibbons, archbishop of Baltimore and vicar apostolic of North Carolina, occasionally celebrated Mass during his visits to Salisbury.

In 1881, Salisbury Catholics welcomed their first resident pastor, Father Patrick Moore, whose task it was to build a church in town. After a year of securing a site, fund raising and building, the completed church was dedicated by Bishop Henry Northrup of Charleston and named in honor of the Sacred Heart.

Benedictine monks assumed responsibility for Salisbury when Abbot Leo Haid became vicar apostolic of North Carolina in 1887. The mission was elevated to parish status in 1898, and the community again had a resident pastor to minister to its needs.

Sisters of Mercy from Belmont opened a private convent-school in 1910 near Sacred Heart Church. Through negotiations between the sisters and Bishop Eugene McGuinness of Raleigh, the school became a parish institution in the early '40s.

As the congregation size continued to grow, work began in 1940 to begin construction of a new church and rectory. In November, Bishop McGuinness, Abbot Vincent Taylor and monks from Belmont Abbey presided over the dedication ceremony.

Salisbury was incorporated into the Raleigh Diocese in 1941, and Father Cletus Helfrich was appointed the first diocesan pastor to serve at Sacred Heart Church. He remained there until his death nearly 30 years later, overseeing church improvements and the elimination of the parish debt along the way.

A new Salisbury parish, Our Lady of Victories, was established in 1942 to serve black Catholics in the area. That community later merged with Sacred Heart Parish.

During the World War II years, Sacred Heart served the pastoral and social needs of many Catholics stationed in the area. Saturday evening dances, Sunday morning breakfasts and other opportunities for fellowship were offered in the new church facility.

A new, split-level school was built in 1965 to accommodate the growing number of enrolled children.

Father Helfrich died in January 1971, the same year that Sacred Heart clergy's pastoral duties were extended to a newly built veterans hospital in town.

The following year, the Diocese of Charlotte was formed and Father Thomas Clements was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Church. Remodeling efforts during the 1970s and '80s included updating the layout of the church to conform to Vatican II standards, refurbishing the basement and dedicating it to Father Helfrich's memory, and building a colonnade to connect the church and rectory.

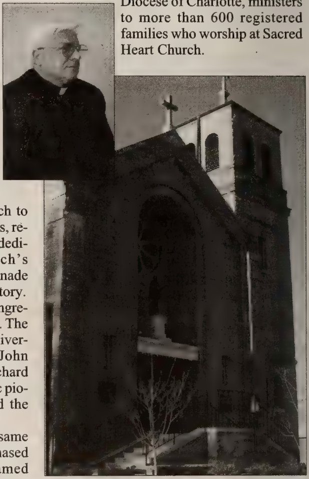
By 1982, the registered congregation comprised 435 families. The parish celebrated its 100th anniversary that year, and Msgr. John Roueche, a descendant of Richard Roueche, one of those Catholic pioneers in Salisbury, delivered the homily at the jubilee Mass.

A house located on the same block as the church was purchased for parish use in 1985. Named Marian House, it has been utilized as a pre-school and for other parish functions. More classroom space has been added behind the house since then.

Father Clements returned to Sacred Heart Parish in 1988. Following a series of needs-targeting meetings, the parish kitchen was expanded and the parish hall refurbished.

The pastor is also chaplain at Sacred Heart School, which serves 257 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Kathleen Miller is in her first year as principal.

Father Clements, who serves as vicar for the Albemarle Vicariate in the Diocese of Charlotte, ministers to more than 600 registered families who worship at Sacred Heart Church.



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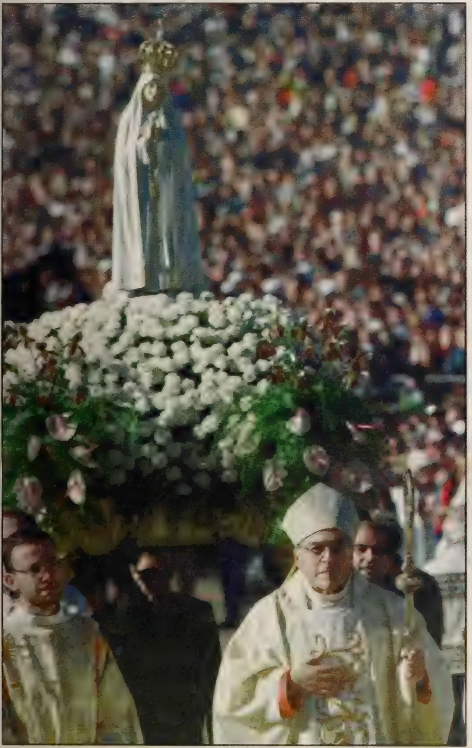
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 8 • October 24, 1997



CNS photo from Reuters

FATIMA PROCESSION — Paris Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger leads the Fatima procession Oct. 13 to mark the 80th anniversary of the last of six appearances Mary made to three shepherd children in Portugal. Tens of thousands of pilgrims converged on the shrine for the celebration. The apparitions were declared worthy of belief by the church in 1930.

Pope, Cardinals Concerned About Lack Of Religious Freedom In Cuba

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cuba's leading churchman, a U.S. cardinal and Pope John Paul II expressed concerns about religious freedom in Cuba just a few months before the pope's scheduled visit to the island.

Cuba has freedom of worship but lacks other religious liberties, said Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana.

"There are three liberties: worship, prophetic liberty (religious education), and service. When we have the three liberties, we have freedom of religion. We have only one of them," the cardinal said. "Religious freedom is more than freedom of worship."

He made the comments to reporters Oct. 15 on a visit to Catholic Relief Services headquarters in Baltimore. CRS has worked with Caritas Cuba, the church's charitable arm in Cuba, since 1993.

"Freedom of religion is to have the possibility of communicating with people by radio or television about their faith, the possibility of having Catholic schools or teaching religion in public schools, the right to have church-run hospitals," he continued.

"What we lack is access to media, access to teach religion in schools. Recently we have had a little more freedom in terms of social outreach."

Cardinal Ortega was in the United States to receive the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award from the Missionary Society of St. James, the Boston archdiocesan missionary society. He was presented with the award, given in honor of his pastoral work as archbishop of Havana, Oct. 14 in Boston.

At the society's annual dinner, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston praised Cardinal Ortega as "a sign of hope." Cuban-born Micho Spring and Angel Martinez described Cardinal Ortega, the son of a sugar field worker, as "the country's conscience."

Cardinal Law denounced the limits on religious freedom in Cuba in his weekly column in the Oct. 17 issue of The Pilot, Boston's archdiocesan newspaper.

"It is never justified for a government to limit religious freedom or to limit freedom of expression. In Cuba, these limitations are justified precisely because of the alleged threat posed by the U.S.," he wrote, referring to the U.S. embargo against Cuba. The embargo was first imposed in 1962 and was tightened in 1992.

"The policy of isolation which the U.S. has pursued has not achieved its purpose. If anything, it has provided an excuse to the Cuban government to maintain its absolute control of Cuban society," the cardinal wrote.

An editorial in the same issue of The Pilot called the U.S. embargo "an embarrassing period piece" that "now punishes only the little people."

At the Vatican, Pope John Paul and Argentine President Carlos Menem discussed religious freedom and the overall human rights picture in Cuba during a private meeting earlier this month.

Speaking in Baltimore, Cardinal Ortega said the Cuban church and government have always had an open dialogue on "practical matters in terms of the church in society."

"What we have not been able to do is have a profound dialogue about the role of the church in society on issues that are more philosophical and less of a day-to-day, practical nature," he said.

"Before the pope comes, nothing of that nature will change. After the papal visit, I don't see that there will be major changes," the cardinal added.

Cardinal Ortega said the pope's visit would strengthen the church's presence.

The message of the pope and of the church to the Cuban people "is the message of faith in God.... It is a message of love, of reconciliation. There is a great desire among our people for peace. We always pray for peace because we do not want anything contrary to peace."

The church's ability to serve the needy in Cuba, he said, is limited by the great poverty and the social structures set up by the government to regulate distribution of goods.

"There is this problem of direct person-to-person assistance, which has to be funneled through some state institution or another. You can't distribute (food, medicine) directly to the people."

Religious life has grown in Cuba in recent years, he said. Now 120 seminarians are studying in Cuba's two seminaries, whereas about 10 years ago 24 men were studying for the priesthood.

The cardinal expressed concern over the refusal of the Cuban government to allow the church to run its own printing house.

"For the ongoing pastoral needs of the church in Cuba, this is an important issue, to have the printing press. We have asked for this for many years, and it just has not been possible," he said.

Priests for Life Official Shares Gospel Message

By **JIMMY ROSTAR**
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — His curriculum vitae highlights extensive writings on catechetics, history, liturgy and theology, but a primary route his priestly journey has taken him on involves discussing one message he did not pen but is called to live: the Gospel of life.

Father Richard M. Hogan, associate director of the educational outreach ministry Priests for Life, visited Charlotte Oct. 10-13 at the invitation of St. Gabriel Parish's pro-life committee. He arrived with a plea to his audiences to embrace church teachings on abortion and euthanasia.

"The first thing we can do is pray like we have never prayed before, because there have been 35 to 40 million children aborted since 1973," he said

See **Hogan**, Page 2

Sister Mary Christine Beck Honored By Belmont Abbey

Belmont Abbey College
Honors Sister Christine
The Belmont Banner

Mercy Sister Mary Christine Beck was presented an honorary doctorate during a luncheon held Oct. 10 at Belmont Abbey College. During the ceremony, school officials also renamed Belmont Abbey's education department for Sister Christine, former chair of the education program at Sacred Heart College. As an educator, Sister Christine had a lasting impact on the education system in this region. While at Sacred Heart College, she served as dean of student affairs, academic dean and dean of students, and as chair of the education department. Not only did Sister Christine build a highly reputable teaching training program at Sacred Heart College, she also contributed greatly to elevating the quality of education in the state. In 1988 she received the "Outstanding Leadership and Service Award" from the North Carolina Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. When Sacred Heart closed, much of its education program moved to Belmont Abbey College, said Dr. Robert Preston, president of Belmont Abbey College. "The excellent quality of this program was due largely to the dedication and diligence of Sister Christine," he said. "No one is more deserving of this honor than she is, and we are proud her name will continue to be affiliated with the college's education program."

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Our U.S. bishops summarized in ten key principles our Catholic tradition of applying our faith and moral teachings to economic life.

Principle #5:

Most of us grow up realizing that at a certain point we will have to get a job and earn a living for ourselves and for our family. We look forward to doing something interesting and satisfying. It is frustrating to not be able to find a decent-paying job, to have to leave one's rural community to look for work in a distant city, to have a job that lacks health or retirement benefits, to hold onto a job not on the basis of one's performance but at the whim of employer, to have endless restrictions that keep us from taking initiative. We and others know that all of these situations are frustrating. But we also have to ask: Are they morally right? Are they just?

Principle #5: All people have the right to economic initiative, to productive work, to just wages and benefits, to decent working conditions as well as to organize and join unions or other associations.

Employment Opportunity

Director of Development: The Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for the Mecklenberg Area Catholic Schools. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications or related field. Appropriate experience in fund-raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to handle numerous tasks at once and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaign, handling all aspects of production of a monthly newsletter and annual report and directing the cultural enrichment program and advertising plan for the schools. Please submit a resume by November 14 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207.

Father Hogan Visits Charlotte Diocese

Hogan, from page 1

while speaking with diocesan officials at the Catholic Center Oct. 13.

His statement was one repeated several times during his Charlotte stay, which included stops at a meeting of pro-life leaders at the Catholic Center, the podium at St. Gabriel Church for the weekend Masses, city sidewalks where the Life Chain was taking place, and Holy Trinity Catholic Middle and Charlotte Catholic High schools, where he addressed hundreds of youth.

In his discussions, Father Hogan emphasized what he called the "lies contained in the pro-choice slogan," which he said involve the notion that choice always yields positive results.

He told of a college student he once spoke with who defended the right to choose, no matter what the choice was. "Well, this is really playing God," Father Hogan said of such an attitude, "because everything God chooses is, by definition, good."

"If a person claims that for himself, this is to claim to be, in effect, the Creator. Freedom is pushed to the ultimate without any reference to the truth or reality" of church teachings, he added.

Father Hogan, ordained in 1981 for the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul, has served as associate director of Priests for Life since 1995. The organization was founded in California in 1990 as a peer ministry promoting the church's position on abortion and euthanasia. Catholic clergy and laity are its primary audience.

Referring to the complexity of the "womb to tomb" philosophy of the church when it comes to life issues, Father Hogan explained that Priests for Life must, because of time constraints and the wealth of information involved, confine its focus to certain issues.

Some 40,000 people — 7,000 of them priests — are on the ministry's mailing list. Examples of outreach include newsletters, audio and video cassettes, brochures and pastoral visits.

Father Hogan said the idea of killing as a means of ending suffering is another lie often promoted in today's culture, and one that "makes no sense at all in any other concept" than terminating a crisis pregnancy or ending the life of someone in tremendous pain.

In addition to prayer as the primary key to advancing the pro-life cause in everyday life, Father Hogan added that it behooves Catholics to remind their neighbors of the church's mercy. "Anything can be forgiven," he said. "Part of the disease of sin — the spiritual harm that sin causes — is it keeps you away from the very thing you need. People are sometimes very hesitant to come to confession because of that."

Within the network of church and community ministry work are some 4,000 crisis pregnancy centers in the United States open to expecting parents with a variety of needs, he said.

The priest also pointed out that the power of the vote is vital. "It's not a matter of Democrats or Republicans," he said. "It's a question of life — as long as they affirm life, they are worthy to represent us."

"People say (the pro-life cause) is just one issue," he added, "but so was slavery in 1861. It is a compelling, defining issue of our time."

Father Hogan encouraged his audiences to actively participate in the variety of ways to witness to the Gospel of life, from participating in fund-raising drives that support pro-life efforts to publicizing the spiritual and practical support of the church.

And again, he underlined the key to that involvement. "The most important thing — absolutely, beyond anything else — is prayer," he said.

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Father Richard Hogan, associate director of Priests for Life, participates in the Charlotte Life Chain Oct. 12.

Scripture

Readings for the week of October 26—November 1

Sunday	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Hebrews 5:1-6 Mark 10:46-52
Monday	Romans 8:12-17 Luke 13:10-17
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:19-22 Luke 6:12-16
Wednesday	Romans 8:26-30 Luke 13:22-30
Thursday	Romans 8:31-39 Luke 13:31-35
Friday	Romans 9:1-5 Luke 14:1-6
Saturday *All Saints*	Revelation 7:2-4,9-14 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12

Pope Proclaims St. Therese of Lisieux A Doctor Of The Church

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although St. Therese of Lisieux never studied at a university and wrote no thick scholarly tomes, Pope John Paul II named her a doctor of the church, placing her among the Catholic Church's most important theologians.

"Something surprising is happening today," the pope said Oct. 19 as he formally proclaimed the French Carmelite the 33rd doctor of the church.

Despite her lack of academic accomplishments, he said, "beginning today, she will be honored as Doctor of the Church," a recognition that goes "well beyond what any academic degree could."

"Therese offers a mature synthesis of Christian spirituality"

The other doctors, all but two of whom are men, are saints who devoted much their lives to learning and to learned explanations of Catholicism. They include St. Augustine, St. Jerome and St. Thomas Aquinas.

The "Little Flower," as St. Therese is known, died in 1897 at the age of 24. Her understanding of spirituality, theology and Scripture are found in three autobiographical manuscripts, published together after her death as "Story of a Soul."

Her recognition as a doctor of the church, the pope said, is a sign to all Catholics that her writings "can be a point of reference, not only because they conform to revealed truth, but also because they shed new light on the mysteries of the faith and (lead to) a more profound understanding of the mystery of Christ."

St. Therese is the youngest person ever proclaimed a doctor of the church, Pope John Paul said.

"Yet her spiritual journey was so mature and courageous, the intuitions in her writings about the faith were so vast and profound that she deserves to be placed among the great spiritual masters," he said.

In his formal proclamation letter, Pope John Paul said that what St. Therese explained and described as the "little way" of spirituality was nothing other than a fresh and refreshing presentation of God's love for all people and his call for everyone to be holy.

"Therese offers a mature synthesis of Christian spirituality," he wrote in the letter published Oct. 19.

"She helped heal souls of the rigors and fears of the Jansenist doctrine, which was more inclined to underline the justice of God than his divine mercy," the pope said.

"Therese has a unique universality," he said. "Her personality and the evangelical message of the 'little way' of trust and spiritual childhood found and continue to find a surprising acceptance that has crossed every border."

The pope also said St. Therese showed "the feminine genius" of understanding hidden truths and putting them into practice in her daily life.

Pope John Paul highlighted St. Therese's youthful searching for God in an Oct. 18 address to an estimated 50,000 Italian children and teen-agers, members of the youth section of Catholic Action.

Before she entered the Carmelite convent at the age of 15, she would have made a perfect member of the parish-based groups, which promote community service and involvement in the church, the pope said.

CNS photo from Reuters

An image of St. Therese of Lisieux hangs from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica Oct. 19. Pope John Paul II declared the French nun a Doctor of the Church, a designation reserved for saints who lived lives of exceptional holiness and witness to teachings.

"She was full of vitality, faith and enthusiasm for Jesus and for the Gospel," he said. "Her brief existence was completely consumed by love for God and by the desire to make the whole world love him."

St. Therese's little way, he said, explained how all people can reach sainthood by abandoning themselves to God and to his will for them even in the simplest tasks of daily living.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Pro-Life Corner

This year's Respect Life Program poster and flier honor the life and work of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. We can honor her memory best, not by lavish praise, but by emulating her example — centering our life on Jesus, putting great love in all our actions, and giving to others "until it hurts."

—Bishop James T. McHugh
of Camden, New Jersey

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 25 — 6 p.m.
100th Anniversary Mass and Celebration
St. Phillip the Apostle Church
Statesville

October 26 — 11 a.m.
50th Anniversary Mass and Celebration
for Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
High Point Convention Center
High Point

October 27-29
Annual Assembly of Bishops & Priests
of the Atlanta Province
Savannah, Ga.

November 1 — 2:30 p.m.
Mass of Investiture
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre
Holy Land Franciscan Monastery
Washington, D.C.

November 2 — 3 p.m.
Memorial Mass
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre
Holy Land Franciscan Monastery
Washington, D.C.

November 3 — 4:30 p.m.
Ministry of Acolyte
Pope John Paul XXIII Seminary
Weston, Mass.

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Criticism of Marian Devotion Has Benefitted Church, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Oct. 15.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Since the beginning of the church, the Blessed Virgin Mary has always had a special place in the hearts and devotion of the faithful. In choosing Mary as the mother of this only begotten Son and thus as the spiritual mother of all humanity, the heavenly Father revealed, as it were, a maternal dimension to his divine tenderness and concern for the men and women of all times, places, languages and cultures. Mary's cooperation in God's salvific plan and the mystery of divine motherhood spontaneously evoke feelings of wonder, praise and love for the Savior and for the woman who gave birth to him in the fullness of time. Under the influence of the Second Vatican Council, devotion to Mary is developing hand in hand with a deeper understanding of the mystery of the church, of which Mary is the loving mother in the order of grace.

Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Korea, Japan and the United States, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope Calls Fatima Apparitions One of Greatest Signs of Times

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the series of Marian apparitions at Fatima, Portugal, rank as one of the most significant events of this century. The string of apparitions was "one of the greatest" signs of the times, "also because it announces in its message many of the signs that followed and it invites (us) to follow their call," the pope said in a letter to Bishop Serafim de Sousa Ferreira Silva of Leiria- Fatima, Portugal.

On Anniversary, Pope Meets With Poles, Speaks of Media, Prayer

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II spent the morning of his 19th anniversary as pope with 12,000 fellow Poles and reflecting on the power of the media and of prayer. An outdoor audience began with the crowd's repeated refrains of "Sto Lat," the Polish wish for a life of 100 years, and ended with the joyous pealing of bells from St. Peter's Basilica. Speaking to the members of a massive pilgrimage, the 77-year-old pope focused on two trademarks of his pontificate: prayer and the media. "A few days after my election to the See of St. Peter, I went to the Marian shrine at Mentorella, near Rome, and spoke to pilgrims about the necessity of prayer in Christian life," said the pope. "Prayer gives meaning to all of life at every moment, in every circumstance," he said, quoting from Oct. 29, 1978 — 13 days after his election.

Coming of Age

Christopher Carstens

Is It Time For A Real Change Inside Your Room?

Ask 100 teens where they really feel comfortable, and most will answer, "In my room." Having your own space, a place that is your own, fills an important human need.

It's no surprise that teen-agers' rooms get cluttered. Everything in there is a reminder of some important experience. A teen-ager's room is a big scrapbook with walls. Memories of your teen years are there, stuck on the walls, piled on shelves or hidden in the back of your dresser.

Your room says a lot about you: "This is what I think is important, this is who I really am."

There's an ancient Chinese tradition of arranging the physical environment called Feng Shui. The practice can get complicated, and there's considerable superstition mixed in with the ancient wisdom.

Still, the practitioners of Feng Shui have recognized a simple but profound fact: Your surroundings influence how you feel, and they can impact on your daily living.

This is especially true in your room. The things you choose for your own room act as a message you send yourself. Often, as teens change and mature into different ways of acting and thinking, they change the message of their rooms as well.

If your room supports your new self-image, it can actually help you make that new image a reality.

Some examples are obvious. Most little girls play with dress-up dolls, but it's a rare teen whose room is filled with Barbies. There's a very touching moment in a young woman's life when she takes her dolls down off the shelves and puts them away in boxes. At that moment she's saying, "I'm not a little kid any more, and it's time for getting rid of my little kid stuff."

Seeing the dolls in her room every day would tug her emotionally back toward childhood. By replacing the dolls with books and CDs, she affirms her more mature status. Looking at these objects, she thinks, "I'm growing up."

Except in the most extreme cases, I don't think room decoration is the parent's problem. If parents catch you smoking dope, they have every reason to get the "High Times" posters out of your room. Otherwise, if there aren't major rules violations going on, I figure that teens get to pick the stuff that goes in their rooms.

I'd like to encourage you to take a long hard look at your own room. Does it say what you want it to say? Does it support the image of the best self that you're trying to become?

Does your room talk about who you are now, and who you will be in the future, or is it just a random collection of souvenirs from who you used to be?

If you find posters for bands you used to like, and magazines with pictures of actors you used to like, and notes from somebody you used to think was cute — reach for the plastic garbage bag.

Toss that stuff out. Your room may look empty for a day or two, but soon you'll fill the space with things reflecting where you're going on this journey toward adult life.

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, Catholic News Services, 3211 Fourth Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

Dr. Christopher Carstens is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

UN-Rivaled Efforts for Peace

On my way to work every morning, I walk by the United Nations building which juts out of the shores of the East River like a slender vertical file packed with the dossiers of the world's diplomatic corps.

Invariably thoughts of global peace, its promise and its possibilities, mingle with recollections of individuals who have stood at the podium in the General Assembly. These are people who have impressed me with the belief that the human voice of sanity would at long last be heard above the dissonance of international conflict and destruction.

I vividly remember the diminutive Pope Paul VI thundering from the rostrum in October of 1965: "No more war! Never again!" And Mother Teresa, whose very presence gave eloquent testimony and urgency to the world's voiceless millions marginalized by hunger, disease and tyranny.

Due to The Christophers' participation in the United Nations, I recently was able to steal a private moment when the hall was empty to stand at that same podium from which these and other distinguished leaders exhorted their listeners to work for justice and compassion. The international scope of The Christophers has entitled us to participate as a Non-Governmental Organization within the UN's Department of Public Information.

I tried to imagine the thrill of anxiety and hope they may have felt as their words reached ears presumably open to mutuality, non-aggression, and resolution. Could their utterances truly change anything or anyone for the better?

Did the pope or Mother Teresa really believe that they could make a difference? Does anyone within this assembly of ambassadors and consuls really believe that the words of diplomacy can transcend the boundaries of self-conscious nationalism and suspicion?

Later that evening I was leafing through "Markings," the enduring spiritual classic penned by Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary General of the United Nations from 1953 to 1961. He wrote these words as he assumed his duties:

"You who have created us free, Who see all that happens — yet are confident of victory — You who at this time are the one among us who suffers the utmost loneliness, You who are also in me. May I bear Your burden, when my hour comes. May all see You — in me also. May I prepare a way for You. And may I never despair, for I am under Your hand. Give me a pure heart — that I may see You, a humble heart — that I may hear You, a heart of love — that I may serve You, A heart of faith — that I may live in You."

Hammarskjold lived this prayer throughout his tenure until his life ended tragically when his plane crashed while visiting the Congo.

I believe — I must believe — that the Spirit that infused Hammarskjold's life and prayer was and continues to be the taproot for anyone who hopes to affect the sensibilities of the indifferent or cynical.

I also believe in something else that Pope Paul VI said: "First make peace with yourself, so that when you have become peaceful you may bring peace to others."

It is not only great leaders that God expects to be peacemakers and peacekeepers. It is all people who believe in the future God intends for His good planet earth.

For all of us, Faith, Hope and Love are the unrivaled instruments of peace

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Living Peace, Giving Peace" write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Fasting and Annulments

Q. *Would you please explain the present church rules for fasting before Communion?*

I'm concerned because I take care of my sick husband, and sometimes the one-hour fast just doesn't work. Is he obliged to fast one hour also?

A. No he is not. Even though the rules for Communion fast have been changed many years now, it seems a number of older people especially are still confused.

The general rule, as you note, is that we should fast from solid food and beverages for one hour before Communion (not one hour before the Mass at which the Eucharist is received).

However, because of their special needs, the rules are much simpler for the sick and for the people who, like yourself, are caregivers to the sick.

These relaxed rules also apply to people of advanced age, even if not bedridden, who are confined to their homes or nursing homes, as well as family members who wish to receive Communion with them (Rite for Holy Communion Outside Mass, No. 24).

Church law now says simply that the sick, and aging, and those who care for them can receive the Eucharist even if they have consumed something during the preceding hour (Canon 919).

Medicine of any kind never breaks the fast, nor does water.

Obviously, the intention in all this is to encourage people to prepare spiritually and mentally for Mass and Communion, and at the same time give the sick every opportunity to receive the Eucharist.

Q. *I am a Catholic, married before, and have received a declaration of annulment for that marriage.*

Now I have a male friend, Jewish and divorced, who has what he calls an annulment in his religion, known as a "Jewish divorce."

If we marry, could we be married in the Catholic Church?

A. A Catholic marriage between the two of you is not impossible. But what you call a Jewish divorce is significantly different from an annulment or any of the other possible Catholic approaches for dealing with a previous marriage.

Before a marriage could take place, the marriage tribunal of your diocese would need to take some action on your friend's first marriage.

They would decide which of at least two possible procedures would be best in your circumstances.

Please go to your parish priest, or another priest you may know in your area, explain the situation to him and ask him to help you.

A free brochure, in English or Spanish, outlining marriage regulations in the Catholic Church and explaining the promises in an interfaith marriage, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Spirituality For Today

Father John Catoir

My Mother's Death

My mother died 40 years ago this month. Her name was Catherine, although everyone called her "Kitty." She was a wonderful person and a great mother.

I still remember the confusion and pain. I was in second theology at the time, two years away from ordination. She had been sick for seven years, with a combination of rheumatoid arthritis, asthma and a colostomy.

I had prayed and prayed that God would spare her so she could live to see me ordained. My confidence in the power of prayer was high. I wanted her to live and I assumed she would.

Her death hit me like an electric shock. I questioned God: Where were you, Lord? Did you listen? Did you care?

Here I was, preparing for the priesthood, trusting that God helps those who call upon him in times of need, but he let me down. My doubts increased.

I had been resisting the idea of a call to the priesthood for years because I feared my own weakness. I worried that God might not be there for me when I needed him. When I finally surrendered, it was with perfect trust. Now, however, I wondered. Could I dare go on with my dream of being a priest? What if he wasn't there at all?

Six months went by before I recovered my sense of faith. The combination of grief and fear had taken its toll, but gradually I began to see things more clearly. I finally understood God's silence was not a sign of his absence.

At that point I had graduated from a grammar-school level of faith (from believing that if you are good, God will answer all of your prayers) to a graduate level (where you trust that God will sustain you even if you don't understand him).

There is an important prayer in the Gospels that was not answered, the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

This beautiful quote from the writings of Anthony Bloom helped me to understand God's silence.

"If once in history God was concerned for the one who prayed, it was for his Son, before his death. Also, we know that if ever perfect faith was exemplified, it was in his case, but God found that the faith of Jesus, the divine sufferer, was great enough to bear his silence.

"God withholds an answer to our prayers not only when they are unworthy, but when he finds in us such greatness, such depth — depth and power of faith — that he can rely upon us to remain faithful even in the face of his silence."

Eventually, I healed and survived the entire ordeal. I've had a happy life these last 37 years since my ordination, and I never regretted my decision.

Looking back I realize now that my mother was spared two more years of agony. She had a great view of my ordination though I couldn't see her. God took her home because it was her time, and it was my time to grow up spiritually.

If you have even been disappointed because God was silent when you most wanted him to speak or act, take heart. There is more to the picture than you see. Learn to trust God's silence, and all will be well.

St. Leo Church Volunteers Help Build Homes For Poor

By SUSAN deGUZMAN

WINSTON-SALEM — Parishioners of St. Leo the Great Church have sprung into fall by helping Habitat for Humanity build homes for the poor.

The group of men and women assisted during Labor Day weekend in Habitat's "Labor of Love Blitz." The effort involved the construction of three homes in the Pleasant Hills subdivision of Winston-Salem. Church and community volunteers helped in the beginning stages of one home, while representatives of area businesses worked to complete two others.

The volunteer group from St. Leo Church, organized by parishioner Patty Mead, also helped Habitat for Humanity on four Saturdays in September and October with a variety of tasks. Their work included the finishing touches on the "blitz" house and work in the Habitat warehouse, where preparatory work for future homes and construction of children's playhouses occurs. Boy Scout leaders of Troop # 958 from St. Leo and Our Lady of Mercy churches helped build frames for some of the playhouses, which Habitat sells to raise funds.

Habitat for Humanity is a national, non-profit organization.

The Forsyth County Habitat for Humanity organization has been in existence for 12 years. Its members have built 68 homes to date and will finalize another eight by the close of 1997.

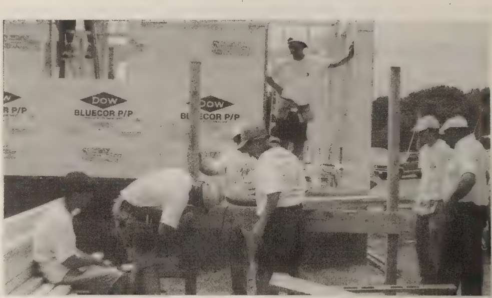
Habitat's Family Selection Committee carefully screens applicants and is willing to work with those who do not qualify by addressing specific issues that need to be improved. There have been no foreclosures on Habitat homes in Forsyth County.

> ***Their work included the finishing touches on the "blitz" house and work in the Habitat warehouse, where preparatory work for future homes and construction of children's playhouses occurs.***

Habitat for Humanity homes have an actual value of $65,000 and are sold for $45,000 each with a 20-year, interest-free mortgage. The homes have identical layouts with a kitchen, living room, three bedrooms, two baths and a front or back porch. Variations exist in lot positioning and color of exterior siding.

Home buyers are required to give sweat equity, hours of labor toward the construction of their homes and the homes of others, as part of their contract. An individual works 250 hours; couples give 350 hours.

Susan deGuzman is a parishioner of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.



A group of church and community volunteers works at a Habitat for Humanity work site during the "Labor of Love Blitz" in Winston-Salem.

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The Basilica of Saint Lawrence
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Cordially Invites The Public To A Performance of
The Asheville Women's Ensemble
in a concert of choral music, Renaissance songs and spirituals, including compositions by Hildegard of Bingen, Orlando di Lasso, Gabriel Fauré, Benjamin Britten and contemporary women composers and arrangers.

Basilica of Saint Lawrence, 79 Haywood Avenue, Asheville, NC
Sunday, November 9, 1997 3:00 PM
Admission Free
(Donations Accepted)

"They should regard us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
The first requirement of a steward is that he prove trustworthy." 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Bishop's Financial Stewardship Report

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997

SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As your bishop, I am accountable to you, the people of the Church of Charlotte, for the proper stewardship of our financial resources. Therefore, I am pleased to be able to present to you the financial report of the Central Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Charlotte for the year ending June 30, 1997.

I encourage you to review the financial information contained on the following pages. The report shows that the Central Administration is financially healthy. I am gratified for this good report and for the good works which have been accomplished during the past year. The many, many outreach programs which are a part of everyday parish life throughout the diocese have touched many people in ways that words can't adequately express. These good works are because of you—your service and your resources. I am very proud of the good work which has been done throughout our diocese. During this past year, we have responded to the growing immigrant population, both in terms of spiritual and physical needs. We have also allocated additional resources to our campus ministry and young adult formation programs.

In response to the growing community of faith, the diocese established a new parish community during this past year: St. Mark Catholic Church in Huntersville. Land was also purchased as the site of a future parish. And a new pastoral center was acquired to provide for the expanding needs of our rapidly growing diocese.

Our diocese continues to grow in number and need. While much is being done, the future will present new challenges as we strive to serve God's people. It is only by your generous assistance that we will be able to continue to expand our ministries and open new churches and schools in response to continued growth here in western North Carolina.

I am very grateful for your support. I know of the tremendous sacrifices made by so many to support the Church. Your gifts to your parish, to the Diocesan Support Appeal and to special appeals directly support the ministries of the Church. I beg your continued assistance.

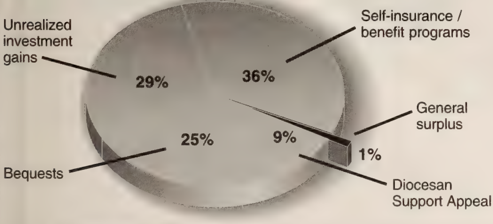
I am, as always, Devotedly in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

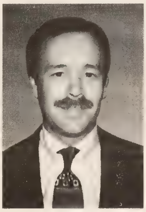
Report from Diocesan Fiscal Manager

I am pleased to once again report that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte remains financially healthy due to the generosity of the people of this diocese. The Central Administration of the Diocese, the administrative arm of the Catholic Church here in western North Carolina, completed the year ended June 30, 1997 with an increase in net assets of approximately $2,508,000. The increase is almost entirely attributable to special purpose activities which, in turn, affect how and when these surplus funds should be spent. These activities are as follows:



- *Self-insurance and employee benefit programs - The amount by which these revenues exceeded claims and other expenses ($895,000) has been designated as additional insurance reserves for future contingencies;*
- *Unrealized gains on long-term investments - Current year market appreciation on investments ($743,000) may be offset in future years should market values decline;*
- *Receipt of one-time bequests ($620,000);*
- *DSA contributions - Included in current year revenues are those funds which exceed the current year program budget and, thus, are for use next year ($217,000).*

These four items total $2,475,000 and, thus, account for all but $33,000 of the increase in net assets. The remaining $33,000 represents the surplus attributable to all other programs and activities of the Central Administration. It is our intent to achieve an approximate break-even from these activities. While we have attained this objective, we have also been able to increase our reserves as a result of the four items discussed above. Additionally, $250,000 has been transferred to the diocesan Foundation and been invested in an endowment. These funds will remain invested with the Foundation in perpetuity so as to generate earnings which will be available to meet the future needs of the diocese.



The diocesan Finance Office remains committed to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility. It is our responsibility to ensure that internal controls are in place and operating so as to safeguard Church assets and ensure that all financial activity is accounted for properly. The employees and volunteers who serve at diocesan parishes, schools and agencies, as well as those at the diocesan Pastoral Center, are stewards of the Church's temporal resources and thus, are accountable to you, the people who make up the Church of western North Carolina.

The financial statements of the Central Administration for the year ended June 30, 1997 are presented on the following pages for your review. The integrity of these statements and the integrity of the underlying financial systems are the responsibility of the diocese. The public accounting firm of Arthur Andersen, LLP, was engaged to perform an independent audit of these financial statements. Their audit report is also included in the financial report that follows.

William G. Weldon

William G. Weldon, CPA
Fiscal Manager

The Central Administration of the

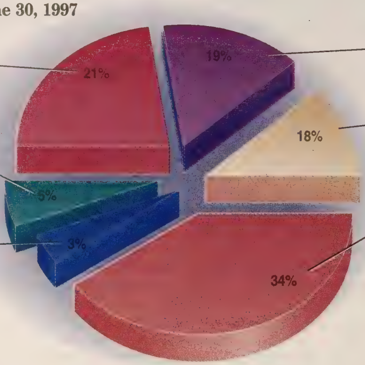
Financial Highlights

Sources of Revenue — Year ended June 30, 1997

Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) .... $ 2,580,000
Represents funds raised for use during fiscal 1997-98

Support of the *Catholic News & Herald* .... $ 637,000
Primarily represents parish support of the newspaper

Catholic Conference Center Revenue .... $ 395,000
Primarily represents fees for use of the Conference Center



Investment Income .... $ 2,343,000
Represents interests, dividends, realized and unrealized gains

Other Sources .... $ 2,322,000
Represents gifts, donations, grants, collections, program fees and rental income

Assessments .... $ 4,191,000
Assessments on diocesan parishes, schools and agencies to support administrative services, the property/liability insurance program and employee benefit programs

Total Revenue .... **$ 12,468,000**

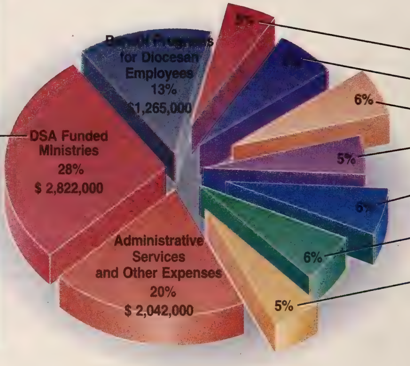
Uses of Our Resources — Year ended June 30, 1997

DSA Funded Ministries
(unaudited) *amounts in thousands*

Grants to Catholic Social Services		**$ 894**
Multicultural Ministries		**299**
African American	16	
Hispanic	183	
Vietnamese	29	
Hmong	24	
Montagnard	17	
Native American	30	
Educational Ministries		**1,246**
Faith Formation	511	
Catholic Schools	258	
Campus Ministry	301	
Evangelization	20	
Liturgy and Worship	1	
Lay Ministry Training	45	
Media Resources	110	
Vocations		**383**
Permanent Diaconate	39	
Seminarian Education	344	
Total Expenditures		**$ 2,822**

Note: Funding sources for above programs:

1996 Diocesan Support Appeal	2,269
Program specific support (fees, etc.)	232
Grants	132
Collections for seminarian education	75
Transfer of Justice & Peace funds to CSS	25
General Central Administration support	89
Total	2,822



Grants and Subsidies .... $ 467,000

Chancery and Tribunal .... $ 585,000

Continuing Care of Clergy ...... $ 598,000

Catholic Conference Center Operations .... $ 480,000

Publication of the *Catholic News & Herald* .... $ 652,000

Property / Liability Insurance Program .... $ 561,000

Interest Paid on Parish Savings .... $ 488,000

Total Expenses .... **$ 9,960,000**

Report of Independent Public Accountants

To the Most Reverend William G. Curlin,
Bishop of Charlotte:

We have audited the accompanying combined statement of financial position of The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. (the Central Administration) as of June 30, 1997, and the related combining statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Central Administration's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined financial position of the Central Administration as of June 30, 1997, and the combining results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Arthur Andersen LLP

Charlotte, North Carolina,
August 29, 1997.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Financial Statements

Combining Statement of Activities For the Year Ended June 30, 1997

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues and other support:				
Contributions-				
Diocesan support appeal (DSA)	$ 2,580,000	$ -	$ -	$ 2,580,000
Other support - DSA programs	232,113	-	-	232,113
Assessments	4,190,537	-	-	4,190,537
Gift income	850,544	-	-	850,544
Catholic Conference Center	394,889	-	-	394,889
Cathedral Publishing, Inc.	637,483	-	-	637,483
Collections	-	191,362	-	191,362
Grants	-	210,000	-	210,000
Rental income	350,263	-	-	350,263
Interest and dividend income	1,011,171	-	147,792	1,158,963
Net realized/unrealized gains on long-term investments	1,184,417	-	-	1,184,417
Other	(18,149)	122,061	383,201	487,113
Net assets released from restrictions - Satisfaction of program restrictions	598,092	(513,870)	(84,222)	-
Total revenues and other support	12,011,360	9,553	446,771	12,467,684
Expenses:				
Program-				
Educational ministries	1,246,360	-	-	1,246,360
Multicultural ministries	298,587	-	-	298,587
Vocations	383,088	-	-	383,088
Contributions and grants: Catholic Social Services	893,764	-	-	893,764
Diocesan Foundation	250,000	-	-	250,000
Other	216,736	-	-	216,736
Clergy continuing care	597,603	-	-	597,603
Employee health benefits	579,817	-	-	579,817
Property and liability insurance	560,877	-	-	560,877
Lay employee retirement and disability	685,314	-	-	685,314
Cathedral Publishing	651,861	-	-	651,861
Catholic Conference Center	480,332	-	-	480,332
Tribunal	160,340	-	-	160,340
Other	84,222	-	-	84,222
Total program expenses	7,088,901	-	-	7,088,901
Administrative-				
Chancery	424,265	-	-	424,265
Development, planning & communication	325,546	-	-	325,546
Finance administration	532,756	-	-	532,756
General administration	629,672	-	-	629,672
Rental property expense	156,838	-	-	156,838
Interest - Parish savings and investment programs	487,722	-	-	487,722
Depreciation	180,417	-	-	180,417
Other	39,720	-	-	39,720
Total administrative expenses	2,776,936	-	-	2,776,936
Fundraising	93,775	-	-	93,775
Total expenses	9,959,612	-	-	9,959,612
Change in net assets	2,051,748	9,553	446,771	2,508,072
Net assets, beginning of year	12,410,078	1,083,534	952,484	14,446,096
Net assets, end of year	$ 14,461,826	$ 1,093,087	$ 1,399,255	$ 16,954,168

Combined Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 1997

Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 169,310
Accounts receivable-	
Pledges, net of amounts due parishes	589,679
Assessments	321,054
Bequests	620,000
Other	178,599
Prepaid expenses and other	263,985
Advances to parishes, net of discount of $672,000	860,185
Notes receivable	4,298,365
Investments	8,979,191
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of $1,863,974	11,800,471
Total assets	$ 28,080,839
Liabilities and net assets:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$ 454,443
Accrued health claims	235,253
Accrued pension expense	236,532
Custodial obligations	9,810,013
Unearned revenue - Assessments	390,430
Total liabilities	11,126,671
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	14,461,826
Temporarily restricted	1,093,087
Permanently restricted	1,399,255
Total net assets	16,954,168
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 28,080,839

Combining Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended June 30, 1997

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Change in net assets	$ 2,508,072
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities-	
Depreciation expense	180,417
Allowance for bad debts on advances and notes	29,508
Gain on disposition of property	(8,588)
Increase in pledges receivable, net of amounts due parishes	(80,637)
Decrease in assessments receivable	82,643
Increase in bequests receivable	(620,000)
Decrease in other receivables	27,479
Increase in prepaid expenses and other asets	(50,896)
Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	52,442
Decrease in accrued health claims	(29,747)
Increase in accrued pension expense	23,224
Increase in unearned revenue - Assessments	25,797
Decrease in custodial obligations	(787,410)
Net unrealized and realized gains on long-term investments	(1,184,417)
Net cash provided by operating activities	167,887
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Purchase of property and equipment	(6,041,630)
Issuance of advances and notes	(905,009)
Payments received on advances and notes	2,152,467
Increase in discount on advances and notes	138,785
Sale of investments, net	618,135
Net cash used in investing activities	(4,037,252)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(3,869,365)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	4,038,675
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$ 169,310
Noncash transaction: Transfer of property to a parish in exchange for a note	$ 438,924

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Notes to Financial Statements – June 30, 1997

1. Organization:

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is the administrative arm of the Roman Catholic Church in western North Carolina. The Central Administration provides diocesan entities with business and administrative services including: administering a savings and investment program wherein all funds on deposit along with the associated accrued interest are reflected as custodial obligations of the Central Administration; arranging financing for diocesan entities; sponsoring a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan and a tax-deferred annuity plan covering substantially all lay employees; and providing medical and dental insurance coverage for employees. The Central Administration assesses the diocesan entities on a monthly basis to cover the costs of these benefits. In addition, the Central Administration oversees the operations of Cathedral Publishing, Inc., publisher of the *Catholic News and Herald*. The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. are collectively referred to herein as "the Central Administration."

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Basis of Accounting

The accounts of the Central Administration are maintained on the accrual basis. The Central Administration complies with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 116, "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made," and SFAS No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations."

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Central Administration considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Central Administration has designated $200,000 of cash and investments for property and liability self-insurance reserves.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost, when purchased, and at estimated market value, when donated. Depreciation expense is determined by using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The following represents the major classes of property and equipment at June 30, 1997:

	1997	Life (in years)
Land	$ 5,167,919	N/A
Buildings	7,029,288	30
Improvements	1,008,236	10
Equipment	225,155	10
Vehicles	233,847	5
	13,664,445	
Less - Accumulated depreciation	1,863,974	
	$11,800,471	

Tax-exempt Status

The Central Administration is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Net Assets

The Central Administration's net assets consist of the following:

Unrestricted

Unrestricted net assets consist of all resources of the Central Administration which have no donor-imposed restrictions. The officials of the Central Administration may, at their discretion, designate unrestricted support for a specified purpose.

Temporarily Restricted

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of contributions received whose use by the Central Administration is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled by actions of the Central Administration. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the combining statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently Restricted

Permanently restricted net assets consist of contributions received from donors whose use by the Central Administration is limited permanently by donor-imposed stipulations.

3. Advances to Parishes:

The Central Administration maintains a revolving loan fund which was established primarily from resources provided by bequests stipulated for advances to small or needy parishes at no interest. Advances outstanding at June 30, 1997 totaled approximately $1,532,000. These advances are long-term in nature and are reflected at their estimated present value of approximately $860,000 in the accompanying combined statements of financial position at June 30, 1997.

4. Pledges and Assessments Receivable:

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) campaign begins in the fiscal year prior to the expenditure of funds by DSA program agencies. At June 30, 1997, approximately $590,000 in pledges out of a goal of $2,580,000 had not been collected.

The Central Administration assesses parishes and affiliates to cover the costs of general administration, property and liability insurance, employee health insurance, employee retirement and the *Catholic News and Herald*. Total assessments receivable at June 30, 1997, was approximately $321,000.

5. Notes Receivable:

The Central Administration has various notes receivable outstanding at June 30, 1997. These notes bear interest at rates ranging from prime minus 1-1/4% to prime plus 1%. A summary of notes receivable is as follows:

	1997
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools	$2,815,271
Parishes	1,285,165
Other	197,929
	$4,298,365

6. Investments:

Investments are carried at market value and realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the combining statement of activities. The cost and fair market value of investments at June 30, 1997, are summarized below:

	1997	
	Cost	Market
Common stocks	$3,607,848	$4,953,684
Bonds	3,949,214	3,994,554
U. S. Government and agency securities	-	-
Other	30,953	30,953
Total investments	$7,588,015	$8,979,191

7. Parish Savings and Investment Programs:

The Central Administration administers parish savings and parish investment programs. These programs have been established for the benefit of diocesan parishes, schools and agencies. Interest is earned at 4% for the savings program and prime less 2.75% for the investment program. Savings program funds may be withdrawn at any time and investment program funds may be withdrawn the first business day of each month subject to a minimum 18-month investment period. Funds on deposit related to these programs along with accrued interest totaled approximately $9,724,000 at June 30, 1997, and are reflected as custodial obligations in the accompanying combined statement of financial position.

8. Pension and Retirement Plans:

Lay Noncontributory Deferred Benefit Pension Plan

The Central Administration sponsors a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the Plan) covering substantially all lay employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. The Plan provides for benefits based on an employee's years of service and compensation. It is the intent of the Central Administration for the minimum funding to be the actuarially recommended contribution amount.

The net periodic pension cost of the pension plan is as follows:

	1997
Service cost on benefits earned during the year	$569,735
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	521,344
Actual return on plan assets	(576,383)
Net amortization and deferral	28,169
Net periodic pension cost	$542,865

The actuarial present value of benefit obligations and funded status is as follows:

	1997
Benefit obligations-	
Vested benefits	$ 5,560,588
Nonvested benefits	187,476
Accumulated benefit obligation	$ 5,748,064
Projected benefit obligation	$ (7,571,685)
Plan assets at fair value	7,794,999
Projected benefit obligation less than plan assets	223,314
Unrecognized net gain	(797,880)
Unrecognized net transition obligation	338,034
Accrued pension cost	$ 236,532

Assumptions used in developing the projected benefit obligation, are as follows:

	1997
Discount rate	7.5%
Rate of increase in compensation	4.5
Rate of return in plan assets	8.5

Tax-deferred Annuity Plan

The Central Administration sponsors a tax-deferred annuity plan under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code for substantially all lay employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. Employer matching contributions to the plan are based on a percentage of contributions.

Through December 31, 1996, all diocesan entities were assessed 5% of lay employees' salaries to provide retirement benefits and disability insurance; and the Central Administration paid the matching contributions to the tax-deferred annuity plan on behalf of all parishes, schools and other entities. As of January 1, 1997, each diocesan entity became responsible for payment of the matching contribution directly to the tax-deferred annuity plan. Also, on that date, the diocesan assessment for lay employees' benefits decreased to 4% of lay employees' salaries.

Clergy Retirement Plan

The Central Administration sponsors the Diocese of Charlotte Clergy Retirement Plan (The Clergy Plan) to provide retirement benefits for priests within the Diocese. Annual collections from the parishes for this purpose are included within the temporarily restricted fund. Effective May 1997, the Central Administration transferred assets of approximately $2,471,000 to Wachovia Bank of North Carolina, N.A., as trustee of the Clergy Retirement Trust. Therefore, at June 30, 1997, there is no Clergy Plan obligation reflected on the combined statement of financial position. Contributions to this plan were approximately $109,000 in fiscal 1997.

9. Credit Arrangements:

The Central Administration maintains an approximate $185,000 unsecured, irrevocable standby letter of credit with a bank in order to guarantee payments to the third-party administrator of its medical self-insurance program. At June 30, 1997, no debt was outstanding under this arrangement.

10. Employee Health Benefits:

The Central Administration administers medical and dental insurance coverage for the employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. The Central Administration charges each organization premiums for the coverage of its employees on a monthly basis. The individual organizations have no liability for claims in excess of the premiums to be paid. The Central Administration has an arrangement with a third-party to administer the medical and dental plan. The organizations pay their premiums directly to the third-party administrator who retains approximately 19% of the premiums submitted for administrative services and the premiums for specific and aggregate stop-loss coverages. The remaining portion of the premiums are paid back to the Central Administration. The Central Administration is billed on a monthly basis for actual claims processed by the third-party administrator. The Central Administration has specific stop-loss coverage at $40,000 per claim and aggregate coverage beginning at 110% of the actuarially projected total individual claims under $40,000. Employee health benefits expense was approximately $580,000 during fiscal 1997.

Entertainment

CNS photo from Warner Bros.

Al Pacino and Keanu Reeves star in "The Devil's Advocate." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association rating is R — restrictive.

Disney's Rocket Man Fizzles

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Rocket Man" (Disney) fizzles before the spacecraft ever takes off.

A particularly inept comedy, it stars Harland Williams as Fred, an irritatingly infantile computer nerd who is absurdly chosen to substitute for an injured astronaut aboard America's first manned mission to Mars.

His spacemates include a chimp (with a clunker this desperate, it's good for a chuckle), a no-nonsense commander (William Sandler), and a geologist (Jessica Lundy) sweet enough to see past Fred's hyperactive antics.

Almost nothing happens in this charmless comedy, directed by Stuart Gillard, beyond a series of clumsy pratfalls and scenes with the kind of rude scatological humor few could appreciate.

Seeing the dull proceedings unreel is like watching a continuous loop, with Fred always claiming, "It's not me," after each instance of minimayhem he causes.

This comic Williams will never be mistaken for Robin Williams, as his lame physical humor is limited to mugging, emitting dreadful animal or body-function noises, and generally breaking everything in sight, which is hardly hilarious or original.

Flat scenes in which he sings a few lines from "The Wizard of Oz," imitates Jiminy Cricket's signature song, or pretends he and his female colleague can dance like Fred and Ginger only serve to underscore what an underperformer this bowser of a comedy is.

Due to mild menace and toilet humor, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery" (1997)

Lame James Bond spoof in which a British secret agent and his evil nemesis (Mike Myers in a dual role) are revived after both were cryogenically frozen during the Swinging '60s and once again face off with the agent trying to foil the villain's plot to destroy the planet. Also written by Myers with Jay Roach directing, it's merely a vanity vehicle for Myers' tasteless asides and leadenly drawn-out skits. Fleeting sexual encounter, some comically intended violence, much crude humor and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Batman & Robin" (1997)

Empty spectacle marks the fourth entry in the series as Batman (George Clooney), Robin (Chris O'Donnell) and Batgirl (Alicia Silverstone) tangle with deadly seductress Poison Ivy (Uma Thurman) while trying to save Gotham City and its residents from being fast-frozen by demented scientist Mr. Freeze (Arnold Schwarzenegger). Directed by Joel Schumacher, it's an elaborate live-action cartoon, with villains who are somewhat more interesting than the bland superheroes, but the movie sags in between the visually frantic action sequences. Much cartoon-like violence and some sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

MOVIE REVIEW LINE
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"Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights" (1992)

This adaptation of the 19th-century romantic tale of doomed lovers turns Heathcliff (Ralph Fiennes) into a despicable woman- basher and all-around heel after Cathy (Juliet Binoche) marries and dies, then takes his revenge on Cathy's grown daughter 20 years later. Directed by Peter Kosminsky, the result is an episodic thicket of sour people and bitter events that has more to do with madness and folly than with unrequited love. Stylized violence and sexual situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"...First Do No Harm" (1997)

Fact-based drama in which a mother (Meryl Streep) refuses a risky brain operation for her epileptic 4-year-old son and turns instead to a dieting treatment which has been successful for others. Directed by Jim Abrahams, the provocative story takes a harshly critical view of the medical establishment, while not sparing viewers the sight of a helpless child's agonizing convulsions or of the strain the boy's deteriorating condition places on his distressed family. Harrowing depiction of a suffering child and resulting domestic tensions. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Gray's Anatomy" (1997)

Screen version of Spaulding Gray's one-man stage play chronicling how he sought to avoid a delicate eye operation by trying a series of alternative therapies, including a Native American sweating ceremony and the dubious intervention of a Filipino psychic surgeon. Director Steven Soderburgh relies on an array of changing backgrounds for visual interest as Gray deftly blends neurotic narcissism with self-deprecating humor in telling a story that is wry, dry and usually engaging. Some sexual references and an anecdote about substance abuse. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Paradise Road" (1997)

A group of European women (led by Glenn Close and Pauline Collins) form a vocal orchestra to keep up their spirits while struggling to survive the deprivations and brutalities of a Japanese prison camp in the Dutch East Indies during World War II. Writer-director Bruce Beresford's fact-based dramatization of the women's ordeal succeeds in showing the bleak conditions of camp life but even the main characters are treated as little more than stereotypes and the triumph of the vocal orchestra seems hollow in comparison to the women's tragic circumstances. Numerous scenes of brutality, sexual references and flashes of nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"A Perfect Candidate" (1996)

Behind-the-scenes account of the 1994 Virginia senatorial campaign between Republican challenger Oliver North, the former Marine officer best known for his part in the Iran-contra scandal, and incumbent Democratic Sen. Charles Robb. Produced and directed by R.J. Cutler and David Van Taylor, the documentary has no narration and viewers are on their own in forming judgments about the candidates, their political views and campaign strategies which turn the race into a classic of negative campaigning. Mean-spirited character assassination and few instances of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Sixth Man" (1997)

Lame comic fantasy in which a college basketball star (Kadeem Hardison) dies in mid-season but his spirit returns to help his brother (Marlon Wayans) lead their underrated team to the championship. Directed by Randall Miller, the cliched sports story offers no surprises and the one-joke premise of a ghostly sixth player seen only by his brother delivers few giggles before growing tiresome. Player's death during a game, strong sexual innuendo and coarse language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A- III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Grace and Spirit Flow from Within at Prison Retreat

By STEVE UZZELL

MINT HILL — Eighty men hugged one another and loudly sang the praises of God. In an excited expression of joy, their voices reached beyond the room where they met.

Spiritual rehabilitation at Evans Correctional Institution in Bennetsville, S.C., reached a near-fervent pitch recently as dozens of parishioners from area churches went to the prison last month to participate in the national prison outreach program "Kairos." The Christian-oriented program is utilized in many prisons throughout the country. There is a component of the Kairos ministry for women's prisons as well.

Members of Baptist, Catholic, Church of Christ, Episcopalian, Methodist, and interdenominational churches represented their parishes at Evans in September. They trained for four Saturdays prior to the September retreat.

St. Luke Catholic Church parishioners Bob Smith and Greg Platko were among the volunteer group. "The transformation was amazing to watch," said Platko of his first experience as a volunteer on a Kairos weekend retreat, called a walk. "We witnessed an overwhelming and powerful force soften the hardened exterior of those inmates."

Volunteers noted that men who felt hurt, angry, abandoned and unloved came out of their shells to feel accepted as people with a sense of identity again. That journey back to self began Thursday evening, then spanned three consecutive days, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. The men were hungry for the presence of the Holy Spirit, the volunteers added, and without realizing just how famished they were, the inmates were indeed fed.

"It was a total onslaught of love you could only yield to, like watching miracles unfold," Platko marveled, still "fired up" by his experience of watching men seek spiritual guidance from the Holy Spirit.

The effects were felt by those living within the prison, too.

"I've finally figured out what path I should be on," testified one inmate. "I've got something I can share with my younger brothers."

While volunteers discipled man-to-man, their wives and friends supported in a vast network of prayer and provisions.

Meals were prepared and sent by the volunteers. Six-thousand dozen cookies — 72,000 in all — were baked and sent along by other church members. The cookies were forwarded to every inmate throughout the facility during the retreat. A "prayer wheel" was posted with the names of parishioners praying for the inmates each hour of each day.

"The men see a different side of Christ and a different side of church," explained Bob Smith, who has represented his parish on two walks at Evans. "The guys see a church where people are real and have fun. And it felt safe for them, too."

Music and discussion played integral roles during the weekend. Songs were upbeat with glory and praise. The group sang "Amazing Grace" to three different tunes, and spirituals were included in the powerful music ministry. Informative talks about making choices, friendship, church, and forgiveness were presented.

"Some are accused of being 'jailhouse Christians,' maybe 2 percent," said Smith. "But we lay the spiritual meal out on the table and say, 'If you want it, you can take it.'

"The music is the real catalyst. It brings back memories and meanings they haven't touched in a while."

"People like me go to hell for what I've done," said an inmate. "But I've seen another side of Jesus Christ — the forgiveness side. I'm still not sure about me. But at least now, I have some hope."

Volunteers said the total effort brought spiritual blessing few expect to see in a prison setting. Many will return monthly to continue support and to share with their brothers in prison.

"If you reach just one guy who turns around, it's worth it," said Smith. "Government is not going to solve this problem. It's going to take people getting involved in programs and ministries like these to make a difference in our prisons."

"I thank God for being welcomed back home," praised an inmate.

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People In The News

Bishop Pilla To Undergo Coronary Bypass Surgery

CLEVELAND (CNS) — Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, is scheduled to undergo triple coronary bypass surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Heart Center Nov. 18. According to a statement from the diocese, Bishop Pilla's cardiologist, Dr. Mehdi Razavi, detected some cardiac irregularities during the bishop's routine checkup Oct. 8. A cardiac catheterization confirmed the existence of three blockages in the bishop's coronary arteries. One artery is 70 percent blocked, and the other two are more than 50 percent blocked.

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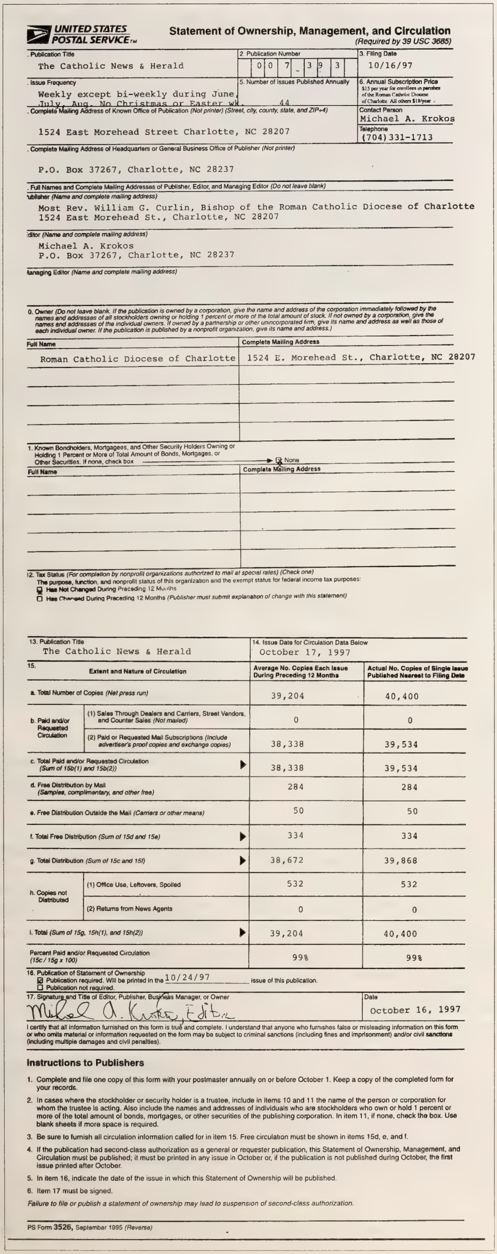

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5. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
6. Item 17 must be signed.

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PS Form **3526**, September 1995 *(Reverse)*

Dallas Diocese Names Its First Top Woman Adviser

DALLAS (CNS) — For the first time in the 107-year history of the Dallas Diocese, a woman has been named to the bishop's staff. Bishop Charles V. Grahmann Oct. 1 named Mary Edlund, 49, to the newly created post of vice chancellor in charge of handling pastoral matters such as Catholics' letters of concern and complaint as well as their recommendations. He also named a Pastoral Concerns Commission to work with Edlund that will include lay advisers. Edlund is an 18-year veteran of staff work in the diocese.

Illinois Woman Is New National NCCW President

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Joann C. Hillebrand of Oakland, Ill., is the new president of the National Council of Catholic Women. Hillebrand was elected during the NCCW's convention. According to an announcement from the NCCW, Hillebrand has served in various positions for the council, during the past two years.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Women's Ensemble Concert

ASHEVILLE — The Asheville Women's Ensemble presents a concert of sacred choral music, Renaissance songs and spirituals, and selections by contemporary women composers and arrangers Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. in the Basilica of St. Lawrence. Admission is free, and donations are accepted. Call (704) 252-6042 for more information.

Cemetery Sunday

BELMONT — The annual Cemetery Sunday service at Belmont Abbey is Nov. 2 at 4:15 p.m., weather permitting, in the Abbey cemetery. Prayers will be offered for the deceased, particularly those buried in the Abbey cemetery.

AIDS Symposium

BELMONT — Cornerstone, the AIDS network in the Charlotte Diocese, sponsors a Catholic symposium on AIDS Nov. 15 at Queen of the Apostles Church. Bishop William G. Curlin is among the speakers at the spiritual and educational event, and he will bless quilt panels for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. To submit a panel, call Father Morris Boyd, (704) 252-3151. For information and registration, call (704) 825-5277.

Marian Conference and Retreat

BELMONT — The Third Annual Marian Conference and Retreat is Nov. 7-8 at Belmont Abbey College featuring Father Jovo Zovko of Bosnia-Herzegovina and guest speakers Wayne Weible, Jack Socco, Father Giordano Belanich, Jerry Morin, and Benedictine Father Jacques Daley. Music will be provided by Al Barbarino and Schola Cantorum Carolinae Borealis. Cost is $39 for adults, and $20 for those 18 and under. To register, call (803) 626-9577.

Infancy Narratives Program

BOONE — Scripture scholar and lecturer Susan Brady is the featured speaker at "Unto Us A Child is Born," an infancy narratives program, Nov. 1 at St. Elizabeth Church from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. A $5 per person donation is requested, and child care and lunch are provided. Please bring your Bible, and register by calling Carol Brown, (704) 264-1761.

Parish Fair

BREVARD — The Sacred Heart Church annual craft fair is Nov. 7 and 8 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day and features a variety of crafts, baked and canned goods, holiday items, a raffle and a cafe.

Sister Cities Celebration

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Sister Cities Committee hosts an Oct. 30 gala celebration at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart recognizing 35 years of providing the Charlotte area with international opportunities for fellowship. Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory and his wife, Ann, are honorary chairs of the event, which features performers from Charlotte's seven international sister cities. For more information, call (704) 333-3399.

LATROBE, Pa. — Seven seminarians studying for the priesthood in the Charlotte Diocese returned to their studies recently at St. Vincent Seminary and took part in the opening Mass of the fall semester. Pictured in front from left are seminarian Peter (Thang) Pham; the Very Rev. Thomas Acklin, OSB, seminary rector; Father Justin Matro, OSB, seminary spiritual director; Sister Cecilia Murphy, RSM, seminary academic dean; Father William Fay, seminary vice rector; and seminarian Tien Hung Duong; and in back from left, seminarians David Brzoska, Dean Cesa, Matthew Ritter, Stephen Doering and Luis Osorio.

CCHS Presents Play

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Fine Arts department presents the murder mystery play "While the Lights Were Out" Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. in the gymnasium. General admission tickets are $4 each.

NFP Session Canceled

CHARLOTTE — The introductory session of Natural Family Planning usually held the third Wednesday of each month at the Catholic Center is suspended until further notice. For more information, call Cathy, (704) 364-3348, or Carmen, (704) 663-6411.

Carmelite Retreat

DURHAM — The Secular (Third) Order Discalced Carmelites sponsor a silent retreat led by Discalced Carmelite Father Regis Gordon Oct. 31-Nov. 2/3 at the Avila Retreat Center. The retreat will focus on St. Therese of Lisieux. The cost is $105 for three days, or $150 for four days (Sunday evening/Monday morning are optional). To register, send a $15 check payable to OCDS to Kathy Smith, 3619 Courtland Dr., Durham, N.C. 27707, or call (910) 493-2712 for information.

Sisters of Mercy Retreat

HAMPTONVILLE — Well of Mercy, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, offers the "Be Still, Be Quiet, Be Alone" retreat Nov. 7-9 focusing on a communal experience of rest and contemplative quiet. Space is limited to 14 participants, and the cost is $85 per person. For registration or information, call (704) 539-5449.

World Community Day

HICKORY — A World Community Day ecumenical worship service is Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. in St. Aloysius Catholic Church and the topic is "The Legacy of the Medieval Women Mystics." Call Carole Marmorato, (704) 256-8956, for details.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — The next marriage encounter is Nov. 7-9 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information call Michael and Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181, and for reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

Jesuit House of Prayer

HOT SPRINGS — "12 Steps to Wholeness," a retreat for recovering alcoholic men, is Nov. 21-23 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Space is limited to 17 participants, and early registration is requested. For registration or information, call (704) 622-7366, or Don at (423) 483-7850.

Fire in the Mountains

MAGGIE VALLEY — The diocesan Office of Faith Formation presents Fire in the Mountains '97, focusing on "God's Presence Here and Now — Living a Sacramental Life," Nov. 15 from 9:15-4 p.m. at the Lake Junaluska Conference Center. Mercy Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin facilitates reflection, group discussion and talks on church teaching.

Living Waters Reflection Center

MAGGIE VALLEY — "In Search of the Male Soul" is a Nov. 7-9 retreat for men directed by Msgr. John McSweeney focusing on spiritual growth through a six-step process of change, prayer and service to others. Cost is $90.

For registration or information, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, (704) 926-3833.

Abortion Counselors Workshop

WINSTON-SALEM — Dr. David Reardon, researcher and author, is the featured speaker at a post-abortion counseling workshop Oct. 28-29 at the Radisson Inn for professional counselors, social workers, pregnancy center volunteers, nurses, parish respect life leaders and peer counselors. Call Dr. Martha Shuping, (910) 659-1342, for more information.

For Charlotte-area counselors, a breakfast is scheduled for Oct. 29 at 8:30 a.m. at Charter Pines Hospital. Call Jennifer Cisney, (910) 362-1980, for information.

The Catholic News & Herald *welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.*

Around The Diocese

Eucharistic Adoration

The following parishes in the Charlotte Diocese welcome all to eucharistic adoration:

* In **Asheville**, St. Joan of Arc Church every first Saturday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Call (704) 252-315 for details.

* In **Denver**, Holy Spirit Church from 7 p.m. each first Friday until Saturday at 8 a.m. Benediction, rosary and Mass follow. Call Jim Kennedy, (704) 732-2673, for more information.

* In **Hickory**, St. Aloysius Church every first Friday through first Saturday. Call Jean Marie Hirsch, (704) 495-4339, or Sonja Bjerg, (704) 328-5074, for details.

* In **Greensboro**, St. Paul the Apostle Church from 9:30 a.m. each first Friday until 9 a.m. each first Saturday. Call (910) 294-4696 for details.

* In **Newton**, St. Joseph Church each first Friday following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasting until 10 p.m.

Ultreya

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya is at St. Elizabeth Church each first Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Call (704) 284-8338 for details.

CHARLOTTE — South Charlotte Area Ultreya meets every fourth Sunday at St. Matthew Parish Fellowship Hall and includes potluck lunch, meeting and leaders' school. Baby-sitting is available.

World And National News Briefs

U.S. Labor Secretary Calls End To Sweatshops

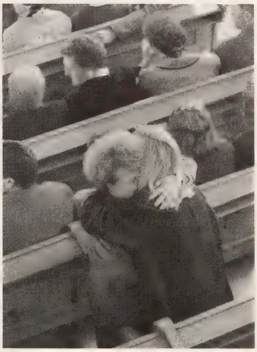
NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) — "No child should wear clothes made by workers robbed of their childhood," U.S. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman said Oct. 16 at a press conference held at the offices of the Newark Archdiocese. "Sweatshops have no place on the American landscape," said Herman. She joined Newark Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick as he unveiled a pioneer archdiocesan educational program aimed at teaching principals, teachers and students in Catholic schools and religious education programs about the injustices of sweatshops. The program also calls for boycotting products from employers who take unfair advantage of their workers.

Vatican Decries Massive Arms Spending While Millions Go Hungry

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican in a statement to the United Nations sharply condemned massive spending for military purposes while millions of people are dying of hunger. "Budgetary priorities need to be realigned in order to direct financial resources to enhancing life, not producing death," said Archbishop Renato R. Martino to the General Assembly committee dealing with issues of disarmament. The nuncio said military spending by the world's governments totaled more than $800 billion a year, and that most countries, were spending nearly as much now as before the Cold War ended.

Bishops Pay Respects To Victims of Quebec Bus Accident

CAP-DE-LA-MADELEINE, Canada (CNS) — Catholic bishops from across Canada opened their six-day annual plenary meeting by paying tribute to the 43 people killed in a bus accident near Saint- Bernard, Quebec, three days earlier. As Archbishop Maurice Couture of Quebec led a special memorial service in the parish of Saint- Bernard de Beauce, about 125 miles away, delegates to the annual meeting of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops stood for a moment of silence for the victims, most of whom were senior citizens from the community.



CNS photo from Reuters

Two women hug at a memorial service at Saint-Bernard de Beauce Oct. 16 for the 43 victims of a Quebec bus accident. Many of those that died were parishioners of the church, located in the small community near Quebec City.

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Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

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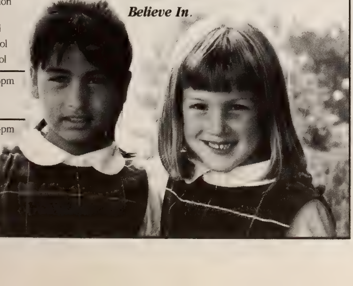
(704) 335-1334

Open House

Sunday, October 26, 2-4pm
Tuesday, October 28, 9-11pm
All Saints Catholic School
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School
St. Ann Catholic School
St. Gabriel Catholic School
St. Patrick Catholic School

Sunday, November 16, 1-3pm
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School

Sunday, November 16, 2-4pm
Charlotte Catholic High School



Called To Hope, Called To Love
A Catholic Symposium on AIDS

Sponsored by CORNERSTONE, the AIDS Network of the Diocese of Charlotte
Saturday, November 15, 1997
9:30 a.m.-2:30p.m.
Queen of the Apostles Church
Belmont, NC 28012
(I-85, exit #26, near McDonald's)
Clergy, laity and all whose lives have been touched by AIDS are invited
Speakers, workshops, prayer, support, food, fellowship
Bishop William G. Curlin's blessing of quilt panels
Donation $10
Box lunch served to all who pre-register by Nov. 10
To pre-register or for more information, contact Rev. Richard P. Hokanson, Pastor, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 Main St., Belmont, NC 28012
(704) 825-5277

Parish Profile

St. Jude Church

St. Jude Church
Highway 64
Mail: P.O. Box 543
Highlands, N.C. 28741
(704) 526-2418

Vicariate: **Asheville**

Pastor: **Father Richard McCue**

Parochial Vicar: **Father Bob Choquet**

Mass Schedule: **Late September-Early June: Sat. — 5 p.m.; Early June-Late September: Sat. 5 p.m.; Sun. — 11 a.m.**

Numbers of parishioners: **20 in winter, 200 in summer**

SAPPHIRE VALLEY— It was more than a quarter-century ago, just before the founding of the Diocese of Charlotte, that a small group of Catholics from small mountain towns gathered in a local real estate office to celebrate Mass for one of the last times. Those folks — from places like Cashiers and Glenville and Lake Toxaway and Sapphire Valley itself, had big plans for the near future. They were preparing for a church they could call their permanent spiritual home.

Especially in the decades preceding the diocese's founding in 1972, western North Carolina was still very much a missionary region when it came to propagating the Catholic faith. So people in Macon and Jackson counties met for liturgies celebrated by visiting priests in a Highlands movie house and the sun porch of an area hotel before congregating in the real estate office meeting room.

They also traveled to Brevard, where Sacred Heart Church had been built in 1949. Highlands also welcomed the construction of a church in town, in 1950. But in Sapphire Valley, Catholics still depended on those periodic visits from clergy or traveling for Mass.

By the 1960s, Sapphire Valley Catholics — considered a mission community of the Brevard parish — began speaking earnestly about building a church. Worship space became especially crowded in summer months, when out-of-state summer visitors came to the Carolina mountains for weeks and months at a time.

Father Charles Mulholland, pastor in Brevard, petitioned Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh on the matter, and the diocesan shepherd granted permission for construction to begin. Fund-raising efforts were begun by resident and visiting Catholics and their neighbors of other faiths.

Two of the early leaders in the cause were Genen and Katie Howerdd, who donated the land for the church and later provided the church doors, an organ and funds for landscaping. Other benefactors followed suit, including Father Mulholland's brother, a professor at Catholic University in the nation's capitol who arranged for architectural students to design models for the Sapphire Valley church as a class project.

One of the models, an octagonal chapel of fieldstone, was chosen for the site along Highway 64.

Contributions continued to come in from people of all faiths and greatly assisted in getting the church built and the debts paid. The groundbreaking ceremony took place in August 1971, when Father Edward Sheridan was pastor in Brevard. Father Sheridan, two bishops and the abbot of Belmont Abbey celebrated the first Mass in the new church, placed under the patronage of St. Jude, in July of the following year.

The church was fitted with an altar stone of rock weighing more than ton, as well as statues from Germany and carved wooden doors crafted centuries ago in Spain. A parishioner, sculptor Francis Trainor, designed the stations of the cross, figures for three small grottos recessed into the church's outer walls, and a large statue of the Madonna and Child which resides near the church's entrance.

Other parishioners donated a ship's bell and tower, and funded the paving of a 100-car parking lot beside the church.

Canonically, St. Jude Church remains a mission of Sacred Heart Parish in Brevard. However, for a decade — 1986-96 — the Sapphire Valley church was in the ministerial care of Our Lady of the Mountains Parish in Highlands. In July 1996, Bishop William G. Curlin assigned St. Jude Church to the pastorate of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin.

Congregation size at St. Jude Church differs greatly depending on the season. The area continues to welcome large numbers of visitors during the summer months, and 200 Catholics may gather for Mass in Sapphire Valley. About 20 permanent residents make up the year-round assembly.

Father Richard T. McCue, who serves St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Franklin, also ministers to parishioners of the communities in Sapphire Valley and Highlands. He is assisted by Father Bob Choquet, parochial vicar, and Father Ray Berg, a retired diocesan priest and former St. Jude pastor.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Faith Formation: St. Therese Catholic Church seeks a DFF who will direct its entire Faith Formation program from pre-school through adult. Masters degree in theology or related field preferred. Send resume to Rev. Robert Wiesenbaugh, S.J., 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28115 (704) 664-3992; Fax (704) 660-6321.

Music Teacher / Organist: Provide piano lessons & educated & train church school children (grades 2 - 6) in the fundamentals of sacred music. Plan & implement music & workshop education opportunities, incldg. participation in the Pastor's information classes. Plan & coordinate music education, piano lessons and other musical activities for summer music camp. Play organ at weddings, funerals & other special events. Prepare music to be included in worship bulletins, oversee maintenance of the church's musical instruments & publicize musical events in consultation w/Pastor & church office. Reqs. BS in Music (w/ Piano Performance or Piano Pedagogy) & 2 yrs. in job offered or as Piano Teacher or Concert Pianist. The 2 yrs. exp. must include work w/ conducting instrumental ensembles & vocal choirs, piano performance, piano teaching, sight reading, improvisation, musical arrangement & composition & piano tuning & maintenance. $9.06/hr., 40 hrs./wk. Submit resume incl. SS# to Fr. Daniel Carboy, St. James Catholic Church, 251 Union Street, Concord, NC 28026.

Production Associate: The Catholic News & Herald has an opening for a part-time production associate. Candidate will be proficient with Pagemaker 6.5 (a PC environment preferred) and Photoshop 4.0. Position involves layout and pre-press of weekly newspaper. Graphic design experience helpful. Please forward layout / design samples and resume to: The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237, or e-mail CNHNEWS @ AOL.COM.

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 7 Number 9 • October 31, 1997

Photos By Joann Keane

Above: With her friend Svetlana, Masha (left) hopes to be adopted by an American family. Though not related, the two girls would be thrilled to be adopted as sisters.

Right: Catholic Social Services International Adoption Program has needs for families hoping to adopt infants as well as young children.

Nurturing Families Define Language Of Love

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

MOSCOW — Maybe it is her cunning charisma, perhaps it's the look of will in her deep brown eyes. Nonetheless, it's evident that life will never drag this 10-year-old down. While tenacity will see her part of the way, the remainder of her life journey hangs in the balance.

Svetlana lives in a small village about two hours from Moscow. She shares her home with 20 other children, all residents of the same children's home.

On a chilly fall afternoon, social workers from the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Social Services visit the orphans' home. This is but one of many stops on the CSS bi-annual visit to the Russian Federation — an unquestionable must for the international adoption team.

The international adoption program is a booming entity for the social service arm of the Catholic diocese. While more and more families extend their hearts, a bounty of adoptable children fills the available roster. It seems the checks and balances rarely match.

With this abundance of youth comes the challenge for CSS: becoming the conduit for adoptable children of Russia and families in America. Responding to an increasing number of requests to expedite international adoptions, CSS honed resources, and gained national recognition as a premiere facilitator for international adoptions.

CSS's Elizabeth Thurbee and Carol Meyerriecks travel the bumpy backroads to see a number of children, youngsters cleared and ready for adoption. After five years of Russian visits, the two are becoming *seasoned Muscovites* — the idiosyncrasies of this rapidly changing region are met with Teflon-like resistance.

This visit, Thurbee, executive director of CSS, and Meyerriecks, international adoption coordinator, meet potential adoptees with Dr. Karen Brown, a pediatrician from Sylva. Brown's participation is clearly a bonus for the international adoption team.

Hospital and orphanage visits require a collective approach. Meyerriecks and Thurbee have perfected the sojourn and tag team questions in rapid-fire succession. Through a translator, medical information is attained, family history extracted. Whenever possible, Brown conducts a quick visual exam, while a camcorder captures footage. Tapes are shown stateside to prospective parents. More often than not, hearts melt immediately.

Few international adoption agencies exert the effort to gain information as thoroughly as CSS. And the international relationship nurtured by CSS is not overlooked by Russian adoption officials. On this visit, Thurbee and Meyerriecks are allowed to see many more children needing families. It is a bittersweet achievement; this distinction controls the fate of even more adoptable children. Yet this labor of love underscores the mission of international adoption for CSS.

Last year, CSS met very few infants. Today, an overabundance of babies exists. In hospitals in Russian villages, the Americans listen as the Russian doctor reads from infant's charts. Surgical masks are donned as Brown and Meyerriecks enter infant territory. Five-month-old Maxim, target of this examination, is less than pleased as his clothes are removed. He wails. A quick once-over determines he is, in fact, medically sound and an excellent candidate for adoption. Not so for many special needs infants and children. Developmental delays or mental handicaps often keep these special children from adoption. How-

See **Adoption**, page 2

Educating The Triad

Schools Issue Continues To Be Leaders' Priority

TRIAD — A shroud of speculation on the status of Catholic education in the Triad is beginning to dissipate as news of a regenerated initiative emerges.

It's been nearly four years since the rapid growth of the Catholic population in the Triad necessitated the creation of a regional task force to deal with school issues. In 1996, the task force deliberated and made recommendation on eight key issues facing Triad Catholic schools, one of which included facilities.

Afterwards, the diocese studied the facility recommendations and analyzed costs associated with the construction of new schools. In February, the diocese introduced a suggested school construction model that included a centrally located middle school and high school, while converting grade schools to kindergarten through grade five.

Though the plan was cost-effective, it quickly became apparent that not all Triad parents and parishioners were in agreement with this proposed solution. Since then, four additional models have been introduced and discussed in pastor and principals meetings. Still no consensus has been reached.

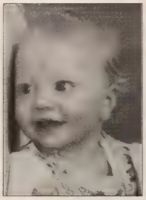
Now, local Triad pastors and principals and the diocese have regrouped and outlined a process to move forward in order to reach consensus. Pastors and principals with schools will meet in November and focus on seven of the recommended Task Force issues, such as standardized tuition and teachers salaries and shared personnel — to see if there is agreement to work together.

As for new school facilities, Epley Associates, a statewide communications and research firm has been contracted by the diocese to develop a written survey to hone into parental desires for the education of their children.

Within the context of the survey, parents will share their opinions while advising the diocese of their level of commitment and willingness to share the financial responsibilities that come with parochial education.

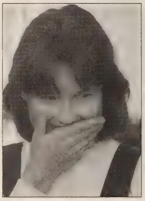
The survey will be sent to Catholic households in Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem and other com-

See **Schools**, page 12



Pictured are some of the Russian infants and children ready for adoption — with the exception of recently placed Boris, pictured top right

All Photos By Joann Keane



Adopting The Language Of Love, from page 1

ever, CSS holds hope. Special children require special families, and past history lets CSS know some families will step forward for these children.

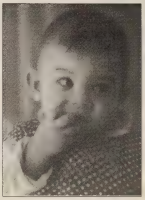
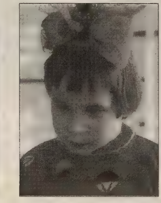
Down the hall, 14-month-old Boris enters in the arms of a nurse. His sky-blue eyes glisten, lighting up the room. The towhead is all smiles. Thurbee presents a child-size basketball jacket, a gift from his soon-to-be-parents. His placement will occur in a matter of weeks. With CSS assessments and Immigration and Naturalization Services requirements behind them, the prospective parents will soon arrive in Moscow, fulfill the legalities, gather up their new son and return home.

Back at Svetlana's home, the matron parades one available youngster after another. What must these children be thinking? What were they told about the American contingency waiting to meet them? Smiling widely, girls and boys try to present their best face. Their eyes speak volumes with the one certainty that transcends the language barrier: This could be their ticket to adoption, and a new life in America.

While chatting with shy and demure Masha, Svetlana bursts upon the scene. Through a translator, Svetlana says she and Sophie are best friends — would it be possible to be adopted together? CSS makes no promises, but makes a note of this request.

Svetlana waits by the window and waves a frantic good-bye to the Americans. Tonight she may dream of a family. Perhaps she hopes the scales tip in her favor, and that her next visitors bring a mother's heart and a father's love.

For more information on international adoptions, call Carol Meyerriecks, Catholic Social Services coordinator of International Adoptions, (704) 255-0146.

Stranded Clarke Crusaders Give Big Assist

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS) — The women's volleyball team from a Catholic Iowa college didn't win their match in Colorado, but the Crusaders are getting credit for a very big assist in the snow.

After being stranded at the Holiday Inn in Colorado Springs by a 22-inch blizzard, Clarke College athletes and their coach volunteered their services at the hotel restaurant when regular staff was unable to get to work.

They kept the restaurant open all day Oct. 25.

"We had our entire squad on this trip," said coach Lou Boike, "so we had plenty of workers to staff the restaurant."

Members of the squad prepared food, served as waitresses and ran the cash register, while Boike served as the official bus boy. Others helped out at the front desk.

Boike and the volleyball team had left Dubuque at noon Oct. 23 for a pair of matches in Colorado Springs. They lost their first match the next day to Colorado College, and never got to play the second match because of the snowstorm.

In appreciation of the Crusaders' efforts, the Holiday Inn gave them a night of free lodging.

"The people at the Holiday Inn and the guests were so appreciative of our efforts," Boike told The Witness, newspaper of the Dubuque Archdiocese. "The kids had a lot of fun and it was a good experience."

And, he added, "The tips were pretty good, too."

The Crusaders were able to leave Colorado Oct. 27 and return to Clarke, a coed liberal arts institution run by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Our U.S. bishops summarized in ten key principles our Catholic tradition of applying faith and moral teachings to economic life.

Principle #6:

How often have we heard: "There's no such thing as a free lunch?" Yet some of us may dream of a distant relative dying and leaving us a fortune or of our winning the lottery, freeing us from the constraints of our jobs and of whatever income we make. But aside from good fortune or good luck, is that the way life is? How do we go about providing for ourselves and for our families? Further, how do we do our fair share as stewards of God's creation? How do we bring the earth and humanity to the abundant life for all that is God's dream for us?

Principle #6: All people, to the extent that they are able, have a corresponding duty to work, a responsibility to provide for the needs of their families, and an obligation to contribute to the broader society.Our U.S. bishops summarized in ten key principles our Catholic tradition of applying faith and moral teachings to economic life.

Greatest Commandment

"One of the scribes... asked him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied... 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.'"
(Mark 12:28-31)

Saints & Scripture

© 1997 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of November 2-8

Sunday	**Isaiah 25:6,7-9** **Romans 6:3-9** **Matthew 11:25-30**
Monday	**Romans 11:29-36** **Luke 14:12-14**
Tuesday	**Romans 12:5-16** **Luke 14:15-24**
Wednesday	**Romans 13:8-10** **Luke 14:25-33**
Thursday	**Romans 14:7-12** **Luke 15:1-10**
Friday	**Romans 15:14-21** **Luke 16:1-8**
Saturday	**Romans 16:3-9,16,22-27** **Luke 16:9-15**

Visioning Discipleship

Catechetical Conference Calls For Hope, True Faith

By JOEY REISTROFFER and JIMMY ROSTAR

WHITE OAK, S.C. — "I've been so busy praising the Lord, I ain't got time to die." That line comes from Grayson Warren Brown's song "Been So Busy," that rattled the walls of the White Oak Conference Center outside Columbia recently.

Brown's musical message echoed loud and clear Oct. 17-18, when 400 teachers from four dioceses and an archdiocese gathered here for the first Southern Catholic Catechetical Leadership Conference. The teachers expected a seminar on how to teach Catholic youths. What they got, however, was a dose of the Holy Spirit in full harmonic blast.

Almost 70 catechists from the Diocese of Charlotte attended the conference, which featured keynote speeches by Brown and Bishop Kenneth Untener of Saginaw, Mich., as well as group processing of the speeches led by Jean Marie Hiesberger, who has 30 years of experience in theological issues, religious education and leadership development.

Several diocesan officials from Charlotte attended as well.

On Friday evening, Brown, a liturgical composer and recording artist, showed the teachers how to fill a classroom with enthusiasm for the Lord. "Just sing from the heart," he said. "Tonight there are no bad voices in the house. The spirit of God is in us and wants very hard to come out."

"I love hearing people sing," he added. "It is one of the truest examples that God indeed is alive in is. We should sing with feeling. And when you sing, move something — anything."

The conference was on a high-speed roll, and the catechetical leaders from the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the dioceses of Charleston, Savannah, Raleigh and Charlotte couldn't get enough. Then Brown shifted gears with a version of "Amazing Grace" sung with such heart and soul that it ripped tears from the eyes of many in the crowd. After, Brown said: "There is only one thing I want you to do for me. Love each other ... take care of each other."

Pictured from left with Grayson Warren Brown, second from left, are diocesan faith formation directors Ann Pinckney, Savannah; Dr. Cris Villapando, Charlotte; Paul Shroeder, Charleston; Mary Dowling, Raleigh; and Joan Cato, interim project director, Charleston Diocese. Not pictured is Mary Ann Fischer, interim project director, Atlanta Archdiocese.

The next day, Bishop Kevin Boland of Savannah called the conference "spirit-filled" and "significant," and said it showed the province's dedication to spreading the good word of God.

Then Bishop Untener got down to the serious business of teaching.

He said that lay ministry is desperately needed and is beginning to blossom in the Catholic Church. "If you wish to see signs of hope, look about you," Bishop Untener said to those gathered.

"Jesus is closer to us now than he was with his disciples," Bishop Untener added. He said the job of the lay minister is to teach the younger generations about the vitality of God's word.

And when we teach, we are not alone, Bishop Untener said, reminding the audience that "Jesus Christ is with us yesterday, today and always."

Noting the Eucharist as the essential element of faith, the bishop said that people must also "experience God firsthand" through reading the Bible, knowing the Bible and praying.

"Teach them to pray," the bishop said. "God will do the rest."

Another essential that youths must know is the Catholic Church is a family bonded by faith, Bishop Untener said, and liturgical prayer is a priority toward strengthening that bond.

"We are used to praying at Mass. We have not learned to *pray* the Mass," the bishop explained. "To be swept up in Jesus, that's the kind of bond I'm talking about."

And finally, Bishop Untener said, every Catholic must be taught "to cherish this church."

"It's a church that needs to be cherished," he said. "This is the church that I love. It's my family, and I love my family. And we love our family by praising the Lord and keeping his commandments," Bishop Untener said.

The Charlotte Diocese's Joanne Frazer, director of the Justice and Peace office, and Father James Hawker, education vicar, offered some thoughts to the group on Bishop Untener's speech by addressing prayer, unity, community and social justice issues in relation to the catechetical mission.

After the conference, Father Hawker noted that the connection of catechetics and community was a theme stressed throughout the event. "The experience of this occasion was not simply for catechists to listen to other people, but it included their celebrating their faith together, their hope, their individual identities as catechists, and their corporate identity as a catechetical community," he said.

Joey Reistroffer is a writer for The New Catholic Miscellany, newspaper of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C. Jimmy Rostar is staff writer for The Catholic News & Herald.

China Invites Archbishop McCarrick, Others To Beijing Talks

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., has been invited to Beijing for talks on religious freedom as part of a delegation of U.S. religious leaders, said U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

At a news briefing the same day, Albright announced that China had invited to the discussions the Newark archbishop, who is chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference's International Policy Committee; Rabbi Arthur Schneir, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation; and Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals.

"I find it encouraging that China has decided to invite three prominent religious leaders to China," said Albright.

"This decision is a welcome step in the direction of openness."

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM, Novena 9:30AM
Confession Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

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Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Healing And Reconciliation Service For Men And Women Affected By Abortion

When: Thursday, November 20
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Where: St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
Contact:
Maggi Nadol 704-331-1720
or
Dr. Martha Shuping 910-659-1342

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 1 — 2:30 p.m.
Mass of Investiture
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre
Holy Land Franciscan Monastery
Washington, D.C.

November 2 — 3 p.m.
Memorial Mass
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre
Holy Land Franciscan Monastery,
Washington, D.C.

November 3 — 4:30 p.m.
Ministry of Acolyte
Pope John Paul XXIII Seminary, Weston, Mass.

November 5 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

7 p.m.
Blessing of new parish center & school addition
St. Pius X Church, Greensboro

November 6 — 11 a.m.
Speaker
Meeting of Catholic Schools educators
Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte

6:30 p.m.
Room at the Inn Annual Banquet
Adams Mark Hotel, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Veneration vs. Adoration Of Mary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Oct. 22.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our continuing reflections on the Blessed Virgin Mary lead us to reaffirm the teaching of the Second Vatican Council that the church's "veneration" of Mary is essentially different from the "adoration" which the church offers to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In acknowledging the exceptional gifts which God conferred upon Mary in his love for all mankind, the Christian faithful in no way make her equal to God. Veneration of Mary as the Mother of God is an affirmation of the divinity of Christ and leads to adoration of the Father and the Holy Spirit. The love which the faithful have for Mary differs from their love for God: God is to be loved above all else, while the love which Christians have for Mary is similar to the love which children have for their parents. In recognizing Mary's excellence, we are honoring her as our mother, we seek her intercession, and we are moved to imitate her virtues.

I am pleased to greet all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, Canada and the United States. I invoke upon you strength and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Church Must Help Show Freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A key task of the Catholic Church today is to help people recognize that freedom must be exercised with respect for the truth and for what is good, Pope John Paul II said. The pope spoke Oct. 24 to members of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. A topic that the pope and the doctrinal congregation members addressed was the order or "hierarchy" of truths in Catholic doctrine, specifically as they relate to the congregation's 1989 revised profession of faith. The pope praised the plenary's work on clarifying "the order of the categories of truth of Christian doctrine, the type of assent owed to them and formulas for proposing adhesion to them." While neither the pope nor the congregation announced the form in which the plenary's work would be published, the pope said it would give the world's bishops "another instrument aimed at preserving and promoting the deposit of faith on behalf of the entire people of God."

After The Pope, Brazil Tourism Industry Puts On New Face

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (CNS) — Civic officials in Rio de Janeiro plan to put a new face on their tourism promotion strategy — the face of Pope John Paul II. Capitalizing on good publicity generated by Pope John Paul's recent visit, Rio's mayor, Luiz Paulo Conde, wants to use footage of the pope's activities during a four- day Vatican-sponsored meeting of families in a new tourism promotional video, according to O Globo, Rio's daily newspaper.

Coming Of Age

Amy Welborn

Jenny's Visit to Another Church

Jenny sat in my office, fingering the pass her teacher had given her so she could come talk to me.

"I don't have any big problem or anything," she began, "but I just wanted to tell you about something that's going on."

My first thought was that she was about to reveal some enormous student-initiated plot to blow up the school or crash the computers.

It turned out that Jenny, a Catholic, educated in Catholic schools her entire life, had been invited by a friend to attend a revival at her church — a Pentecostal, fundamentalist congregation. She had agreed and had been impressed.

"It was great," she said, "the music was really cool, and all the kids were up front really getting into it, waving their arms and stuff. And the preacher was really good. It wasn't boring or above my head."

So why was she telling me?

"I talked to the preacher after the service, and I told him I was Catholic and that I went to a Catholic school. He got real excited and said I should tell the other kids and my religion teachers to come to the services, that they'd really like it," she added.

I pondered this a moment and considered how to tell this girl, enthusiastic as she was, about what was really going on. But before I could start, she had more to tell.

"Then last week, before all this, I was home sick from school, and my friend's mom invited me to a service at their church in the morning. They have, like, Communion, but it's different — it's little tiny square wafers and little cups of grape juice. It was nice. And I learned something I never knew before."

"What's that?"

"That you're supposed to cleanse your heart before you get Communion. You're supposed to be ready to take God inside you. It's like prayer."

I have to admit, now I was dumbfounded.

The girl had been in Catholic schools for 10 years, and it was big news to her that Communion is a spiritual act, an encounter with God for which you should prepare!

It's a constant problem one encounters when working with Catholic youth, especially in areas with parishes where youth ministry is a low priority, if it's a priority at all.

Kids grow up attending, in their minds, staid and dull liturgies. Programs for them are either non-existent or insultingly superficial. They've never been taught what Eucharist is all about.

After all, if their church has emphasized the gift of Eucharist — that no matter what music, preaching or environment surrounds the sacrament, it is the body and blood of Christ, the nourishing, saving presence of God here and now — their attitude and expectations of liturgy might be much different. They might look for spiritual sustenance rather than entertainment.

So what do you do when the glitz and excitement of another church tempts you?

First, take what you can from it, and apply those lessons to your own faith within your own church. Use it within the context of your faith that's been formed within the Catholic tradition.

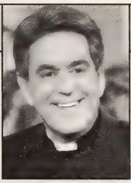
Second, be critical. Examine what's going on, and determine how much of what you see is rooted in authentic, substantive faith, and how much is emotion.

Third, remember that despite good intentions, sometimes personnel involved in these efforts are intent on drawing Catholics away from their church. Some focus on Catholics, especially Catholic youth, because they know that many of them, like Jenny, have received poor formation in their faith and don't experience strong youth ministry in their parishes.

Amy Welborn is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Unmasking Halloween

On a recent visit to Leimersheim, Germany, I had something explained to me that I had observed in Europe on many occasions before but hadn't understood. Herr George Pfadt, my host, took me to the local cemetery where most of his ancestors were buried.

The gravestones were festooned with garlands and boughs of bright flowers of every variety. Families brought lunches and sat on benches or on picnic blankets spread on the ground next to the graves of their loved ones. The mood was festive yet respectful. Neighborly congeniality mingled with occasional laughter in the clean, fresh air.

The whole scene was nothing like my idea of a cemetery. Catching my surprise, Herr Pfadt nudged me with his elbow and smiled: "To us this place is not a graveyard, but rather a Resurrection Garden, and every one of our relatives is alive with God!" He explained that his visits to the cemetery confirm his deep sense that his parents are taking care of him, hearing him, and that they will be together again.

For my German friends, every trip to the Resurrection Garden honors those who have died and helps them reflect upon death as an integral part of life. Somehow they enjoy their lives just a bit more because of the cemetery. Cemeteries, you see, are for the living.

It got me thinking, what a terrific idea! And why don't we Americans do the same sort of thing? And then it occurred to me that in the U.S. we would soon be gearing up for Halloween, the "Eve of Hallowedness," a feast listed as All Souls Day in the Christian calendar, and a 2.5 billion dollar cultural phenomenon that has shot past Mother's Day and Easter in generating commercial revenue. It seems to me that the way Germans use cemeteries proclaims more accurately the sense of our communion with our ancestors than the spook-tacular mentality that drives our Madison Avenue version of Halloween.

Historically, Halloween derives from the Celtic celebration of Samhain, a threshold time, when the veil between the living and those who had died became very thin, and communication between the two worlds was possible.

According to Irish historian Kathleen Phillips, "At Halloween, you would want your loved ones who had died to come back to their own hearth because that's the center of life in the home. So you'd leave the door open, put some food on the table, leave a bit of fire in the hearth and set a couple of extra chairs. Then you'd put a candle in the window to guide their souls home." For those "unsettled" spirits wandering around, candles were stuck into turnips or beets with carved faces. The turnips became pumpkins when Irish immigrants brought their tradition to America, and the jack-o-lantern was born.

German and Irish customs, as well as those of Mexico and other countries, give vivid testimony to the belief that there is no such thing as a dead person. From the very first moment we are brought into existence by God, we never cease to exist. Our loved ones exist not only in our memories and in our memorials, they exist now in the next life which awaits all of us. They prepare the living to be ready to be with them again.

So, this year invite your family to discover the real origin of Halloween. Look at photo albums and talk about your ancestors and loved ones who have died as they once were. Then think about them in the eternity they share with God. They will surely bless you now and welcome you home when you, too, claim a spot in the Resurrection Garden.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Being Divorced Does Not Imply Distance From God

Q. I want to comment on your answer some weeks ago concerning two divorced Catholics who decided to remarry each other.

At one point you said they should "get their life back on track with God." Father, after 27 years of marriage, my husband left me for another woman he met 30 years ago. We have three wonderful daughters in their 20s.

I resent that you infer my life situation is not on track with God. My Catholic faith is the only thing that sustains me. I am and will always be in God's good graces.

It took me three months to prepare my papers seeking an annulment. I await the church's decision.

A. Judging from you and others who wrote, somewhere I missed the boat on that answer.

The question dealt with a Catholic couple who had encountered difficulties so serious they obtained a divorce. Now, after much reflection and counseling, they planned to remarry.

Could they be remarried at Mass? Does the remarriage negate the divorce? May they receive the sacraments?

I tried to guide them through some of those concerns, including advice to receive the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist.

They had hurt each other badly, and clearly there were serious spiritual wounds that needed, and would continue to need, healing.

In that context, including the words you quote, I wanted to suggest that getting back to the best possible relationship with God was part of their return to each other.

I'm sorry if my words seemed to imply that all divorced individuals, Catholic or otherwise, have distanced themselves from God. I know very well that is not true.

In fact, some of the most faithful, generous men and women I've come to know have experienced a divorce, through no discernible fault of their own, and continued to live heroically good lives alone or as single parents caring for and nurturing their families and others.

I'm happy your faith has helped you through the devastation of your divorce and enabled you to remain as spiritually and emotionally healthy as you sound.

Holy Days of Obligation?

Q. Don't we have six holy days of obligation? Now we hear it is less in some places, and only two in Canada. Bring us up to date. Who decides these changes?

A. The Solemnity of the Mother of God (Jan. 1), the Assumption (Aug. 15), All Saints (Nov. 1), Christmas, the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) and the Ascension are normally holy days in the United States.

The first three are not holy days if they fall on a Saturday or Monday, which may account for some of your confusion.

Canon law lists other holy days, including Epiphany and Corpus Christi, but national conferences of bishops may abolish them or transfer them to a Sunday.

Canada celebrates two feasts as holy days, Christmas and Jan. 1.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Memoir is a way of revealing the sacred in the ordinary. Memory, reflection, and the subsequent discovery of meaning unearth truths borne in the events of our past, truths that construct our reality of the present — and our sense of well-being — and direct us toward the future. The use of memoir has been an intentional part of our lives since we first attended a Marriage Encounter retreat in 1978. There we learned a communicating technique for couples called "dialogue" that involved writing love-letters to each other. Through dialogue we found a new sense of goodness in our individual selves and each other, and discovered the sacred in our marriage.

Our love-letters intentionally recall what we value in each other as we always begin the letter with an affirmation for the other (naming one endearing quality) and ends with an affirmation about our relationship. The middle of the letter focuses on a question we both agree to reflect on and answer. We emphasize how we feel over our opinions. Through sharing our feelings in the letter and clarifying them in our conversation, we arrive at a place where we can honestly say "I know how you feel" about a given situation, issue or event.

Dwelling in this shared reference, for even a moment, builds intimacy. However, the regularity of this practice over time transforms our identity as a couple. We make new connections with each other and discover a sacredness revealed through the memoirs of our marriage. Thus, our sense of marital well-being increases. There is greater stability in our relationship despite problems that arise for time to time. We have confidence in our future because of the richness articulated from our past. Memoir has uncovered and nurtured our unique spirituality.

For a while we dialogued daily. Over the years it has become more infrequent, yet still a valued tool for building intimacy and "working at" our marriage. We cherish the voluminous text of our memoirs of marriage packed away in boxes in the attic. Occasionally we browse through them. We revel at how things have changed for us over the years and how some things have remained the same.

Author and Poet James Carroll, in the foreword of Peter Gilmour's "The Wisdom of Memoir: Reading and Writing Life's Sacred Texts," writes "Memory is the human faculty that gives shape to experience. Memory provides the narrative structure by which we uncover meaning. Memory is the source of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Memory imparts compassion....Memory makes visible what is otherwise unseen. Thus memory is the fountain of biblical belief, for, as the form of the Scriptures themselves attest, God leaves traces in history that can be recognized as such only after the fact."

Dialogue has been for us a way to recall, reflect and discover meaning in our marriage. Our love-letters — our marital memoirs — reveal for us traces in our marital history of God's all-benevolent hand touching us with grace.

We encourage married couples to experience a Marriage Encounter.

Our movie review service plays an outstanding supporting role to people like you.

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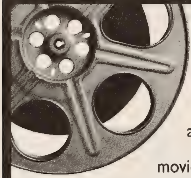

The Catholic Communication Campaign's toll-free movie review service has become a trusted resource for thousands of parents and movie-goers of all ages. And for good reason. With just a phone call to 1-800-311-4CCC, you hear an evaluation of the week's top box office hits, including storyline, content and moral values. Each review also provides the film's rating by the U.S. Catholic Conference's Office for Film and Broadcasting, helping you to determine the moral suitability of today's movies for your family before you visit the theater or video store. In addition, callers hear about the recommended "Video of the Week" for family viewing. By providing movie reviews that go beyond the motion picture industry's ratings (which classify films by age level, not by moral or artistic values), the CCC is playing a supporting role to parents who want to make more informed viewing choices for their families. And it's one more way that the CCC gets the Good News around about gospel values, thanks to the support of Catholic parishioners nationwide. When it comes to selecting a movie, it's your call.

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US Catholic Conference Movie Classifications
A-I General Patronage
A-II Adults and Adolescents
A-III Adults
A-IV Adults, with Reservations
O Morally Offensive

Entertainment

CNS photo from Columbia Pictures

Ethan Hawke is Vincent, an "In-Valid" in love with the genetically designed Irene, Uma Thurman, in "Gattaca." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 —parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Playing God" Is Splattery Mess of Melodrama

NEW YORK (CNS) — With its bucket-of-blood sensibility, "Playing God" (Touchstone) is a splattery mess of a melodrama not worth wasting an hour and a half on.

Among the drawbacks are a pedestrian script and the clashing acting styles of its two leads, David Duchovny and Timothy Hutton.

Duchovny narrates the story in leaden monotone, as well as seeming to be barely breathing as drug-addicted Eugene, a gifted surgeon until his license was pulled for operating on someone while high on synthetic heroin.

Looking to score drugs in an after-hours club, Eugene performs a hasty life-saving procedure when a low-life thug is shot, prompting mobster Ray (Hutton) to insist Eugene join his payroll as mob doctor.

The pay is good and Ray's dark-eyed mistress (Angelina Jolie) is alluring. Still, Eugene would just as soon pass, but he can't: The FBI knows he operated on the disco thug without a license and insists Eugene cooperate in getting the goods on Ray or start singing the jailhouse blues.

Ray, meanwhile, who was passing bootlegged goods to the Russian mob, decides there's more dough in dealing with the Chinese. This leads to a huge body count as all three illegal factions turn on each other. With Eugene and Ray's duplicitous mistress caught in the middle, countless bloodbaths are enacted — with Eugene expected to revive even the corpses.

As Hutton's Ray gets more hammy and hysterical by the second, stoic Eugene miraculously kicks his habit overnight and the inevitable massive car chase brings the dreary proceedings to a long-overdue conclusion.

The narrative doesn't remotely resemble reality as Duchovny drones on about missing doing good as a surgeon and how he never thought he could get addicted. Not to worry, Davey boy; apparently all it takes is one unpleasant day and you're drug-free and on top of the world again.

Between Hutton's over-the-top theatrics and Duchovny's hardly-registering-a-pulse performance, the movie boils down to a gore-drenched, numbing series of murders and mayhem bereft of entertainment value.

Due to excessive violence, substance abuse, constant rough language and some profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Addicted to Love" (1997)

A heartbroken astronomer (Matthew Broderick) and a vengeful photographer (Meg Ryan) join forces to wreck a romance between their ex-flames (Kelly Preston and Tcheky Karyo). Director Griffin Dunne's overly contrived romantic comedy has a distinctly dark side, but relies heavily on the appeal of the rejected pair as they predictably turn to each other. Brief comic violence, fleeting shadowy nudity and references to pre-marital affairs. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Cabaret" (1972)

Bouncy Liza Minnelli stars as an exploited and exploiting American showgirl performing in a decadent Berlin cabaret circa 1930. Showing a nation headed toward moral and political bankruptcy in a spirited musical format results in an entertainment with several levels of meaning given sharp ironic bite by director Bob Fosse. Themes of Nazi brutality, twisted sexual relationships and a bizarre nightclub setting provide some challenging fare for grown-ups. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The Fifth Element" (1997)

Uneven sci-fi action fantasy set 300 years in the future when a space-taxi driver (Bruce Willis) saves a mysterious superhuman woman (Milla Jovovich) who has the power to destroy an evil planet hurtling towards Earth. Director Luc Besson uses a silly mythological premise for some tongue-in-cheek humor as well as a sappy love story between human hero and otherworldly heroine which only gets in the way of the action plot. Fantasy violence, sexual innuendo, brief nudity, coarse language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Jingle All the Way" (1996)

Macho-themed comedy set on Christmas Eve as a harried dad (Arnold Schwarzenegger) and a frantic postman (Sinbad) chase around the city, desperate to get the last Turbo Man doll each has promised his son. Director Brian Levant's extended sitcom substitutes rudely aggressive behavior for genuine humor in a contrived series of tiresome skirmishes. Frequent slapstick violence and fleeting sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit" (1956)

Earnest melodrama based on Sloan Wilson's novel in which a novice broadcasting executive (Gregory Peck), torn between the needs of family and job, faces a crisis with his wife (Jennifer Jones) when he learns he fathered a child in a brief wartime affair. Directed by Nunnally Johnson, the plot is as obvious as the situations are contrived, but fine performances from Frederic March as Peck's unhappy boss and Lee J. Cobb as a kindly judge add interest. Though the story and treatment are dated, the conflict between material success and personal integrity remains valid. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II —adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Van" (1997)

To support their families, two unemployed Dublin pals (Colm Meaney and Donal O'Kelly) partner in selling fish and chips out of a truck, but the demands of running a business bring their lifelong friendship to the breaking point. Director Stephen Frears finds much good-natured humor in the men's disorganized venture — and the strength of their wives to remain emotionally supportive of their well-meaning but hapless husbands. Fleeting nudity, momentary violence, some profanity and frequent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Wild America" (1997)

Unaware their 12-year-old brother (Jonathan Taylor Thomas) has hidden himself in their station wagon, two Arkansas teens (Devon Sawa and Scott Bairstow) set out to cross the country filming wildlife footage of endangered predators as they go in hope of both adventure and fame as documentary filmmakers. Directed by William Dear, the fact-based tale of these high-spirited lads has several scary moments in the bush, but otherwise their tame adventures are less effectively staged. Scenes with menacing animals, mild sexual innuendo and a profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The Winner" (1997)

Uninvolving crime tale of a naive do-gooder (Vincent D'Onofrio) on a weekly winning streak in Las Vegas and how a manipulative lounge singer (Rebecca DeMornay), his estranged brother (Michael Madsen) and other lowlifes attempt to separate him from his winnings. Director Alex Cox trots out a half-dozen quirky, one- dimensional characters in a failed attempt to mix film noir with hip comedy. Some murderous violence, a fleeting sexual encounter and frequent profanity as well as rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III —adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R —restricted. A-III (R)

FAITH alive!

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The parish of the next millennium

By David M. Thomas
Catholic News Service

My dream is that the Catholic parish of the future will embody more of what we already do well, but do it even better. Then, in the year 2020, we will be able to say of ourselves:

"We are the best. Even better than the parishes in 1997 and 1998! But there remains room for growth."

Humility is the virtue of truth. It does not mean putting oneself down. If you are good, it is right and proper to admit it — and to remember who gives one the strength for this.

I am a student of the Catholic parish. I teach about parish life in our graduate program on community leadership at Regis University in Denver. I also work part time in a large parish. My background is in both theology and family studies.

There is a wonderful principle used in effective family therapy and it goes like this:

When there is a problem in the family, think of the family as an organic system, and try to help the strongest family member become even stronger. That is the surest way to solve family problems. The strongest member can most easily change. Healing comes through changing unhealthy systems.

Now I will make a bold and humble assertion. The parishes in the region of this globe that I inhabit are strong — very much so. So many people participate so enthusiastically in the sacraments.

CNS Photo by Mimi Forsyth

I know that we are far from perfect. But we are very good in key areas, and from these strengths we will build our future.

There are two significant areas of parish life that I would single out:

—First, we enjoy a broad-based and exceptional level of participation in parish life.

—Second, we witness an unprecedented pursuit of deeper holiness and commitment to further learning among many parishioners.

Let's first examine participation.

In the parish where I serve we have more than 100 active organizations. We have round-the-clock adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We support more than a dozen social-justice groups. All the educational programs are led by lay people. And our pastor is deeply involved.

Liturgies involve scores of parishioners. Whether it is music, greeters, readers or extraordinary ministers of Communion, it is a cast of many. Quite probably, Catholic parishes have never been more active.

But to remain vital, growth must continuously occur. New groups must be started as needs and interests surface.

Our parish just launched a support group for the newly married. An energetic couple began the group, and after one month of recruiting they got one other couple. After two months, there were three couples. But they kept inviting.

It is now 18 months since the beginning and, you guessed it, 18 couples are now in the group.

The cost of vitality is never to think there is enough. There is always room for more, especially for those with new ideas on how to bring more vitality to the parish.

■ ■ ■

Action without spirit, however, can be shallow. So we need something else. Therefore, my second reason for applauding today's parish is its spiritual vitality. It has to do with the pursuit of holiness, and a desire to learn more about our faith.

The pastor of the church where I work is a diocesan priest. He sees his primary role in the parish as a spiritual mentor for others. He himself has taken the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius twice. I have taken them once, and I teach about them at Regis University, a Jesuit institution.

While we are not Jesuits, we have assisted more than 50 parishioners in taking the full Exercises of St. Ignatius. This is a sign that there is a pursuit of holiness and solid spirituality in our parishes. It's a strength that deserves even more encouragement.

The parish of the future should be even more open to learning about our faith.

Perhaps some creative publisher will come out with resources for spiritual and educational growth for the total parish, resources tailored for each and every learning group in the parish. During a given week every parish gathering would have a spiritual/learning dimension, each group touching on the same theme.

Let's say that the theme is "Reaching Out to the Stranger in Need." The Gospel that week might be the story of the Good Samaritan.

First, that theme would be developed in the Sunday liturgy — not just the homily but in the decorations, the bulletin, the music, in everything imaginable associated with the liturgy.

This also would be the theme in parish education at all levels. It would be part of the reflection which began that week's meeting of the finance committee, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Knights of Columbus.

> "My dream is that the Catholic parish of the future will embody more of what we already do well, but do it even better."

In other words, we'd get everyone in the parish reading from the same page!

I see the parish of the future as a learning community.

(Thomas is the graduate professor of community leadership at Regis University, Denver, Colo.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

How do you predict that parishes 30 years hence will differ from today's parishes?

"Here in the Northwest I think they will be priestless. They'll be clustered. There will be a group of parishes operating under the direction of lay ministers, who will work with a priest assigned to that cluster." — Marlene McGrath, Auburn, Wash.

"I hope that 30 years from now we will be more effective at reaching out to our young people and helping them stay in touch with God." — Candace Woods, Mankato, Minn.

"I'm involved in a movement called Small Church Communities. It's a way for individuals to develop small groups within a parish to share their faith and their lives together. My hope is that these kinds of small groups will revitalize parish life." — Kathleen Chroninger, Portland, Ore.

An upcoming edition asks: Tell of a Christmas custom in your home that helps to convey this feast day's meaning. If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

In a Nutshell

- ***The future parish may well serve as the center for many small faith communities. Its adult education may earn participants college credits.***
- ***Some challenges of the future parish can be predicted: the need to serve teens better or to welcome the poor.***
- ***But some challenges cannot yet be known. For religion is a vital part of human culture, and cultures are not static.***

The road the church travels in culture

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Today's Catholic parishes are quite different even from those in the first part of this century. The Mass is in English; lay men and women read the Scriptures at the liturgy and distribute Communion. These are just a couple of the things people would have thought impossible in a former generation.

We are the product of almost 2,000 years of cultural challenges, positive and negative. Religion is a vital part of human culture, and cultures are not static. They constantly change, adapting to new circumstances.

The first Christians all were Jews, people accustomed to change. Throughout their history the Jews were never quite sure what tomorrow would bring.

At first it was the Canaanites, then the Philistines and other surrounding peoples whose cultures influenced their own. Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans: One never knew from day to day who would influence the lives of the Israelites.

Their Greek overlords launched a vicious persecution aimed at wiping out their religion just before the time of Christ. When the Romans took over they brought a measure of stability — an enforced stability that didn't last long.

The people rebeled in 67 A.D. and lost everything. In 70 A.D. Jerusalem fell along with the temple, the center of the Jews' religious life. Thousands fled to foreign lands and came into contact with strange customs and philosophies.

The fall of Jerusalem was catastrophic. The temple was a heap of rubble. But over the preceding centuries local centers of worship had grown up: the synagogues, completely lay organizations. Even the religious leadership had changed. The priesthood vanished with the temple, and leadership passed to the Pharisees.

Jerusalem also had been the center of Christianity. The head of the church there, James, had been martyred. Jewish Christians fled to other cities, especially to Antioch in Syria.

But when the refugees arrived, they were shocked to find Christian communities largely gentile in makeup. The Jewish Christians at that time no more would share in the Eucharist with gentiles than they would accept invitations to dine in their homes.

This gave rise to a famous tiff between Paul and Peter, who tried to straddle the issue (Galatians 2:11-14). Change and adaptation were the rule of the day.

The New Testament's Pastoral Letters (First and Second Timothy and Titus) give evidence of further development. With St. Paul martyred and no longer available for consultation, these communities became concerned with developing greater internal structures.

The great English cardinal, John Henry Newman, once remarked that to live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often. That is as true of institutions as of individuals.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In parishes of the not-distant future, people will "go out of their way to greet one another and be gracious," though this won't be done "in such a way that you feel one person is the host and another is the guest. Everyone is at home!"

That's how Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony envisions Sunday in the parish of the year 2000. In a September 1997 pastoral letter, he said that in this parish, people will be "intent on the hard work of liturgy, caught up in singing, procession and even silence....

"To be with them is to learn how to be in this world with reverence, with a love of God that is incarnate in how we speak to others, how we move amid the holiness of matter and of time."

In this future parish, the cardinal says, people know that:

"The songs are for singing, the Scriptures for listening, the silence for reflecting, the intercessions for pleading, the Eucharistic Prayer for immense thanksgiving, the communion for every kind of hunger and thirst satisfied in partaking together of the body and blood of Christ, and the dismissal for going out to love the world the way God does."

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

In the year 2027 ...

By Father W. Thomas Faucher
Catholic News Service

Thirty years from now I strongly suspect that there still will be parishes. We won't witness their disappearance in the years ahead.

Parishes in the year 2027 will be a great deal like parishes today. In the parish of the future and the church of the future, there will continue to be growth, discussion, debate and movement. But there will be some important differences.

CNS Photo above by Bill Wittman, below right by James Baca

"Two groups still will have a hard time becoming part of parish life:
Teen-agers ...
and the poor."

Five major categories of parish life often are utilized to characterize parishes. These categories encompass liturgical and spiritual life; education; physical and financial realities; community life; and the organizational dimension.

Starting with the last of these, I think that from an organizational perspective the parish of the future will be the center around which many smaller faith communities revolve. Most parishioners will belong to a small community, but all the communities will gather together for Sunday liturgy.

Parish life often may be managed — as already is the case in many parishes — by leaders who are not ordained priests. Councils, boards, committees and a parish staff will have become totally normal to parish functioning.

The role of the priest will have matured. Priests will serve as spiritual leaders and preachers of the Gospel. Catholic priests will be known for their homilies.

By the year 2027, the community life of the parish will have gone through a number of transitions, including the surge of baby-boomers and solutions to the gender issues we're familiar with now. Two groups still will have a hard time becoming part of parish life:

—Teen-agers, though efforts will be under way to help with that, and

—The poor, though there will be a push to make parishes more sensitive to them.

The physical and financial aspects of the Catholic parish will be very similar to what exists in 1997. Most churches will have been re-renovated to make them much more beautiful and even more able to accommodate the basic orientation of Vatican Council II's liturgical renewal.

I predict that in the beginning of the 21st century, Catholic people will demand that Catholic churches be truly beautiful — that their design not be controlled solely by financial considerations.

And Catholics will become increasingly generous over the next three decades. By the year 2027, 10 percent tithing will be commonplace. Most parishes also will be generous and tithe 10 percent of parish money to poorer communities.

Most parishes will offer extensive adult education courses, often with credit from local Catholic universities and colleges. These colleges and universities themselves will have become smaller and more religiously oriented than in the past.

Almost every Catholic parish will define itself 30 years from now by the quality of its spiritual and liturgical life. The liturgical improvements envisioned by the bishops of Vatican II finally will have been universally implemented.

By the year 2027, increased respect for cultural groups will free black, Hispanic, Asian and other ethnic forms of Catholicism to be expressed in all their fullness. A surprising effect of that will be seen in a great improvement of all other liturgical celebrations as well.

Increasingly, the lines of ethnic division are being lowered, and the people of many different heritages are able truly to celebrate together.

Thirty years from now Catholic parishes will be communities of the highest standards where God lives. They will be known as houses of worship and prayer, and it will be known that they are open and welcoming.

(Father Faucher is a priest of the Diocese of Boise, Idaho., on assignment in the Diocese of Baker, Ore.)

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FAITH alive!

People In The News

Mother Teresa Transformed Rich and Poor, Says JFK Jr.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — By the force of her will, Mother Teresa transformed "the lives not just of the poor whom she aided but of the rich whom she relentlessly solicited," said John F. Kennedy Jr. In an editorial in the November issue of George magazine, Kennedy said the three days he spent with Mother Teresa years ago in Calcutta were "the strongest evidence this struggling Catholic has ever had that God exists." Kennedy, editor in chief of George, is the son of the late President Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. His comments on Mother Teresa appeared under the headline, "A Mother Like No Other."

Bridgeport's Retired Bishop Curtis Dead At 84

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (CNS) — Retired Bishop Walter W. Curtis, who held numerous positions in the U.S. Catholic hierarchy and headed the Bridgeport Diocese for 27 years before his retirement in 1988, died Oct. 18 at age 84. The bishop, who had suffered from various illnesses in recent years, died at St. Joseph Manor in Trumbull, N.J. Even in retirement he had remained active in local church ministry until early this year, when he became too weak to continue. When his health began to deteriorate, he moved to St. Joseph.

Coke CEO Was Spiritually Prepared For Death, Pastor Says

ATLANTA (CNS) — Roberto C. Goizueta, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Coca-Cola Company, prepared for his death with the same "attention to detail" that he devoted to his work, his parish priest said at his Oct. 21 funeral Mass. Msgr. Edward Dillon, pastor of Holy Spirit Church in Atlanta, was the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass. Atlanta Archbishop John F. Donoghue presided. Goizueta, 65, died at Emory University Hospital Oct. 18 from complications of lung cancer, less than six weeks after the diagnosis of his illness. Holy Spirit Church was filled to its capacity an hour before the Mass began. Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, joined Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell, former Mayor Andrew J. Young and Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., at the liturgy.

Albanian Archbishop Who Survived Communist Rule Dies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Albanian Archbishop Frano Illia, 79, of Shkoder died Oct. 22 after suffering from a chronic cardio- respiratory condition. The archbishop was one of 29 Catholic priests who survived the communist regime that declared Albania the world's first atheist state in 1967. The Albanian-born archbishop became a priest in 1943, two years before the communist takeover of the country, and worked in several parishes, including in the capital, Tirana. In September 1967 he was charged with spying for the Vatican and jailed for eight months in Tirana. He was condemned to death, but several weeks later the sentence was commuted to 25 years of forced labor.

Orthodox Leader Makes Historic Visit To Catholic Basilica

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians made a historic visit Oct. 23 to the first Catholic cathedral in the United States. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, the "first among equals" of all Orthodox patriarchs, participated in a "service of prayer and praise" at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore. It was the first time an ecumenical patriarch preached in a U.S. Catholic church.

Albright: Religious Freedom Is Significant But Not First In Policy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although religious freedom and tolerance "will continue to play a significant role in U.S. foreign policy," Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright said that role should not always be first and foremost. "It is in our interest, and it is essential to our own identity, for America to promote religious freedom and human rights," she said. "But if we are to be effective in defending the values we cherish, we must also take into account the perspectives and values of others." Albright spoke Oct. 23 at The Catholic University of America.

Seminarian Begins Studies At Saint Meinrad

Benedictine Father Kurt Stasiak, dean of first-year seminarians at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in Saint Meinrad, Indiana, welcomes new student Bill Clark, who began his priesthood studies this fall. Clark, 35, is a seminarian of the Diocese of Charlotte.

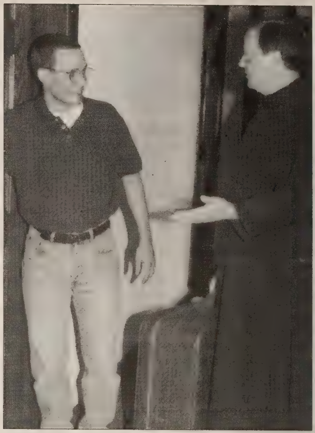

Photo courtesy of St. Meinrad School of Theology

Singer/Storyteller Ed Kilbourne Performs at St. Aloysius

HICKORY — Popular singer/ songwriter Ed Kilbourne performed a concert on Oct. 19 at St. Aloysius Church. Sponsored by the church's youth ministry class, the event was a special evening of Christian joy and ecumenical fellowship. About 300 people from St. Aloysius and other area churches attended.

Known for his collection of moving music, clever humor, and insightful monologues, Kilbourne has been widely recognized as an accomplished storyteller and humorist for 30 years. He combines acoustic guitar, keyboards, and singing with a story-telling style that has been compared to renowned author and humorist Garrison Keillor.

Kilbourne began his career in the 1960s singing in folk groups while in high school and college. Since then, he has performed nearly 7,000 solo concerts in the U.S., Europe and Asia. In 1980, he moved back to the Southeast and currently resides in southern York County, near Rock Hill, S.C.

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Catholic Charities USA Offers Parish Training

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Preparing leaders for parish-based social ministry will be the focus of a Nov. 5-7 training session at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, N.C., for diocesan and parish workers in the Southeast.

Catholic Charities USA will conduct leadership development training for diocesan and parish social ministry staff and volunteers from six dioceses in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Parish social ministry is the church's effort to engage parishes in meeting the self-identified needs of their own communities. By creating a unique partnership between parishes and Catholic Charities agencies, the intent of parish social ministry is to build parish communities of service and social change. These partners use the four elements of the church's social mission in their communities: direct service, legislative advocacy, community organizing and justice education.

"Giving our parishes a vision of the social mission of the church, along with the tools they need to do social ministry, is crucial if we are to effectively impact the lives of the vulnerable in our communities, nation and world," said Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte, the host for the training session.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to develop the skills of our staff and diocesan leaders who can assist parishes in shaping processes for service, advocacy and justice education," Thurbee added.

Presenters at the training include Thomas Ulrich, director of training and convening at Catholic Charities USA; Mary Baudouin, program development consultant; Jack Jezreel, parish social ministry consultant; and Joan Rosenhauer, special projects coordinator, United States Catholic Conference Department of Social Development and World Peace.

Catholic Charities USA is the nation's largest private network of independent social service organizations. The 1,400 local agencies and institutions provide services across the country to millions of people in need, regardless of religious, ethnic, racial and social backgrounds.

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Celebrant Singers To Perform in Diocese

Jon Stemkoski's Celebrant Singers, an internationally known Christian music ministry, will present three community concerts in the Diocese of Charlotte next month.

Teams of Singers will perform on Nov. 7 at Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville and at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill. Both shows begin at 7:30 p.m. The Singers will present a Nov. 11 concert at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin at 7 p.m.

The events will include contemporary Christian music, praise and worship, personal testimony and ministry.

A team will also provide the music at the weekend Masses at St. Ann Church in Charlotte on Nov. 8 and 9.

In their 20-year history, the Celebrant Singers have ministered in all 50 states, throughout Canada and in more than 70 nations around the world. They have sung to more than 5 million people in concerts and have reached millions more through broadcast media. The Singers have recorded nine albums, including an all-Spanish recording.

By year's end, seven teams of Singers will have presented more than 1,400 concerts in some 19 nations, six Canadian provinces and in every state in America.

The ministry recently finished their first extended tour in the Middle East, including services in Egypt, Jordan, Cyprus, Israel, Armenia and the United Arab Emirates. They have also performed in Cuba, Bulgaria and Albania.

The ministry emphasizes ecumenism in its messages and amongst its audiences. Jon Stemkoski, founder, said, "While similar groups traditionally have had an exclusively Protestant audience, Celebrants is the first full-time contemporary Christian singing group to have a widespread ministry among America's 60 million Roman Catholics.

"Since 1977, we've sung in more than 3,000 parishes throughout North America."

In 1984, the Singers ministered in St. Peter's Square before an Easter-week crowd of more than 120,000 people. More recently, they were invited to participate in Denver's World Youth Day.

Celebrant Singers is an outreach of Stone Ministries, Inc., a non-profit Christian corporation ministering to the needs of people through music and the arts.

The concerts are free of charge, and love offerings will be taken. For information on the Thomasville concert, call (910) 475-2732; for Franklin, call (704) 542-2289. Reservations for the Mint Hill performance are needed, and can be made by calling (704) 545-1224. For information on the Singers' appearance at St. Ann Church in Charlotte, call (704) 523-4641.

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St. Paul the Apostle Hosts Isaiah Mission

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — Taking to heart the words of Isaiah 43, "I have called you by name...you are mine," two Catholic evangelists and a group from St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church invited parishioners and other area churches to take part in their parish mission Oct. 20-23. Over 400 people responded to the call to "discover or rediscover a personal living faith," the emphasis of this year's mission.

Prefacing the mission was a special youth Mass setting the groundwork for the upcoming sessions focusing on the unconditional, forgiving, healing, empowering love of God. Each program included music, Scripture and living testimony of God's love from St. Paul parishioners.

The facilitators, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Richard Cleary and Rosemary Dannelly, are representatives of Isaiah Ministries, Inc., which includes a number of Catholic evangelists who lead parish missions or retreats throughout the country.

Father Cleary was chosen by Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father James O'Neill, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, because of their mutual affiliation with the Oblates. Father Cleary's experience includes a faculty position at de Sales School of Theology and involvement in various family based ministries such as Marriage Encounter, Christian Family Movement and Engaged Encounters. Dannelly added the perspective of a Catholic mother to the team with years of experience in speaking and teaching aspects of the faith.

"Salvation and Conversion" was the theme Oct. 22 during a penitential service where nearly 450 people stood in lines to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. "We had asked 15 priests to come to the church to administer the sacrament and we were not sure what kind of response we would get from the congregation," said Maureen Musci, a member of the evangelization commission that sponsored the event.

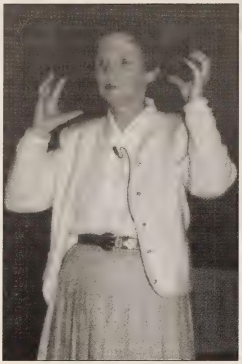

Photo By Kathy Schmugge

Rosemary Dannelly, a representative of Isaiah Ministries, Inc., was among the facilitators at St. Paul the Apostle Church's recent Isaiah mission. More than 400 people participated.

Commission member Pat LaDew was glad additional priests were requested because nearly the entire church stood up to be healed through reconciliation. "I haven't seen that many people in line for confession since before Vatican II," said Mrs. LaDew, who added that one parishioner in attendance had not received the sacrament in 30 years.

During one session, Al Musci, a member of the parish mission team, shared a story when he experienced the healing power of God. He remembered how, after losing his job, a sense of failure and bitterness almost overcame him. But instead of succumbing to it, he asked God for forgiveness and then surrendered totally to Him. Musci explained the instant joy he felt when he finally allowed Jesus to be a part of his suffering.

Father Cleary offered a historical look at the church's traditions of healing, beginning with the scriptural accounts of Christ, his apostles and, later, disciples as great healers. He continued by discussing the healing powers of the saints in the Middle Ages and spoke of the more recent healing miracles associated with Marian apparitions such as at Lourdes and Fatima. "Our sacrament has biblical roots. Share your sacramental life and be glad that as Catholics we have sacraments to enthrone the ministry of healing — anointing of the sick and reconciliation," he said.

Although pleased with the large attendance and grateful to those who were involved in the planning and execution of the event, Father O'Neill was not completely ready to term the mission a success. He wanted to wait and see what fruits would be produced from the four-day program. "My hope is that those who attended will serve as leaven for the church and community," he said.

Triad Schools Issue

Schools, from page 1

munities that compose the Triad. Included in the survey group are Catholic and non-Catholic parents sending their children to Catholic schools and parents of children on waiting lists. All told, approximately 10,500 surveys will be mailed.

Epley's expertise has been tapped further as associate Kim Myers serves as facilitator during meetings with Triad educational leaders to help break down the complexities that often cloud progress. At present, her firm has conducted informal interviews with randomly selected parents, school officials and other individuals to better understand the situation. Results of these interviews have been reviewed by Triad school board leaders, principals, clergy and diocesan officials and will be instrumental in the development of the survey.

The January 1998 survey will do more than pay lip service to concerned parents. Results of the survey will be used by the diocese and local people in the Triad to reach a decision on new school facilities. It will serve as a springboard for Triad Catholic school education into the new millennium.

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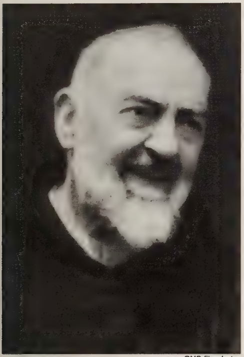
On Fast Track

Padre Pio's Sainthood Cause Takes Giant Leap



CNS file photo

The sainthood cause of Padre Pio da Pietrelcina, who died in 1968, sprang forward in late October when a Vatican panel voted to accept a report affirming the heroic virtues of the popular Capuchin confessor.

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sainthood has its fast-track candidates, like Mother Teresa of Calcutta. But most take a slower and more torturous path, a process of church investigation in which lingering suspicions and outright antagonisms may play a big part.

Padre Pio da Pietrelcina was not destined for the fast track. But to the surprise of many, his cause took a giant leap forward in October.

A popular but controversial Italian Capuchin confessor, Padre Pio appeared to face an uphill battle for sainthood when he died in 1968. He had been investigated several times by the Vatican for alleged immorality and financial irregularity, and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith had a dossier on him that filled 23 boxes.

Things got so bad that Pope John Paul I, when he was archbishop of Venice, forbade his faithful to organize pilgrimages to the friar's monastery in southern Italy.

Padre Pio's reported powers and signs, including the stigmata, or the bleeding wounds of the crucifixion, made him a spiritual legend to millions but a charlatan in the eyes of skeptics.

Many experts predicted Padre Pio's sainthood cause would be quietly buried — and it was for many years.

But on Oct. 22, Padre Pio took an important step toward eventual canonization. A Vatican panel of experts, meeting behind closed doors, voted to accept a report affirming his heroic virtues. If approved by Pope John Paul II, as expected, the church will declare that he lived a holy life worthy of imitation.

A miracle attributed to his intercession would then be required for beatification, and experts are already completing their briefs on several reported miraculous healings. Supporters believe the pope will beatify Padre Pio sometime in 1998.

If that happens, it would be one of the most interesting turnarounds in sainthood history, one in which Pope John Paul II had a personal role.

As a young priest in 1947, the pope confessed to Padre Pio. In 1962, when he was bishop of Krakow, he wrote to the Capuchin friar, asking prayers for a close friend and adviser, Wanda Poltawska, who had been diagnosed with throat cancer. Only 11 days later, the future pope wrote again, saying the cancer had inexplicably disappeared. Poltawska still meets frequently with the pontiff.

Biographies of Padre Pio also relate personal meetings, in which the Capuchin friar allegedly foresaw then-Bishop Karol Wojtyla's election to the papacy.

Vatican sources said it was the pope who, in 1982, unblocked the sainthood cause and ordered the opening of secret files on Padre Pio. Experts pored over them and found no evidence of wrongdoing.

"We can say that he was an authentic saint, whom the devil tried to cover with mud," said Italian Bishop Andrea Erba, who helped prepared the final church report in October.

The accusations against Padre Pio focused on money, morality and his special "powers."

From 1918, when he reported bleeding from his hands, feet and side, the Vatican's Holy Office — forerunner of the doctrinal congregation — kept a close watch on the friar at his monastery in San Giovanni Rotondo, near Italy's Adriatic coast. The stigmata lasted 50 years; some claimed the wounds were self-inflicted, but clinical studies were unable to explain them.

Healing powers and other supernatural gifts were attributed to Padre Pio by his followers. They said he had the ability to emanate perfumed odors, to be in two places at once, to endure body fevers of up to 119 degrees Fahrenheit, and to read the minds and consciences of people speaking to him.

In the 1920s, the Vatican tried to remove the friar from his monastery but reconsidered after the local populace objected; it suspended him from priestly ministries from 1931-33 and considered him disobedient for years afterward, and several times sent apostolic visitors to investigate his activities.

Meanwhile, as his popularity grew, the money rolled in. Padre Pio, unschooled and inexperienced in finances, decided to build a hospital complex near his monastery. Despite corruption investigations into how the funds were handled, the Vatican found no evidence that the priest had done anything wrong.

The accusation that hurt Padre Pio the most, according to his biographers, was that of immoral behavior with women who regularly confessed to him. The Vatican, in its most recent report, concluded that those allegations were also baseless.

Even at the height of his popularity, Padre Pio's spiritual fame prompted uneasiness. When Cardinal Albino Luciani, the future Pope John Paul I, banned pilgrimages to San Giovanni Rotondo, he said Padre Pio was a holy man but that some of the activities around him bordered on the "superstitious and ridiculous."

He said he was worried that his faithful were replacing the sound diet of Mass, catechism and sacraments with "indigestible candies."

Pope John Paul II took a much different view of Padre Pio and has not hidden it. He visited Padre Pio's tomb in 1974 and again, as pope, in 1987, and praised him as an exemplary priest.

Since Padre Pio's death, millions of people have continued to visit and pray at his southern Italian shrine, convinced that this barely literate friar was indeed a holy man. Next year, they hope the pope will declare him "blessed" — and add more momentum to a "slow track" saint.

Assisi Basilica Hosts Mass In Crypt A Month After Quakes

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — A month after a devastating earthquake, the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi opened its doors to several hundred people for a Mass in the undamaged crypt.

"We are starting over from the foundations on a path of spiritual renewal and material reconstruction," said Father Giulio Berrettoni, custodian of the Franciscan sanctuary, who celebrated the liturgy Oct. 26.

The Mass was held in the lowest level of the basilica complex, which escaped damage in the double earthquakes Sept. 26. The crypt holds the body of St. Francis. Some 400 people packed the underground area, entering beneath protective walkways.

The September tremors caused part of the ceiling in the upper basilica to cave in, killing four people and ruining two 13th-century frescoes.

Restoration work on the upper basilica has yet to begin, but scaffolding and tubing has been placed around the most fragile parts of the building to protect it from the hundreds of aftershocks that have struck the area.

Franciscan officials did not know when the basilica could be opened to tourists and pilgrims, who normally visit the site in great numbers throughout the year.

Employment Opportunities

Music Teacher / Organist: Provide piano lessons & educate & train church school children (grades 2 - 6) in the fundamentals of sacred music. Plan & implement music & workshop education opportunities, incldg. participation in the Pastor's information classes. Plan & coordinate music education, piano lessons and other musical activities for summer music camp. Play organ at weddings, funerals & other special events. Prepare music to be included in worship bulletins, oversee maintenance of the church's musical instruments & publicize musical events in consultation w/Pastor & church office. Reqs. BS in Music (w/ Piano Performance or Piano Pedagogy) & 2 yrs. in job offered or as Piano Teacher or Concert Pianist. The 2 yrs. exp. must include work w/ conducting instrumental ensembles & vocal choirs, piano performance, piano teaching, sight reading, improvisation, musical arrangement & composition & piano tuning & maintenance. $9.06/hr., 40 hrs./wk. Submit resume incl. SS# to Fr. Daniel Carboy, St. James Catholic Church, 251 Union Street, Concord, NC 28026.

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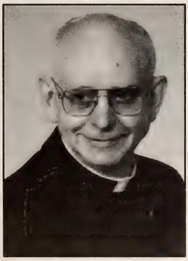

The family of Msgr. William G. Wellein wish to extend their sincere thanks to Most Rev. William G. Curlin and all priests of the Charlotte and Raleigh Dioceses who concelebrated the funeral liturgy October 7, 1997.

Diocesan News Briefs

Women's Ensemble Concert

ASHEVILLE — The Asheville Women's Ensemble presents a concert of sacred choral music, Renaissance songs and spirituals, and selections by contemporary women composers and arrangers Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. in the Basilica of St. Lawrence. Admission is free, and donations are accepted. Call (704) 252-6042 for more information.

Cemetery Sunday

BELMONT — The annual Cemetery Sunday service at Belmont Abbey is Nov. 2 at 4:15 p.m., weather permitting, in the Abbey cemetery. Prayers will be offered for the deceased, particularly those buried in the Abbey cemetery.

AIDS Symposium

BELMONT — Cornerstone, the AIDS network in the Charlotte Diocese, sponsors a Catholic symposium on AIDS Nov. 15 at Queen of the Apostles Church. Bishop William G. Curlin is among the speakers at the spiritual and educational event, and he will bless quilt panels for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. To submit a panel, call Father Morris Boyd, (704) 252-3151. For information and registration, call (704) 825-5277.

Marian Conference and Retreat

BELMONT — The Third Annual Marian Conference and Retreat is Nov. 7-8 at Belmont Abbey College featuring Father Jovo Zovko of Bosnia-Herzegovina and guest speakers Wayne Weible, Jack Socco, Father Giordano Belanich, Jerry Morin, and Benedictine Father Jacques Daley. Music will be provided by Al Barbarino and Schola Cantorum Carolinae Borealis. Cost is $39 for adults, and $20 for those 18 and under. To register, call (803) 626-9577.

Parish Fair

BREVARD — The Sacred Heart Church annual craft fair is Nov. 7 and 8 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day and features a variety of crafts, baked and canned goods, holiday items, a raffle and a cafe.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Healing Service

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Respect Life office sponsors a healing and reconciliation service for women and men affected by abortion Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. Father Ed Sheridan, pastor, and Dr. Martha Shuping, a psychiatrist, are the featured speakers. For more information, call Maggi Nadol, (704) 331-1721, or Dr. Shuping, (910) 659-1342.

Health Ministry Presentation

CHARLOTTE — Dr. Steve Putman, neurologist, is the featured speaker at St. Gabriel Parish Health Ministry's program on stroke education and prevention Nov. 9 in the parish center after the 12:15 Mass. Blood pressure screenings will be available.

Parishioners of St. William Church in Murphy gather for a living rosary on Oct. 12 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the final apparition of Mary at Fatima, Portugal, to three children.

Memorial Mass

CHARLOTTE — A memorial Mass for those who have experienced the death of a child is Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m. in St. Gabriel Church. For details, call B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047, ext. 212. Tables will be available for displaying photos and other memorabilia.

Weigh Down Workshop

CHARLOTTE — A 12-week, Bible-based weigh loss seminar begins November 13 at St. John Neumann Church. The cost is $103. For details, call Donna Rayle, (704) 545-8916.

NFP Session Canceled

CHARLOTTE — The introductory session of Natural Family Planning usually held the third Wednesday of each month at the Catholic Center is suspended until further notice. For more information, call Cathy, (704) 364-3348, or Carmen, (704) 663-6411.

Parish Celebration

GREENSBORO — Bishop William G. Curlin presides at a Nov. 5 ceremony at 7 p.m. in St. Pius X Church celebrating the recent construction of an addition to St. Pius X School, a parking lot and a parish center. A reception follows.

Sisters of Mercy Retreat

HAMPTONVILLE — Well of Mercy, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, offers the "Be Still, Be Quiet, Be Alone" retreat Nov. 7-9 focusing on a communal experience of rest and contemplative quiet. Space is limited to 14 participants, and the cost is $85 per person. For registration or information, call (704) 539-5449.

World Community Day

HICKORY — A World Community Day ecumenical worship service is Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. in St. Aloysius Catholic Church and the topic is "The Legacy of the Medieval Women Mystics." Call Carole Marmorato, (704) 256-8956, for details.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — The next marriage encounter is Nov. 7-9 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information call Michael and Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181, and for reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

Jesuit House of Prayer

HOT SPRINGS — "12 Steps to Wholeness," a retreat for recovering alcoholic men, is Nov. 21-23 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Space is limited to 17 participants, and early registration is requested. For registration or information, call (704) 622-7366, or Don at (423) 483-7850.

Fire in the Mountains

MAGGIE VALLEY — The diocesan Office of Faith Formation presents Fire in the Mountains '97, focusing on "God's Presence Here and Now — Living a Sacramental Life," Nov. 15 from 9:15-4 p.m. at the Lake Junaluska Conference Center. Mercy Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin facilitates reflection, group discussion and talks on church teaching.

Living Waters Reflection Center

MAGGIE VALLEY — "In Search of the Male Soul" is a Nov. 7-9 retreat for men directed by Msgr. John McSweeney focusing on spiritual growth through a six-step process of change, prayer and service to others.

"Great Women of the Church" is a Nov. 21-23 retreat directed by Father Eric Houseknecht focusing through lecture, discussion, reflection and prayer on the many unique contributions to the church made by women.

Cost of each retreat is $90. For registration or information, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, (704) 926-3833.

Christmas Series

CHARLOTTE — Joanne Frazer, director of the diocesan office of Justice and Peace, presents the two-part series, "Picture It! A Less Chaotic, More Meaningful Christmas," Nov. 9 and 16 from 8:45-9:45 a.m. in classroom 13 at St. John Neumann Church. Admission is free, and baby-sitting is provided. Call (704) 4197 for details.

Unique Auction

MONROE — The third annual Unique Auction sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Women's Guild is Nov. 15. To donate a gift, call Mary Onisick, (704) 233-5737, or Edith Myers, (704) 283-8935.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Bereavement Support

- **Arden** — The Bereavement Support Group meets Mondays at 1:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church for those with significant losses in their lives, no matter how recent or remote.
- **Charlotte** — A support group for widowed persons meets at St. Matthew Church in Room 106 for the parish center each first Monday at 11:30 a.m. Call (704) 543-7677 for more information.
- **Winston-Salem** — The Grief Support Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at St. Leo the Great Church for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. Contact Joanne Parcell, (910) 924-9478, for more information.

Eucharistic Adoration

The following parishes in the Charlotte Diocese welcome all to eucharistic adoration:

- In **Asheville**, at the Basilica of St. Lawrence daily from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Call the parish office, (704) 252-6042, for information.

- In **Belmont,** at the Belmont Abbey Chapel located behind the abbey church and monastery. Call (704) 399-2701 for details.

- In **Charlotte**, at St. Thomas Aquinas Church each Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for information.

- In **High Point**, at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Joe or Mary Lanham, (910) 454-4551.

- In **Newton**, at St. Joseph Church each first Friday following the 12:10 p.m. Mass until 10 p.m., and from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church on all other Fridays.

World And National News Briefs

Bishops Said To Have Necessary Role in Catholic Higher Education

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishops have a necessary role in Catholic higher education, Archbishop Francis E. George of Chicago said in an address at Georgetown University. The catholicity of a college, or any institution, cannot be determined solely by the institution itself, Archbishop George said Oct. 20. But making that determination need not require an overbearing presence on the part of the bishop, he said.

Vatican To Keep Encouraging Debt Forgiveness For Poor Nations

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican plans to continue efforts to encourage alleviation of the debt that is burdening poor countries, Archbishop Renato R. Martino said at the United Nations. The Vatican representative noted that the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace had addressed the issue in the past. And he said the council "will be launching various initiatives in the coming years, in dialogue with governments and private organizations, aimed at sensitizing public opinion to the issue." He addressed a U.N. General Assembly committee that was reviewing the debt question earlier this month.

Canadian Bishops Look At Pricetag For World Youth Day

CAP-DE-LA-MADELEINE, Quebec (CNS) — The Catholic Church may hold World Youth Day in Canada early in the next millennium, but the Canadian bishops want to look at the price tag. Canada is being promoted internationally as a possible host for World Youth Day in 2002 or 2004, following what Archbishop Carlo Curis, the apostolic nuncio in Canada, had called the "remarkable" participation of Canadians in the 12th World Youth Day in Paris, France, last August.

Spanish Bishops Might Address Support For Fascism

ROME (CNS) — Spanish bishops plan to release a document that might address the church's previous support for fascism, a move that would be in keeping with Pope John Paul II's request for a church-wide examination of conscience, a spokesman said. "One of the subjects for the year 2000 is to look at some dark parts of the (Catholic Church's) past," Rafael del Olmo, an official in the bishops' press office in Madrid, told Catholic News Service. "The bishops may mention this question in a paper before the year 2000." The pope has said that commemorations of the Jubilee Year call for the church to review some of its past errors in order to move forward in the new millennium.

Giuliani Draws Church Into Race By Criticizing Opponent

NEW YORK (CNS) — The campaigning style of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani has drawn the Catholic Church into the New York mayoral race. An Italian-American Catholic and a Republican, Giuliani is running for re-election against Democratic challenger Ruth Messinger. Most news reports indicate he is heavily favored to win the Nov. 4 election. However, Giuliani created a controversy when he criticized Messinger for not attending the Mass celebrated by Cardinal John J. O'Connor at St. Patrick's Cathedral before the Columbus Day Parade sponsored by Italian-Americans Oct. 13. After widespread criticism, Giuliani made a semi-apology: "It was probably wrong to put the focus on the Mass."

MINE!
MINE!
MINE!

CNS photo from Reuters

A Bosnian man searches for land mines in a suburb of Sara-jevo Oct. 27. Efforts are under way to locate and dismantle mines that are injuring about 50 people a day in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The country is littered with more than 3 million mines following the three-year war between Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

Bishop: Nation Blessed By Hispanic Presence, But Racism Persists

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While God has given "many blessings" to the United States through the presence of its Hispanic residents, Hispanics suffer from racism and other ills tied to the ongoing debate on immigration, a U.S. Catholic bishop said. "Economic globalization has generated economic growth. But this growth has not proven to be beneficial for millions of families. In many cases it has contributed to their unemployment and/or reduction of benefits," said a statement by Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., one of the nation's 21 active Hispanic bishops. "Neither has a serious attempt been made to find common solutions to the immigration debate," said Bishop Barnes, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs.

North American College Is Setting For New Book

ROME (CNS) — The North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, has its highest enrollment in a decade. The seminary rector, Msgr. Timothy M. Dolan, said the 1997-98 academic year opened with 150 seminarians resident in Rome and another five NAC seminarians spending a pastoral year in their dioceses at home, the highest enrollment in 10 years. The students come from 87 dioceses. The rector said he would like to hope that the increased enrollment reflected an increase in vocations to the priesthood in the United States, "but the statistics don't say that."

Assisted Suicide Inaccurately Portrayed, Speakers Say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The ongoing debate over physician-assisted suicide misses the mark because it does not focus on ways to deal with patients' pain and fails to see the practice's long-term effects on society, said speakers at the National Press Club in Washington. "We are just beginning to warm up to the ramifications of physician-assisted suicide," said Wesley Smith, author of the newly released book, "Forced Exit: The Slippery Slope From Assisted Suicide To Legalized Murder." Smith spoke to reporters Oct. 23 in Washington. Before Americans make up their minds on this issue, he said, "we must go in with wide open eyes considering what will happen to us as a nation and what will happen to those most vulnerable."

Weekly Religious Services Can Aid Immune System, Study Finds

DURHAM, N.C. (CNS) — Those who attend weekly religious services may develop stronger immune systems than those who don't, according to researchers at Duke University Medical Center in Durham. The study by Dr. Harold Koenig and Dr. Harvey Cohen measured levels of interleukin-6, also called IL-6, in 1,718 older adults in North Carolina. IL-6 is an immune system protein involved in a wide array of age-related diseases. Researchers found that those who attended services at least once a week were about half as likely as those who did not to have elevated levels of IL-6, which has been shown to contribute to a broad spectrum of age- related diseases, including B-cell lymphomas, multiple myeloma, autoimmune diseases and some viral diseases.

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Parish Profile

Church of the Epiphany

Church of the Epiphany
163 Galax Lane
Blowing Rock, N.C.

Vicariate: Boone

Pastor: Father Conrad Hoover

Mass Schedule: Mid-May-September: Sun. — 8:30, 10 a.m.

Number of parishioners: 90 (seasonal)

BLOWING ROCK — The Catholic mission church in Blowing Rock was built a half-century ago with the purpose of furthering spiritual and educational causes in western North Carolina. Today it remains as a testimonial of the progression of Catholicism in the Tar Heel State, and it serves numbers of vacationers who call the mountains home during the summer months.

In late October of 1945, Mr. R.H. Gore wrote a letter from a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., hotel to Father Ildephonse Gillogly. The priest, serving at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir, N.C., read the Gores' proposal to donate land on which a Catholic church could be built.

The Gores — R.H. and his wife, Lorena — were among those early vacationers taking root in western North Carolina in the summer, and Mr. Gore wrote of his hope that a new church would be "constructed so that older people would not have to climb a hill to get into the building." The Gores offered the site and $500 in cash if the project could be completed within two years.

The site, situated near a Blowing Rock golf course and an inn, was deeded Dec. 31, 1945, to Bishop Vincent S. Waters of the Raleigh Diocese.

Blueprints were drawn for the church building, and construction was contracted in July of 1947 at a cost of $18,000. The building of the church was completed later that year, named Church of the Epiphany, and placed in the ministerial care of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir. Father Peter Sheridan served the mission at the time.

In May of 1964, the Glenmary Home Missioners assumed responsibility for St. Elizabeth Church in Boone, and responsibility for missions in Blowing Rock and Jefferson was given to them. Glenmary Father Edward Smith was named pastor.

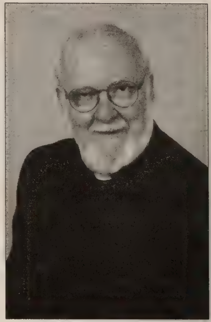
Masses were celebrated at Church of Epiphany from June through September. During the mid-'60s, a half-dozen residents composed the local year-round Catholic population. They were joined by more than 100 visitors from places elsewhere to fill the pews.

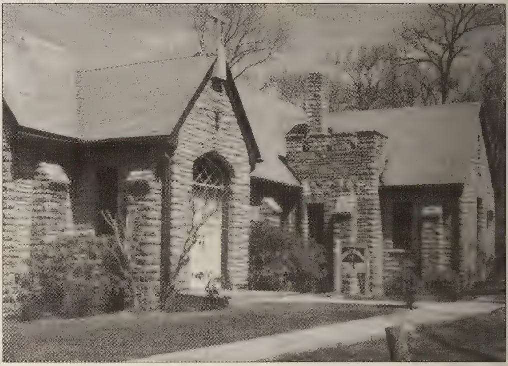
At decade's end, the church underwent major renovation work. Walls were painted, floors waxed, statues cleaned, church grounds attended to, a spotlight installed, and vestments for altar servers purchased. A parishioner, Paula Milford Mahoney, painted murals behind the altar, and an organ was also installed.

In 1972 the Diocese of Charlotte was founded, and the new diocese took on the pastorate of Boone and Blowing Rock. The Glenmarys retained St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson, which itself became a parish the next year. Also in 1973, the Boone Vicariate was established.

The visitors have continued to come and go each summer, and Church of the Epiphany continues to open its doors to almost 100 Catholics for Sunday Masses from May through September.

Church of the Epiphany is still a mission of St. Elizabeth Parish in Boone, and both Catholic communities are served by Father Conrad Hoover.





Castro Pledges Cooperation For Upcoming Papal Visit

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — During a six-hour meeting with a top Vatican official, Cuban President Fidel Castro pledged his government's cooperation in the final planning stages of Pope John Paul II's visit in January.

Castro met in Havana with Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, who was in Cuba for a week of consultation with church and government officials. The talks were aimed at ironing out the remaining logistical and pastoral problems for the Jan. 21-25 papal trip.

In a statement issued Oct. 27 at the Vatican, Navarro-Valls thanked Castro for his courtesy and said the two had been able to speak about a wide variety of topics in a climate of sincere cordiality.

The Vatican spokesman said Castro asked him to tell the pope that the Cuban president and his advisers promised to provide the necessary assistance so that the visit would fulfill its aims, "for the good of the Catholic Church and the entire Cuban people."

Navarro-Valls also said he had productive and friendly meetings with Foreign Affairs Minister Roberto Robaina and with Caridad Diego, who represents the government in planning for the trip.

He said the encounters underlined a "strong common interest in seeing that the Holy Father's visit to Cuba be a privileged moment, both of a religious nature and of unquestionable historical relevance for the present and the future of this nation."

Navarro-Valls did not say what specific problems were discussed, but he indicated they had not all been resolved. He said the issues involved the material, pastoral, informational and logistical preparations for the visit.

In recent weeks, church sources have said that among the unresolved matters were whether papal events would be televised live throughout the country and whether travel opportunities would be provided for the people who want to see the pope. These and other items have been discussed for months by members of a church- state planning committee.

The Vatican spokesman expressed his "well-founded hope" that in the current climate of dialogue, the questions would soon be settled.

Navarro-Valls also noted that some of the problems stemmed from Cuba's lack of material resources, whose cause "depends on well-known difficulties which are foreign to the wishes of the country's government."

His comment apparently referred to the long-standing U.S. economic embargo against Cuba, which the government blames for a variety of shortages and shortcomings in the island nation.

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Photo By Kathy Schmugge

Bishop William G. Curlin thanks St. Phillip the Apostle parishioner Rachel Carnacchione after she presented him a gift at the parish's 100th anniversary jubilee celebration Oct. 25 in Statesville.

St. Phillip the Apostle Church Celebrates 100th Anniversary

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

STATESVILLE — The year was 1870 when Benedictine Father Mark Gross began celebrating Mass at least once a month in the home of J.L.P. Roueche in Statesville. The priest, who visited for nearly 30 years, used a dresser for the altar; that same dresser can be found today in the lobby of St. Phillip the Apostle Catholic Church in Statesville. It serves as a reminder of the first courageous Catholics who sacrificed much to continue practicing the faith.

During a special Mass on Oct. 25 — 100 years after the first St. Phillip the Apostle Church was built in Statesville — Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated with the congregation and guests the anniversary of the parish.

Reflecting on the history and growth of the Catholic Church in Iredell County, Father Peter Fitzgibbons, the current pastor at St. Phillip the Apostle, praised all those people, past and present, who generously shared their faith in the community. "No prose could begin to express the depth of prayer, sacrifice, and suffering that made the faith bloom here," he said.

Bishop Curlin concelebrated Mass with Father Fitzgibbons and other honored guests such as retired Franciscan Father Remy Goudreau, who was associate pastor of St. Phillip's in the early '40s. Father Paul Gary, former St. Phillip's pastor and current rector of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, was also present for the celebration. He led the

See **Anniversary,** page 12

Vote Approving Assisted Suicide Called Tragedy

By ED LANGLOIS

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Oregon voters' decision Nov. 4 to keep physician-assisted suicide legal is a tragedy for all Americans, but especially for those who are seriously ill, said a U.S. cardinal.

Americans with serious illnesses "deserve better care for their real needs, not an invitation to suicide," said Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law in a Nov. 5 statement as chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

"Oregonians will find that what some call a 'right to die' easily becomes a 'duty to die' once society labels some lives as not worth living," he added.

By 60 percent to 40 percent, Oregonians voted a second time to allow terminally ill adults the choice of killing themselves with the help of a doctor. This came against opposition from church, medical associations and the state Legislature, which in June referred the law for a re-vote.

The law allows a doctor to prescribe a lethal dosage of an oral medication to a terminally ill person who is deemed to have less than six months to live and who requests life-ending drugs. The person must wait 15 days before receiving the drugs.

Pro-life advocates vowed more legal appeals of the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, which passed first in 1994 by a 2 percent margin.

On Nov. 4, election officials counted the all-mail ballots from just over 1 million voters, about half of the state's registered voters.

"History will likely show this to be the most deadly election to ever be held," said Gayle Atteberry, executive director of Oregon Right to Life. "Countless lives are now in immediate danger and the holocaust to emit from this election could eventually dwarf that which has come from Roe vs. Wade."

Oregon Right to Life gave more than $416,000 to the Yes on 51 campaign, making it the largest single donor to the effort to pass Measure 51, as the repeal ballot initiative was called.

In all, the failed campaign spent almost $4 million in what was billed as a fight to save society's most vulnerable people from the slippery slope that leads to involuntary euthanasia.

On foes' at-risk list are the disabled, the elderly, the homeless and those who might become victims of unscrupulous managed care.

In Washington, D.C., the head of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities called Nov. 4 "indeed a sad day for America."

"Oregon voters have affirmed they value utilitarianism above charity and consider total autonomy and independence more important in building their social structures than the need to create greater interdependence," said Mary Jane Owen, the office's director.

In Rome, Dr. Corrado Manni told Catholic News Service, "We should protest such laws not only because we are Catholics, but because they ignore the moral law which is separate from religion."

Manni is a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life and director of the Institute of Anesthesia at Rome's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart.

When asked his reaction to the Oregon vote result, Archbishop Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers, called euthanasia "totally evil from the point of view of ethics."

He said the council gives the euthanasia issue "the highest priority" because the people most directly affected by it are the ill and the elderly.

Observers of the Nov. 4 election said the assisted-suicide law dodged repeal because of Oregon's cult of individualism.

Hardly surprised but still disappointed in the outcome of the vote, Catholic leaders found new clarity of mission during the ambitious campaign. In addition to large monetary donations, Catholics made a grass-roots effort, going door-to-door through neighborhoods, discussing a law they think may endanger those on society's margins.

"Not the hierarchical church, but our Catholic people have wonderfully united and conducted themselves honorably in a Christian manner as they have witnessed to the teachings of God in a darkened world," said Portland Auxiliary Bishop Kenneth D. Steiner, archdiocesan administrator.

"While Measure 51 did not pass as we had hoped and prayed, we claim a moral victory in that a state with a small percentage of 'churched' and a much smaller percentage of Catholics can have such a positive impact on the voters of Oregon and indirectly around the world. Life is sacred and we take comfort in our right to eternal life," he added.

Contributing to this story was Lynne Weil in Rome.

Author-Researcher Addresses Effects of Abortion

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

During the week of Oct. 27, clergy, medical professionals, social workers and counselors in the Triad area had several opportunities to hear one of the country's leading experts on post-abortion issues, Dr. David Reardon, a noted author and highly regarded researcher.

Through research and compelling testimonies of women who had abortions, the biomedical ethicist, director of the Elliot Institute and editor of The Post-Abortion Review discussed the resulting psychological, spiritual and even physical damage. "One cannot help a child without helping the mother; one cannot hurt a child without hurting the mother, and this is especially true in the case of abortion," said Reardon, explaining how the fate of the mother and child are intrinsically entwined.

As the keynote speaker at the conference "The Jericho Plan: Breaking Down the Walls Which Prevent Post-Abortion Healing," with nearly 200 registered guests coming to hear his message, Reardon substantiated through studies the devastating toll abortion has on the life of a woman.

Citing a study he conducted in Finland, he said women who have abortions were six times more likely to commit suicide and four-and-a-half times more likely to get involved with substance abuse than women who completed their pregnancy.

"Unfortunately as a country we are in denial of the pain experienced by all the victims seared by abortion," said Reardon, who urged the "middle majority" to face that "it is simply impossible to rip a child from the womb of a mother without tearing out a part of the woman herself — a part of her heart, her joy, of her maternity." Statements like "you did what you had to" or "you need to go on with your life" only further the woman's denial and the suffering of those around her, he said.

Greensboro's conference began with testimony from "Mary," who shared her abortion story. Now active in H.E.A.R.T. (Healing, Encouragement for Abortion and Related Trauma), a support and Bible study group for women who have had abortions, Mary helps others find peace through accepting God's forgiveness and love. She ended with the scriptural quote that frames the work done by organizations like H.E.A.R.T.: "Praised be God, the Father of mercies, and the God of all consolations! He comforts us in all our afflictions and thus enables us to comfort those who are in trouble, with the same consolation we have received from Him." (2 Cor 1:3-4)

The current director of H.E.A.R.T., Marilyn Hodges, conducted more intense training for medical professionals, counselors and social workers. "The woman who has had an abortion is more than a statistic. She is a unique individual," said Hodges, who impressed upon the audience that these women are sisters, mothers, daughters and friends who need compassion, not scorn.

Also speaking in Greensboro was Dr. Martha Shuping, a psychiatrist and former director of a pregnancy care center. To experience true healing, Shuping noted four areas that must be addressed: anger/forgiveness; issues relating to the baby; issues of shame/self-esteem; and relationship with God.

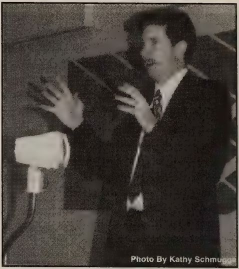
Emphasizing the need to ask God for forgiveness, Shuping also said she often witnesses a woman's recognition of guilt but an inability to believe such a sin can be forgiven. Events of women confessing the same abortion over and over is not uncommon, she added.

Shuping recommended holding post-abortion healing services such as the annual gatherings in the Charlotte Diocese. This year's service, opened to all who grieve and seek healing in relation to abortion issues, is Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Reardon's other speaking engagements in the area included talks at Bishop McGuinness High School, Bowman Gray Medical School, and two other programs in Charlotte and Winston-Salem.

"Avoiding the abortion issue does not help anyone," said Reardon during one of the talks, with Charlotte area clergy. He urged them to use the pulpit to enlighten the congregation on the fatal consequences of abortion and how it has a devastating effect on society as a whole.

Reardon reminded the clergy that women considering abortion who seek spiritual support "will need your faith and encouragement to withstand outside pressures urging her to do otherwise, not statements like, 'it's your decision.'"



Dr. David Reardon addresses area clergy during his visit to Charlotte.

Quoting from Pope John Paul II's encyclical letter "Evangelium Vitae," Reardon also emphasized God's healing grace: "Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope.... The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.... Nothing is definitively lost.... "

For more information on post-abortion healing contact: Catholic Social Services at (704) 331-1720; RAPHA at (800) 383-HOPE; Dr. Shuping at (910) 659-1342; or visit Dr. Reardon's web site at www.prolife.org/after abortion.

Lenoir-Rhyne College To Host Annual Conference

HICKORY — Where can people find reliable answers to today's burning issues? Should they regard the Bible as the sole, valid standard for life, or should they look to religious leaders to provide answers based on a mixture of their knowledge of the Bible, church traditions and perhaps contemporary ideas?

These and related questions will be discussed at the Fifth Annual Luther/Aquinas Conference Nov. 16-18 at Lenoir-Rhyne College. Sponsored by the Center for Theology, this year's theme is "Aquinas and Luther on the Authority of the Bible."

Speakers include Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta; J. Augustine Di Noia, OP, executive director of the Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices, NCCB; and James Robert Crumley, Jr., retired bishop of the Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran co-chairman of the International Lutheran/Roman Catholic Dialogue Commission.

The conference begins with a vespers service and keynote address by the Rev. Dr. Crumley at St. Andrew Lutheran Church at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 16. Lectures and discussions will begin at 9:15 a.m., Nov. 17 in Belk Centrum. The banquet, with an address by Archbishop Donoghue, will take place that night at 7:15 p.m. in the Cromer Center.

The entire conference costs $65. For more information, call (704) 328-7376.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

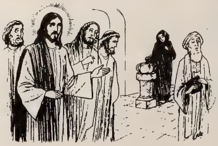
Our U.S. bishops summarized in ten key principles our Catholic tradition of applying our faith and moral teachings to economic life.

Principle #7:

Economic issues are often confusing and difficult for us to figure out. Most people search for someone or something to blame for the fact that there is inequality and poverty. Some blame the poor themselves for not working harder. Others blame the government for not providing for the people who cannot take care of themselves. The bishops do neither. They indicate that real economic justice will only happen when we recognize the crucial role of every person and every institution in society. This means that individuals, families, and local volunteer associations have important roles in our economy which should not be lost by the government or other national and international organizations. The bishops indicate that our free market society can and should provide jobs and economic security for most people. But sometimes the free market does not work for everyone. Then society, including government, should step in to support and/or prepare these persons for participation in the economy.

Principle #7: In economic life, free markets have both clear advantages and limits; government has essential responsibilities and limitations; voluntary groups have irreplaceable roles, but cannot substitute for the proper working of the market and the just policies of the state.

Widow's Mite



"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth. But she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood." (Mark 12:41-44)

Saints & Scripture

© 1997 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of November 9-15

Sunday	Genesis 28:11-18 Ephesians 2:19-22 John 4:19-24
Monday	Wisdom 1:1-7 Luke 17:1-6
Tuesday	Wisdom 2:23—3:9 Luke 17:7-10
Wednesday	Wisdom 6:2-11 Luke 17:11-19
Thursday	Wisdom 7:22—8:1 Luke 17:20-25
Friday	Wisdom 13:1-9 Luke 17:26-37
Saturday	Wisdom 18:14 16;19:6-9 Luke 18:1-8

Liturgy, Hispanics, Global Justice On Bishops' Agenda

By JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the U.S. bishops meet in November, their agenda concerns will include liturgy, Hispanics, global solidarity, communications, catechetics and aid to Eastern Europe.

They will be asked to approve a brief statement assessing the impact of legalized abortion on the nation over the past quarter-century.

The Nov. 10-13 meeting in Washington is expected to draw about 285 bishops from across the country.

Preceding the general meeting will be two half-day workshops for the bishops Nov. 9: one on science and religion on the theme of evolution, the other on lay ministry in the church.

The meeting itself is to open the morning of Nov. 10 with a presidential address by Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference.

The bishops are slated to debate and vote on two public statements on the church and the world.

One, introduced by the USCC International Policy Committee and titled "Called to Global Solidarity," describes a renewed, living Catholic commitment to social justice as "a central task for the next century."

The 20-page draft text focuses on the challenges U.S. Catholics and their parishes face in responding effectively to the demands of Catholic teaching on international peace and justice issues.

The second statement, introduced by the NCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities, is a five-page reflection on the 25 years since the U.S. Supreme Court made abortion on demand the law of the land.

Titled "Light and Shadows: Our Nation 25 Years After Roe vs. Wade," it calls that 1973 high court decision "a sign of failure so monumental that to speak of it even as 'tragedy' is pitifully inadequate."

In a related matter, the pro-life committee will ask the bishops to initiate a study on a possible pastoral plan to revitalize observance of Friday abstinence from meat among U.S. Catholics as a penitential practice aimed at counteracting the "culture of death."

With the third millennium of Christianity just around the corner, the Committee on Hispanic Affairs will be asking the bishops to approve the convening of the Fourth National Encuentro of Hispanic Catholics in 2000.

The previous national encuentros, or meetings, were held in 1972, 1977 and 1985. They have contributed to an understanding of Hispanic Catholic identity, vision and mission in the United States, and the third led to establishment of a National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry.

Also of interest to Hispanic Catholics will be a decision by the bishops on the proposed text of the first official Spanish-language Sacramentary for the United States.

The Sacramentary is the book of prayers used at Mass. Until now, because there was no U.S. Sacramentary in Spanish, U.S. parishes have been able to choose from among several Spanish Sacramentaries approved by other bishops' conferences. The proposed U.S. text is based primarily on the Sacramentary developed by the bishops of Mexico.

In the field of liturgy, the bishops are also scheduled to debate and vote on a proposal to transfer observance of the feast of the Ascension to the Seventh Sunday after Easter, as is done in a number of other countries.

Most U.S. bishops favored transferring the observance of Ascension to Sunday when the issue came to a vote in 1991, but the proposal did not achieve the two-thirds approval needed for passage.

Subsequently the bishops of five Western ecclesiastical provinces — covering the states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington — sought and received permission from the Holy See to transfer the observance to Sunday for five years on an experimental basis.

After that, the Vatican started turning down province requests, saying such petitions should come as an action of the NCCB, not from individual provinces. It suggested timing such a request to coincide with the end of the temporary permission in the Western provinces.

UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

On another liturgical matter, the bishops will be asked to approve English Mass prayers for the observance of the feast of St. Louis Mary de Montfort, following up on a 1996 Vatican decision to add his feast, as an optional memorial, to the church's general liturgical calendar.

A proposed second volume of a new English-language Lectionary for U.S. use, originally slated to come to a vote this November, has been delayed until the bishops meet again next June because the final editorial work on the proposed text could not be completed in time for the fall meeting.

The Lectionary contains the texts of Scripture readings used at Mass. Last June the bishops approved a first volume of it, including all the readings for Sundays and certain major feasts.

The bishops' Ad Hoc Committee to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is asking the bishops to approve a three-year extension of their special yearly collection in U.S. parishes to help the church rebuild in areas of former communist oppression. If the bishops approve the proposal, the collection will continue until 2001 instead of ending in 1998.

The bishops' Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism is asking for a five-year extension of its national staff office for the catechism. The office coordinates a wide range of projects dealing with implementation of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church."

The Committee on Communications will ask the bishops to approve a Strategic Plan for Communications that would restructure their Catholic Communications Campaign and expand their national communications planning and activities over the next five years.

The plan includes detailed year-by-year goals and strategies of research, development, staffing, training and media use through the year 2001. It projects a doubling of national funding for Catholic communications work, from $3.3 million in 1997 to about $6.8 million in 2001.

The bishops will be asked to vote on the continuation of 15 current ad hoc committees, in accord with a "sunset" clause under which such committees must be reviewed for value and effectiveness at least once every three years.

They will be asked to approve a budget of nearly $44.4 million for NCCB operations and activities in 1998, $1 million more than the 1997 budget.

About one-fourth of the 1998 budget, just over $10 million, is to come from diocesan assessments.

During the meeting the bishops are to discuss a detailed report from their Committee on Education on issues they should be addressing as a conference in support of Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the nation. The report is to be presented only for discussion, not for a vote.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect
Life

For the Church throughout the World,
that God might teach us how to lead all nations,
*to embrace the **Gospel of Life**;*
We pray to the Lord:

- THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 7-9
Knights of Malta Retreat
Faulkner, Md.

November 9-13
Meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.

November 13
12 noon
Sister Cities Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

November 15
9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Catholic Symposium on AIDS
Queen of the Apostles Church
Belmont

7 p.m.
Confirmation
Catholic Hispanic Center
Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Veneration of Marian Images Helps Faithful

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Oct. 29.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Having presented the doctrinal basis of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Second Vatican Council exhorts the church's members to promote the different forms of Marian piety, especially liturgical devotion to the mother of God. This includes veneration of sacred images, the legitimacy of which was affirmed by the Second Council of Nicea. Far from implying idolatry, veneration of sacred images of the mother of God and the angels and saints leads to worship of Christ, who is glorified in the lives of the witnesses to his glory. In particular, loving contemplation of images of the Blessed Virgin Mary helps us to recall Mary's constant and tender presence, to invoke her assistance in the different circumstances of life, and to imitate her generous acceptance of the will of God. Authentic Marian devotion springs from faith and from the loving recognition of Mary's unique dignity and of her role in her son's work of salvation. It evokes feelings of filial affection and prompts us to imitate her virtues.

I offer a special word of welcome to the visitors from Trondheim, Norway, led by the Catholic bishop, the Lutheran bishop and the mayor, and including the Cathedral Boys Choir. Dear friends, you have wished to return the visit which I made to your city eight years ago. I congratulate you and your fellow citizens on the 1,000-year celebration of Trondheim's foundation. Thank you and God bless you!

Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, the Philippines, Canada and the United States, I invoke joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope Welcomes Ambassador, Praises Canada's World Peace Efforts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, welcoming Canada's new ambassador to the Vatican, praised the country's high-profile role in world peace efforts. The pope highlighted Canada's leadership in forging a proposed treaty banning anti-personnel mines, and he called on every nation to sign it. The pontiff made the remarks Oct. 31 at the Vatican during a ceremony to accept the diplomatic credentials of J. Fernand Tanguay, an experienced foreign ministry official who has held positions in Moscow, Geneva and Africa. The treaty to ban anti-personnel landmines is due to be adopted in Ottawa in December. Canada initiated a campaign to get countries to sign the treaty last year, and about 100 nations have said they will.

Dorothy Day, a Saint for Our Times

Antoinette Bosco

One hundred years ago, Nov. 8, 1897, a child came into the world in a lower middle-class area of Brooklyn, N.Y. Her name was Dorothy Day.

The centenary of this birth is a day for Catholics to celebrate, for few people have left an imprint on American Catholicism that can match the legacy of this remarkable woman.

Most remember Dorothy Day as the spirit behind the Catholic Worker movement, a network of houses providing hospitality to all the poor who come to their doors. She founded this service for destitute people in 1933, with a scruffy French peasant named Peter Maurin, who believed the Gospel had to be lived literally.

Together, they worked to help create a society where people would be better, not better-off. They put flesh on Catholic social teaching: helping the poor, the unemployed, the hopeless, the sick, working for peace and justice.

By her death Nov. 29, 1980, people of all positions recognized the momentous impact Dorothy Day had had on the American conscience. To the end she was faithful to the vision she had been given, which paralleled the one espoused by the saint she found so remarkable, St. Therese of Lisieux. This was to find God in all the "little things," in "the holy sublimity of the everyday," in the persons of the least among us.

Dorothy Day saw Christ in the skid-row bum, the destitute mother, the person suffering from alcoholism, and she spent her life trying to restore their dignity.

One regret I have is that I never met Dorothy Day in person. Yet, as a newspaper reporter for The Long Island Catholic in the '60s and '70s, I would interview people who were doing good work for others, and was amazed at how often they told me their inspiration had been Dorothy Day. Many of them had been associated with the Catholic Worker hospitality houses.

These people would talk about the incredible woman with the piercing blue eyes who spoke of love for others, who remained totally faithful to serving Christ and who inspired others.

Last year a movie on her life, "Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story," was produced by Father Ellwood Kieser of Paulist Pictures. The film covers 20 years of Dorothy Day's life, honestly showing her inner spiritual struggles as she coursed the fast lane of the Roaring '20s. She briefly was a communist, had a back-street abortion, lived with an atheist lover, had his baby and then, yearning for "something more," was touched by grace, found God and the Catholic Church.

Hers is certainly a remarkable and powerful story of conversion.

To note the centenary celebration of Dorothy Day's birth, Warner Brothers has released the home video edition of "Entertaining Angels," with Moira Kelly as Dorothy Day and Martin Sheen as Peter Maurin. The video is $29.95 from Paulist Press. To order call 1(800)218-1903.

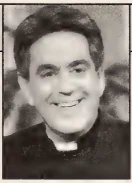
Father Robert Morrissey, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ridgefield, Conn., who first met Dorothy Day when he was a high school student, said this movie "may be just what you need to help you discover Christ and a really dynamic faith. If you want a real taste of the Gospel, see the film." I did, and I agree.

I believe, as many have written, that Dorothy Day, who so truly lived the Gospel, is a contemporary saint.

Antoinette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Blessed Are They...

During the week in which Mother Teresa of Calcutta died, the Gospel of Matthew kept coming to mind: "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." The first home for the dying that Mother founded was named "the House of the Clean of Heart." It was there and in hundreds of other shelters that she harbored people that the rest of the world, the rest of us, didn't even want to look at, much less care for.

Everywhere she saw suffering; she, like the Baptizer John, would announce: "Look, there is the Lamb of God!" She saw her beloved "lambs" sacrificed daily on the world's altars of self-indulgence and indifference and she wanted us to see them, too. Not just for their sake, but for our own. Mother Teresa recognized the poverty of those of us who know a lot about owning, but somewhat less about empathy.

Caring for the poor and sick and abandoned was her personal mission. But she embraced a second one, as well: to redirect us, all of us, to her beloved Christ, just as the medieval mystics and prophetic reformers once did. Mother Teresa's way was not to confuse the proud in the conceit of their hearts, but to disclose an image of Jesus as "the one you do not know."

She never wavered in her obedience to the Word which compelled her life to this unmistakable duty. She created a congregation of sisters consecrated to an extra vow — service — which has multiplied like bread on the Mount. In this she equaled the legacy of other great workers of charity, like Vincent de Paul and Florence Nightingale, Mother Frances Cabrini and fellow Noble Prize Laureate Albert Schweitzer — men and women over the ages who have lived and labored for society's most fragile members.

Along the way she became in the public mind a saint. Literally hundreds of thousands of men and women went to see or hear Mother's testimonies to her work, including Pope John Paul II, Princess Diana and writer Malcolm Muggeridge. She had a way of living and believing which captivated our consciences and stirred our desires to participate. Mother Teresa had a way of inviting us to make a difference with our own voices and hands.

By insisting that we change our image of God from an abstraction to a clear and concrete reality, she still gives strength to our hands and voices. To most of us, God is transcendent and is immune to AIDS and certainly has never been paroled. But that fateful, pleading question: "Lord, when did we see you naked, or in prison?" did not frighten her because she was certain whom she saw.

Mother Teresa told the story of her encounter with a dying man on the street that was the flash point for her new recognition of the face of Christ. "If I would have turned, I would never have had the courage, but I did not turn away." We all have had opportunities to walk away, to remain aloof or indifferent. We express our shock or sadness at the way certain people "just let themselves become like that." And yet we *know*, deep in our souls, that we are God's tools for building a whole and loving world.

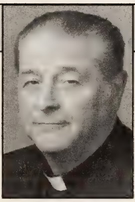
The trouble with calling people saints is that we assume they are different from you and me. It's the easy answer. It just isn't so. God is in the least, in the broken of this world, in Calcutta and Cleveland, lying in a bed and standing on a street corner. And the day we can't turn away, any more than Mother Teresa could, is the day we realize that a saint isn't always somebody else.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Saints: Past, Present, Future" write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen



Salvation: Faith Alone or Faith and Good Works?

***Q.** As I understand it, both Roman Catholics and Evangelical Protestants believe in salvation by grace through faith.*

Evangelicals do not believe that "good works" are involved in our salvation, which is a gift of God. Catholics believe that those who work well to the end and who trust in God will achieve eternal life, as said the Council of Trent.

The idea of salvation by "faith alone," if we truly accept Jesus as our savior, makes a lot of sense.

As a life-long Catholic, I don't understand exactly what the church's position is on this issue. Are we saved by faith alone or by faith plus works?

Or am I off base entirely wondering about it?

A. I'm sure you're aware this has been a hot issue in Christianity, especially since the Protestant Reformation.

Fortunately, interfaith dialogue on the subject in recent years generally has raised the "debate" above the either-or, heated arguments so common in the last 400 years. Discussions are more charitable today and probably much closer to the truth than they once were.

We are, after all, dealing here with a mystery. As with other mysteries, when we attempt to explain an interaction between the infinite, eternal God, and very limited, circumscribed creatures like human beings, we inevitably run into frustrations.

How can God, a divine person, unbounded and without limit, be contained within the limits of a human nature? How can a human being, limited and fragile "like us in everything except sin," as St. Paul says, be at the same time the infinite Creator God?

There is no rational answer, no way to solve the puzzle to our satisfaction. Yet, that seeming contradiction is precisely what we believe, by faith, about Jesus Christ.

The mystery of how God's action interweaves with ours in accomplishing salvation is much the same. Several truths appear to be certain from revelation; at least some of them also seem irreconcilable. For example:

The grace of justification (freeing us from sin and sharing with us his divine life) is a pure, unmerited gift from God.

Sanctifying grace (literally "the gift that makes us holy"), God's life in us, is a purely gratuitous, unmerited outpouring from God.

Since we are made in the image and likeness of God, having the power to know and to love him, we must respond to that free initiative of God.

God freely has chosen to involve us in the saving work of his grace. We are free to enter that communion of love which God offers or not to enter it.

Since there is an infinite inequality, a chasm of being, between God and ourselves, we can never possess a real right, or merit, to anything from God.

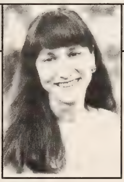
Nevertheless, God accepts our cooperation with his grace as "merit," merit which is itself pure gift of his goodness.

If you think about it, there is obviously no way to wrap all those positions

See **Dietzen,** page 12

The Guide To Girls

Eileen C. Marx



My five-year-old daughter, Teresa, confidently grabs the orange rings hanging by the chains at her school playground. As she pauses on each ring, she gathers her momentum to seize the next ring. Her body swings rhythmically back and forth like a metronome, keeping the beat of a girl on the go. With grace and flare she easily leaps to the wooden platform and raises her arms in triumph like an Olympic gymnast. Teresa proudly turns my way and says, "Don't forget to clap, Mom." Her strength, agility and confidence are a joy to behold.

On the opposite end of the playground, Teresa's seven-year-old brother, Bobby, and his friends have finished a game of touch football. As the boys pass by Teresa, one of them makes an unkind remark to her. But with a broad smile and unflinching determination, she has no trouble putting this bothersome boy in his place. "Oh yeah? Well you're not bothering me. And I'm not listening to you and I bet you can't skip the rings like I can." Although rebuked, the boy smiles at the moxie of his friend's little sister. I'm enjoying this moment as much as Teresa's success on the orange rings.

I'm taking in both these scenes with a new perspective because I've recently finished reading two eye-opening books about the daily dangers of being young and female in today's world: "Reviving Ophelia — Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls" by Mary Pipher, Ph.D., and "The Body Project — An Intimate History of American Girls" by Joan Jacobs Brumberg. Both are groundbreaking books that take a serious look into the ways that our "look obsessed" "media saturated" culture oppresses girls and can ultimately destroy their sense of self. Despite all the gains women have made in recent years, it's a culture that dictates how girls should look — beautiful, thin and sophisticated — and how they should act — docile, weak and nice. As a result, there is an enormous gap between what a girl knows her true self is and what our culture tells her it should be.

Interestingly, girls aren't as susceptible to these pressures in the preadolescent years. They are full of confidence, energy, curiosity and ambition. But according to Dr. Pipher, something dramatic happens to girls beginning in early adolescence. Although adolescence has traditionally been one of the most challenging times for parents, the cultural changes in the past three decades have created greater pressures and confusion for girls at a vulnerable time in their physical and emotional development. Among some of the observations Dr. Pipher's book:

- A health department survey in Dr. Pipher's Midwestern city showed that 40% of all girls who lived there considered suicide last year.
- Eight million women have eating disorders in America. The omnipresent media portrays desirable women as thin, and in the last two decades these women have become slimmer and slimmer. Almost all adolescent girls feel fat, worry about their weight, diet and feel guilty when they eat. In fact, girls with eating disorders are often the ones who

See **Marx,** page 13

Stewardship Profile

Youngster Knows True Meaning of Giving

By TAYLOR MARCANTEL

GASTONIA — When my brother Austin was in the third grade, his class was given an assignment to write a paragraph or more on the topic of "if you had a million dollars." While the children in the class excitedly wrote about all the neat things that they would buy with their million dollars, my brother wrote this:

"I would buy food for the world. I would feed the world and no one could stop me. I would build a new hospital and buy clothes for the poor people. I would donate $50 to the church every Sunday."

Stewardship
a way of life

To my brother a million dollars was a lot of money, something so wonderful that it needed to be used for something really great. He never thought of what it could buy for himself, but of what great things he could accomplish for other people.

Now of course, as children, we don't have a million dollars. We probably don't even have much money at all. But we do have wonderful things to offer, if we just look into our hearts and give as God has taught us. After all, great things come in small packages. We can share with others, our love for God in many ways. We can share our faith with younger children when they are frightened or sad by letting them know that God is always there. We can help our teachers by quietly listening to the Word of God in Sunday School. We can help out during Mass by being good listeners or by being altar servers. We can share our talents by singing in the children's choir or by helping to decorate for special church celebrations.

Each time we share, we will feel closer to God. Giving of ourselves will help us to understand and recognize the many gifts that God gives us each day. In the Bible Luke tells us, "Give and you will receive.... You will be given much....The way you give to others is the way God will give to you."

I know God will take care of you, and you can help to take care of our Church family and God's family. We can do anything if we all work together. Remember that God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son for us.

Taylor Marcantel is a 4th grader and a parishioner at St. Michael Church, Gastonia.

Memorial To The Unborn Dedication Ceremony Held at St. John the Baptist

Father Lawrence Heiney, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon, and Grand Knight Frank Corden presided at a dedication ceremony recently after Knights of Columbus St. John of Tryon Council 9492 erected a memorial honoring the unborn whose lives are lost through abortion. The memorial is located in the grounds of St. John the Baptist Church.

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Entertainment

CNS photo from MGM

Richard Gere and Bai Ling star in the political thriller "Red Corner." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Hepburn-like Bai Ling, Not Gere, Radiates In Thriller

NEW YORK (CNS) — An American lawyer in China finds himself about to be executed when he is framed for rape and murder in the political thriller, "Red Corner" (MGM).

Having successfully negotiated a breakthrough satellite television deal with difficult Chinese officials, entertainment lawyer Jack Moore (Richard Gere) takes in a nighttime disco fashion show — and takes back a beautiful model (Jessey Meng) to his hotel room.

At dawn, he is roughly ripped from his bed, gets only a cursory glance at the model's bloodied body, and is informed by police he should plead guilty to her rape and murder, or face a firing squad within the week. Protesting his innocence, Jack is dumped into a barren cell.

His stateside company and the U.S. Embassy basically distance themselves from Jack, whose fingerprints were on the murder weapon and whose shirt was drenched in her blood, making him a shameful embarrassment to the Americans.

Enter Jack's court-appointed defense attorney, Shen Yuelin (Bai Ling), who at least speaks English, but dutifully reiterates it would be in his best interest to confess guilt.

Unlike the U.S. legal system, he is presumed guilty, the trial is immediate, there is no appeal process and execution is virtually certain.

Jack makes some inroads in convincing her he is being framed and makes a surprising choice after snatching a chance to try an escape to the dubious sanctuary of the by-the-book American embassy.

As directed by Jon Avnet, the narrative gets fairly murky in stretches but overall suspense is maintained. Muddying the waters are such diverse characters as German businessmen and Chinese military officers and government appointees with their own agendas who can manipulate the punitive Chinese legal system to their own ends.

With the deck stacked against him and no help from his countrymen forthcoming, Gere's increasingly paranoid character makes a run for his life. This is the movie's best-staged action scene, an extended, tense on-foot chase scene through jammed side streets and over pitched roofs. But some viewers will find the ending hard to accept.

Gere gives an adequate performance but it is Audrey Hepburn look-alike Bai Ling who radiates an inner composure that is gradually shattered as her character is forced to face unpleasant facts.

However, her change of heart regarding her client never translates into believable romantic sparks with Gere. Despite their contrived stories — his wife and child were killed, and she is lonely since men are threatened by her intelligence — they fail to translate the mushy script into anything more than a knock-off of "Casablanca."

The production design, faking Beijing locales, is skillfully mounted, considering most of the film was shot in Hollywood, and courtroom scenes are the most interesting, underlining as they do the distinct differences between American and Chinese criminal law.

Gere is probably hoping that most viewers will come away convinced about Chinese human rights violations, but it is more likely the audience for this film will be more interested in the escapist entertainment that such suspense movies provide.

Due to some gory violence, fleeting bedroom scene and brief nudity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Grizzly Mountain" Well Intended Family Film

NEW YORK (CNS) — Dan Haggerty of "Grizzly Adams" fame stars himself and his family in a time-traveling family film, "Grizzly Mountain" (Legacy).

Sad to say, it looks amateurish in every way. The vanity production offers little more than the magnificent outdoor scenery of the Pacific Northwest to marvel at.

When it comes to the narrative, dialogue, direction, acting and pacing, the audience might have more fun taking a hike.

The plot involves a current-day Oregon family on a camping trip on Grizzly Mountain.

Youngsters Dylan and Nicole (Dylan Haggerty and Nicole Lund) leave behind little sister Megan (Megan Haggerty) while exploring a cave which magically transports them back to 1870, where they encounter kindly mountain man Jeremiah (Dan Haggerty).

He's trying to save the pristine area from a greedy developer (Perry Stephens) and his vampy girlfriend (Kim Morgan Green) who have bribed the idiot mayor (E.E. Bell) to be allowed to dynamite the mountain for a railroad tunnel through the cave, a site the peaceful Native Americans consider sacred.

Inserted for what becomes very lame comic relief is a trio of moronic assistants to the developer, who mug and pratfall their way through the movie. Director Jeremy Haft would have been better off to switch their excessive screen time with the far superior appearances of Jack the bear and Thor the eagle, who briefly add interest to the hammy, predictable proceedings.

Dan Haggerty's performance seems almost on the level of Olivier — compared to the rest of the cast. He does project a loving, fatherly figure in the film as he helps the children return to their parents and of course reminds the audience of our responsibility to preserve the environment.

However, this well-intended family film is crippled by its pedestrian script, with its dull dialogue so woodenly delivered by the cast.

Young children may find the slapstick antics of three dopes to be funny but other family members may have to remember patience is a virtue while on "Grizzly Mountain."

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

TV Movie Reviews For Week Of November 16

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are capsule reviews of theatrical films to be shown on national television the week of Nov. 16:

Sunday, Nov. 16, 8:30-11 p.m. EST (NBC) "Batman Forever" (1995). Frenetic sequel with Batman (Val Kilmer) distracted by a sultry psychologist (Nicole Kidman) and a vengeance-crazed Robin (Chris O'Donnell) while battling two lunatics (Tommy Lee Jones and Jim Carrey) out to destroy the Caped Crusader. Director Joel Schumacher's dark comic fantasy has little narrative interest, relying instead on violent special effects, sleek visuals and exaggerated performances by the two villains. Recurring stylized violence and brief sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 8-10 p.m. EST (Fox) "Star Trek: Generations" (1994). Sequel joins Starship Enterprise captains from different centuries (William Shatner and Patrick Stewart) in trying to stop a villainous alien (Malcolm McDowell) whose tampering with an energy field would result in millions of deaths. Director David Carson's ambitious sci-fi saga is heavy on the kind of action, plotting, special effects and technobabble that Trekkies relish but other moviegoers may find less-than-stellar entertainment. Stylized space battles, some fistfights and a crude expression. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG — parental guidance suggested.

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FAITH alive!

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Meet the lay community of St. Egidio

By Dolores R. Leckey
Catholic News Service

It was a beautiful October evening in Rome. Auxiliary Bishop John C. Dunne of Rockville Centre, N.Y., and I walked downhill from the North American College into the ancient city's colorful Trastevere section. We were headed for the church of St. Egidio where we were to meet Claudio, a member of the lay community which takes its name from the small, jewel-like church.

> **"What can be learned from this lay community? One thing is that good works often begin small. Also, that prayer is the foundation of all meaningful action."**

We had come for the evening prayer, which the community celebrates there every night.

The church filled with people of all ages and nationalities. We were handed headphones for simultaneous translation.

A well-dressed man carrying a briefcase walked purposefully down the aisle and into the sanctuary and sat down on one of the risers that serve as sanctuary seats. Women in blazers, young men in jeans and sweaters, business people and students: The laity streamed into the sanctuary.

They sat meditatively, like monks of old. Someone rose to light candles on the simple altar. Then the music began.

A capella chants filled the holy space and poured into the piazza. A young layman preached. After the prayer, the community members quietly departed.

We sat awhile, savoring the beauty and simplicity of the experience. Then Claudio led us to a neighborhood trattoria where, over pasta and wine, we learned more about this community.

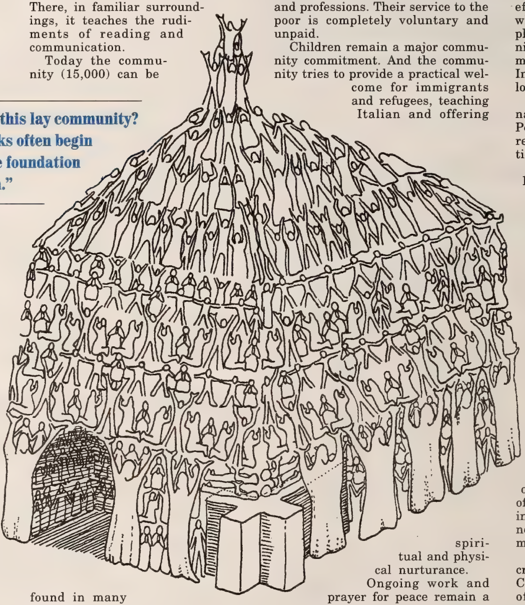
It is 30 years since an 18-year-old started the community. He is still part of it. Other young people joined him for prayer in the run-down church. (It since has been beautifully restored.)

There they prayed for direction in their lives, for the needs of the world and the universal church. From that spiritual base they were drawn to evangelization and solidarity with the poor.

As their commitment grew so did their numbers.

The first act of apostolic service by the St. Egidio "founders" was to care for children, visiting Roman institutions housing abandoned children. This was followed by schools for Gypsy children, using a creative approach to what many considered a hopeless task.

Rather than trying to get the children to come to a schoolroom, the community uses abandoned buses near Gypsy encampments. There, in familiar surroundings, it teaches the rudiments of reading and communication.



CNS illustration by Jean Denton

Today the community (15,000) can be found in many Italian cities as well as other countries of Europe, South America and Africa. But the heart of the community remains the church on the Piazza of St. Egidio.

People become members, we were told, by choosing to live the St. Egidio vocation: faithful listening to the Gospel in prayer and liturgy; prompt service to the poor; support and care for one another. There is no formal joining.

These lay people live ordinary lives committed to their families and professions. Their service to the poor is completely voluntary and unpaid.

Children remain a major community commitment. And the community tries to provide a practical welcome for immigrants and refugees, teaching Italian and offering spiritual and physical nurturance.

Ongoing work and prayer for peace remain a major endeavor of this community. This received visibility when it helped organize the Day of Prayer for Peace Pope John Paul II convoked in Assisi Oct. 27, 1986. The interreligious prayer event gave hope to people everywhere that understanding, reconciliation and respect for differences are possible even in these troubled times.

In fact, the community organizes an International Meeting of Prayer for Peace every year.

The community's peacemaking efforts are well known. Through what has been called "an active diplomacy of friendship" the community has gotten involved in peacemaking in war-ravaged countries. In Mozambique it helped to broker a long-sought peace treaty.

The community has been nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize. Since 1986 it has been recognized as a lay public association within the Catholic Church.

In 1992 the Community of St. Egidio was established in the United States and canonically recognized in the Archdiocese of New York in 1995. A couple from Rome and a few other dedicated men and women conduct weekday prayer services in a nursing home, where they also spend time with residents.

On Friday evenings the traditional evening prayer is at St. Joseph's Church in Greenwich Village. There also are small communities in a few other American cities.

What can be learned from this lay community? One thing is that good works often begin small.

Also, that prayer is the foundation of all meaningful action. Third is the central place of relationships. The community is based on relationships with God, one another, the poor, and victims of war and injustice — demonstrating the truth that when love exists, not in the abstract but in real human relationships, God is revealed.

The laity of St. Egidio make concrete the great teaching of Vatican Council II: "All the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity. By this holiness a more human way of life is promoted even in this earthly society" (Constitution on the Church, 40).

(Leckey is director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Frederic Ozanam, the layman who founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society, was beatified by Pope John Paul II during the 1997 World Youth Day activities in Paris. The pope proposed this 19th-century figure, a husband and father, as a model to others.

"Ozanam loved everyone who was deprived," said the pope. "From his youth (Ozanam) became aware that it was not enough to speak about charity and the mission of the church in the world. Rather, what was needed was an effective commitment of Christians in the service of the poor."

Love for "those in extreme need" and "those with no one to care for them, became the center of Frederic Ozanam's life," the pope explained.

He said Ozanam denounced all selfishness and "participated actively in the renewal of the presence and action of the church in the society of his time." The pope indicated that Ozanam benefited from "limitless confidence in providence."

During the beatification, the pope exhorted "the laity, and in particular young people, to show courage and imagination in working to build a more fraternal society where the less fortunate will be esteemed in all their dignity and will have the means to live in respect."

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Complete this sentence: The laity have a mission to ...

Reader Responses:

"... help spread the Gospel in the church and community." — Liz Parise, Fountain Hill, Pa.

"... fulfill the Gospel mission of the church." — William Goss, Burlington, Vt.

"... be faithful to their baptismal call to make the kingdom of God present on earth." — Jane Sweeney, Birmingham, Ala.

"... be disciples of Christ, to love and serve God and each other." -- Mike Misalia, Libertytown, Pa.

Lend Us Your Voice: An upcoming edition asks: Tell of a Christmas custom in your home that helps to convey this feast day's meaning. If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write:

Faith Alive! 3211
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20017-1100.

What the first-century laity were like

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Christianity's amazing spread in its first centuries always has been a cause for wonder.

Early Christians had few material resources, were legally outlaws and had to keep a low profile. Still they flourished.

The reason seems to be that they all took their baptismal commitment seriously and became a leaven in society, working quietly but powerfully.

When people were baptized, they were considered — and considered themselves — active sharers in the apostolic mission.

This ministry took many forms: worship first of all, then responsible service to each other and the world.

Among the first converts at Philippi was a successful businesswoman named Lydia with obvious leadership abilities. We can safely presume that Lydia took a very active part in the community's affairs.

When word reached there of St. Paul's imprisonment at nearby Ephesus, we can just imagine her practical concern.

She organized a campaign of help, getting together a package of things to ease his imprisonment. The community then sent one of its members, Epaphroditus, to deliver the package.

He carried out his mission successfully and at great personal cost. But while with Paul, away from home perhaps for the first time, the fellow grew terribly homesick. In addition, he fell seriously ill.

When news of Epaphroditus' illness reached home, the community was deeply concerned.

Paul decided to send the fellow home. But listen to how Paul describes him: "With regard to Epaphroditus, my brother and co-worker and fellow soldier, your messenger and minister in my need, I consider it necessary to send him to you."

He urges the people to hold those such as Epaphroditus in esteem, "because for the sake of the work of Christ he came close to death, risking his life to make up for those services to me that you could not perform" (Philippians 3:25-39).

From this same letter we learn of others who were involved in unselfish service.

Two women had had a falling out, and Paul asked the community to help them settle their differences. Why did he bother with this seemingly trivial matter? Because "they have struggled at my side in promoting the Gospel" (Philippians 4:2-3).

It is not surprising that, when he wrote to the community at Philippi, Paul thanked God because of the people's "partnership for the Gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-4).

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

What makes a layperson a layperson?

By Donna Hanson
Catholic News Service

Jody and John are among the 98 percent of Catholic Church members called lay people. These two are real people; only their names are changed here.

Jody's story. "I pray not just for peace, but peace with justice in our world." With that comment, Jody challenged me to think about the human family's need for global solidarity.

A former partner in a large law firm, Jody "retired" at almost the same time her older daughter completed law school and her younger daughter graduated from college.

Shortly before her retirement, a university offered Jody a two-week study opportunity in El Salvador that included a visit with Jesuit Father Jon Sobrino, a noted justice advocate in the region. Jody seized the opportunity.

She and her husband, long-time supporters of Catholic Relief Services, also visited — at their expense — CRS-funded projects in the Dominican Republic.

For the past year and a half, Jody has been a full-time volunteer in her diocese. Talking with moms at a health clinic had inflamed Jody's commitment to justice into a passion.

Whether through the Lenten Rice Bowl education and almsgiving program, the schools' Food Fast or the Crop Walk for Hunger, Jody inspires others to develop a sense of solidarity with people everywhere.

John's story: Listen to a comment of John's pastor in a homily:

"The thing I am most pleased about after pastoring these past nine years is the development of small faith communities in our parish. You have been community to one another and to me."

CNS photo by Richard C. Finke

John came to the parish as a two-career man. Having served as a pilot during the Vietnam War, John worked in management a number of years.

In that professional capacity, inspired by Scott Peck's book *The Road Less Traveled,* John first used the small-group approach to planning, communicating and problem-solving — bringing people together in small groups within the larger workplace.

Seeing the impact this had, John took vacation days to attend Father Art Baranowski's workshop on creating small faith communities. He then joined a small faith community, served as a parish facilitator and brought his beliefs into his volunteer life.

After completing his term as pastoral council chairperson, he began serving on the Catholic Charities board. There he led a strategic planning process looking ahead to needs in the 21st century.

In his work with small groups, John aims to develop a spirit of shared prayer and community, and to engage each person in outreach to others.

Vatican Council II's Constitution on the Church described laity. It said:

"These faithful are, by baptism, made one body with Christ and are established among the people of God. They are, in their own way, made sharers in the priestly, prophetic and kingly functions of Christ." (31).

In a 1989 apostolic exhortation on the laity titled *Christifideles Laici,* Pope John Paul II articulated what it means to participate in Christ's threefold mission.

—The priestly mission is accomplished as the baptized are united in Christ in making an offering of themselves and their daily activities.

—The prophetic mission is realized as the laity proclaim the Gospel in words and actions.

—The kingly mission is actualized as people work to overcome the kingdom of sin and serve Jesus in justice and charity.

This participation in Christ's mission finds its source in baptism, is further developed in confirmation and dynamically sustained in the holy Eucharist, the pope said (*Christifideles Laici,* 25-35).

"Jody inspires others to develop a sense of solidarity with people everywhere."

Jody and John were baptized into Christ and confirmed in their faith, and the Eucharist sustains them. In fact, the world is filled with lay people who are beginning to realize the gift of who they are and how, together with religious-order members and clergy, they can serve to bring about God's kingdom.

(Donna Hanson is secretary for social ministries and diocesan director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Spokane, Wash.)

In a Nutshell

- ***How do lay people, given their personal commitments, carry out the church's mission to hear the Gospel, pray, serve the poor, make peace and support one another?***
- ***In the ancient church, all baptized people considered themselves active sharers in the apostolic mission.***
- ***Baptism provides the foundation for the laity's participation in Christ's mission.***

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FAITH alive!

People In The News

CNS photo from Reuters

Nine-year-old Itzel Merloz lights candles at her uncle's grave site in the early morning Nov. 2. Families and friends of the deceased traditionally visit graves over the feasts of All Saints' and All Souls' in Mexico.

New Archbishop Says He Comes As Priest, Brother, Friend

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The new archbishop of Portland told his new flock he comes to the Northwest as priest, brother and friend. Archbishop John G. Vlazny, bishop of Winona, Minn., for the past 10 years and a priest for nearly 36 years, was named by Pope John Paul II Oct. 28 to be the 10th archbishop of this Northwest archdiocese. He is a 60-year-old Chicago native of Czech ancestry, jogs daily, speaks fluent Spanish and worked in Hispanic parishes for 13 years. "I come among you as a priest, a brother and hopefully a friend," Archbishop Vlazny said the same day at a press conference in Portland. "I am a man of faith. I hope to be a shepherd guiding you as we take this journey of faith."

New Seattle Archbishop Will First 'Get To Know The People'

SEATTLE (CNS) — Seattle's fourth archbishop said he will bring to his ministry in western Washington a strong pastoral ministry, an emphasis on ecumenism, a deep commitment to the poor and a love for cultural diversity. But "the first thing I'm going to do is get to know the people that I'll be living and working with," Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett said Oct. 28 at a press conference in Seattle. The personable archbishop, who has headed the Diocese of Helena, Mont., since 1994, was named to the Seattle post earlier in the day by Pope John Paul II. Archbishop Brunett said he plans to meet with chancery staff, priests, women religious and some of the 369,000 Catholics living in the 24,000-square-mile archdiocese.

Bishops Hail Dorothy Day For Prophetic Love For Poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy has praised Dorothy Day for her prophetic love for the poor. In a statement marking the 100th anniversary of Day's birth on Nov. 8, the bishops said the late peace activist and co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement was "a woman whose life was rooted in her commitment to her Catholic faith, to prayer and sacraments."

Cardinal's Book Sells Worldwide; Anniversary Events Planned

CHICAGO (CNS) — Nearly a year after his death, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin's book, "The Gift of Peace," has sold more than 335,000 copies and has moved into international distribution.

An audio version read by Msgr. Kenneth Velo, a close friend of the late Chicago archbishop, also is available in book stores.

Among the foreign editions to be published soon are:

— Italian, published by Queriania in Brescia, with a foreword by Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini of Milan.

— British, by Darton, Longman and Todd, with a foreword by Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster.

— Dutch, by Uitgerverij Lannoo in Brussels.

— Polish, by Wydawnistwo.

— Spanish (European), by Planeta in Madrid; and Spanish (Latin America) by Grupo Editorial Norma in Colombia, with a foreword by Archbishop Pedro Rubiano Saenz of Bogota.

Other language editions are being negotiated by Loyola Press, the book's publisher, in consultation with the Archdiocese of Chicago, which receives royalties from the book.

Nov. 14, the first anniversary of Cardinal Bernardin's death, will be marked by a number of commemorative events in Chicago and internationally.

On Nov. 10, a reception will be held for 70 high school freshmen who received scholarships from Cardinal Bernardin's Big Shoulders Fund. That evening, the Holy Name Cathedral Chamber Singers will perform "Music of Consolation" at the cathedral.

On Nov. 11, Msgr. Velo will speak about the importance of Cardinal Bernardin's life and ministry in a free lecture sponsored by the Cenacle Sisters' Women's Board. An art exhibition titled "Remembering Joseph Cardinal Bernardin" will open Nov. 14 at the Chicago Historical Society.

The Catholic Theological Union will officially open its Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry Nov. 13 and introduce the first five Bernardin scholars. Among those scheduled to attend the opening were Elaine Addison, the cardinal's sister, and Msgr. Velo.

The Bernardin scholars — who come from Ghana, the Virgin Islands, Vermont and Illinois — were chosen to "realize Cardinal Bernardin's hopes for dynamic ministers in tomorrow's church," said Robert Schreiter, director of the center.

Archbishop Francis E. George, Cardinal Bernardin's successor, will host an anniversary Mass in memory of the cardinal Nov. 14 at Holy Name Cathedral. He will concelebrate the Mass with the auxiliary bishops and priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

A two-day conference in remembrance of the cardinal will take place Nov. 14-15 in Tonadico-Fiera di Primiero, Italy, near the town where Cardinal Bernardin's parents were born.

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For information on the Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207. Telephone 704-331-1709 or 377-6871.

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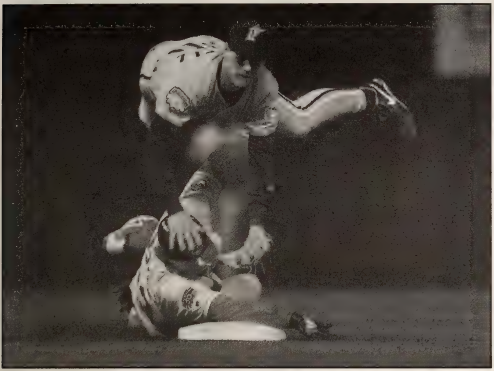
Advent Retreat Day
Saturday, December 6, 1997
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Oratory and local parishes are again offering an alternative spiritual preparation for Christmas. A day of prayer and reflection as well as family activities. For more information contact: Elena Ziegler: 803-329-2662.

Ex-Notre Dame Star Becomes World Series Hero



CNS photo from Reuters

Florida Marlins second baseman Craig Counsell tries for double play during a World Series game against the Cleveland Indians in October. The former Notre Dame student-athlete scored the winning run for Florida in the final game of the series.

By LOU PANARALE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Keep doing the small things well and great things will follow," was advice second baseman Craig Counsell of the 1997 world champion Florida Marlins heard while growing up in White Fish Bay, Wis.

He heard it first from his father, John Counsell, then later from his baseball coach, Pat Murphy, at the University of Notre Dame, where Counsell, like his father, excelled as a college baseball player.

Hitting a sacrifice fly could be a small thing — unless it's in the bottom of the ninth in the seventh game of the 1997 World Series Oct. 26 and it ties the game 2-2, sending it into extra innings.

Scoring an unearned run could also be a small thing — unless it's the bottom of the 11th of the same game, and the Marlins win 3-2 in one of the most heart-stopping World Series championships of all time.

Counsell, a rookie with the Marlins who was acquired in a mid-season trade with the Colorado Rockies, hit that sacrifice fly, and he scored that winning unearned run against the Cleveland Indians — storybook stuff that they make movies out of.

"This kid is what baseball is all about," a jubilant Murphy told Catholic News Service in the aftermath of Counsell's World Series heroics. "When he scored that winning run, it was one of the biggest thrills in my life, to see this young man climb to the top," he said.

Counsell and his younger sister, Jennifer, grew up in St. Monica's Parish in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Later they would both attend and graduate from Notre Dame.

When Counsell was close to graduating from high school, Notre Dame's Pat Murphy came to town looking for college baseball talent.

Counsell's tryout came prior to a game at County Stadium, home of the Milwaukee Brewers, for whom Counsell's father was a front-office executive.

When young Counsell stepped into the batting cage, Notre Dame's Murphy, standing nearby, had to change position to see the boy, whose small frame seemed to vanish inside the cage.

Then Counsell proceeded to follow his father's advice. "Don't try to hit the ball out of the park," his father had told him. "Remember that a sacrifice fly is a 'good out' when it advances a runner or scores a run."

"He hit one line drive after another to every field," recalled his father, who with wife Jan now lives in Naples, Fla., where he is a sports marketing consultant. "I was really amazed how well he was hitting the ball."

So was Murphy, who soon offered young Counsell a baseball scholarship to Notre Dame but still remained somewhat skeptical about the boy's size. "Is he ever going to grow," Murphy later jokingly asked Counsell's father.

"He weighed about 140 pounds, but he could run 60 yards in 7.4 seconds," said Murphy, who now coaches baseball at Arizona State University. "You could tell he had a good feel for baseball, but nobody could predict he would go as far as he did. But he had an incredible work ethic."

In 1992, the year he graduated, Counsell was named most valuable player of the Irish squad.

And he was team captain, as was his father before him. John Counsell played for the Irish in 1962-64.

Following the Marlins' big World Series win, the Counsells were reunited in the locker room. The team has a liberal policy of allowing family members in after an important game.

So John, Jan and daughter Jennifer headed straight for the locker room for what turned to be an emotional meeting with Craig.

"He hugged each of us so hard we could hardly breathe," the elder Counsell told CNS. "He's was really excited and he's usually not an emotional kid. I told him that later on we could discuss the mechanics of the game. But I did remind him that he scored the first and last runs of the World Series."

Bishop McGuinness
The Triad's Catholic
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Open House
Wednesday, November 19
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Bishop McGuinness is a co-educational Catholic High School with an exceptional college preparatory program for grades 9-12. All interested students currently in grades 8-11 and their parents are encouraged to attend. An informational presentation will begin at 7:00 pm followed by an opportunity to tour the school and meet with teachers, administrators and current students and parents.

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Anniversary, from page 1

third phase of the church's expansion project, the building of a new sanctuary completed in 1995. Also in attendance were Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson of Belmont Abbey and Jesuit Father Robert Wiesenbaugh, pastor of Saint Therese Church in Mooresville.

During his homily, Bishop Curlin urged the faithful not to take for granted the abundant gifts the church provides for Catholics today. It contrasts with what was available for Catholics more than 100 years ago. They did not have easy access to Mass or the sacraments in Iredell County, the bishop said. "Suppose we had no church, no absolution for sins, no Christian burial, or sacramental marriage? How blessed we are to have all these opportunities — but has it changed us or made us better people?" Bishop Curlin asked, offering the congregation the challenge to become a more Eucharist-minded people who frequent the sacraments to take advantage of these opportunities for grace.

The anniversary celebration brought back many memories for Father Goudreau, who provided a bridge between the past and present Catholic communities. Not only is he beloved by members of the original 15 families that he ministered to more than 50 years ago, but by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Because of his fondness for Statesville, he tries to visit every few years.

Father Goudreau has witnessed firsthand the change and growth in this once small Catholic community. "We never went around recruiting for the church. We had faith that the people would come to us, and we welcomed every new member seeking them out after Mass," he said.

Now that there is a population of more than 1,300 parishioners, Father Goudreau's early expectations have been far exceeded. "After the first expansion, I thought we would have adequate space for years to come," he said, adding he never dreamed there would be a need for a third construction phase.

Photo By Kathy Schmugge

Bishop Curlin presided over the 100th Anniversary Mass at St. Phillip the Apostle Church in Statesville with Jesuit Father Robert Wiesenbaugh, Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson, Father Peter Fitzgibbons, Franciscan Father Remy Goudreau, and Father Paul Gary.

Rev. Mr. Charles Brantley also has a long affiliation with the parish. Since his conversion to Catholicism in 1965, he has been a dedicated parishioner. "Since my ordination in 1988," he added, "I have been a part of many great events in this church, including being able to baptize my own children and grandchildren."

During this historical occasion, Father Fitzgibbons offered a prayer to his parishioners that could be shared in part by all Catholics today. "On this, our anniversary of the dedication of the new church and the beginning of our 100th year as a parish, may we spend some time in meditation on the great gifts we enjoy and pray for the souls of those givers," he said. "Also, let us pray that we may imitate them."

Dietzen, from page 5

into a neat, satisfying package. Accepting them doesn't bring us any closer to explaining how merit, human freedom and God's gracious generosity meet in the process of salvation.

Yet, each of these doctrines is necessary; we discard or ignore any one of them only at the cost of undermining the Gospels' message of hope.

There is, I believe, no major Christian denomination which has a body of basic beliefs that would reject any of these statements. The difference, if any, would be about emphasis.

The Catholic position on the subject is, of course, found in a multitude of documents through the centuries. It is briefly and well summarized in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Nos. 1987- 2011).

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped self- addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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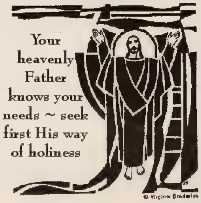
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Title: "Courage" - A Pastoral Outreach
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Marx, from page 5

have "bought" the cultural messages about women and attractiveness.

- Alcohol is the drug of choice of most teens. Many of the messages portrayed in popular culture encourage girls to consume alcohol and nicotine to sedate their pain. Adolescent girls are the only population group whose smoking has increased over the last 20 years.

On any given day in America, 480 women and children will be forcibly raped; 32 percent of all rapes occur when the victim is between the ages of 11 and 17. Girls are growing up in a world where one in four women will be raped in their lifetime. The incidence of rape is increasing because our culture's destructive messages about sex and violence are increasing. There is a dangerous mixing of sex and violence in today's music, advertising, television programs and movies.

Dr. Pipher effectively makes her case for the need to address the dangers facing our daughters but she also provides proven methods that have helped girls hold onto their true selves during the adolescent years. She discusses the need for parents to listen to their daughters. She speaks of the importance of homes that offer protection, challenges, love and structure. According to Dr. Pipher, "Girls can be saved by a good school, a good teacher or a meaningful activity." It's critical to have well-adjusted friends and to be reminded through conversation and activities that there is a life beyond junior high. Teen-agers need to be proud of something besides their looks. Girls benefit from being recognized through sports, theater, art, school and music.

I like to think that one of the most important ways that girls can hold onto their true selves in adolescence is through their church and their faith. But we need to ensure that our church is a place that welcomes girls and women rather than an institution that undervalues, belittles or attempts to put girls in their place. Our parishes need to be havens where girls believe they can share their gifts and talents rather than hide them. As our culture sends messages causing girls to sell their bodies and souls, our church must send a clear message that real beauty lies in the size of your heart and not your dress size. We need to let girls know that in God's kingdom there are no cliques. When girls feel pain and pressure in their lives, they need to know that they can turn to a loving God who will see them through their suffering.

We need to be a church that teaches girls that Jesus saw women as persons who had an equal opportunity to be involved in the work of spreading the Gospel. In a male-dominated society, Jesus raised the status of women. In a culture where women were ruled by men and worshipped for their physical beauty, Jesus spoke with them, he healed them, he traveled with them, he taught them and he respected them. They were his disciples and his friends. They followed his cross to Calvary and they were the first to announce his victory over death. Jesus saw women as persons — their strengths, their weaknesses, their inner beauty, their gifts, their talents and their potential. He saw them for their whole selves.

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Cubans OK Concessions

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cuban authorities have authorized several concessions for Pope John Paul II's pastoral visit, including permission for direct flights from the United States and the landing of a cruise ship of pilgrims.

Government officials also said the church would be allowed some access to the media during the pope's visit Jan. 21-25, and authorities promised to put on extra state transportation so Cubans can attend the papal events in four cities.

The details of the concessions were announced by Cuban bishops Nov. 1, according to a Vatican Radio report. Vatican Radio said the steps demonstrated that "church requests have had the hoped-for results."

One of the major concerns for church agencies was the government monopoly on the press. The bishops said the government had promised that the church would be given "some space" for news information in television, radio and the print media.

The government's approval for the arrival of a cruise ship from the United States means that about 1,000 Catholic pilgrims, many of them Cuban-Americans, will be able to attend some of the papal events in their homeland.

Other U.S. Catholics traveling by air will also apparently be allowed in the country.

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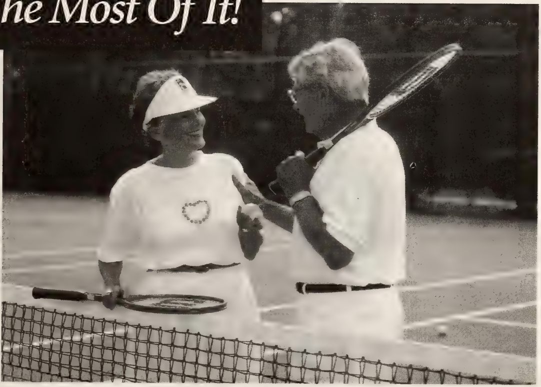

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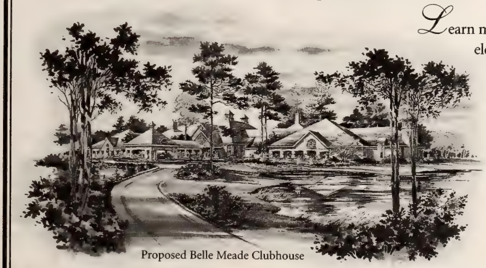

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Diocesan News Briefs

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica docents provide free tours of the historic Basilica of St. Lawrence following every weekend Mass. The Mass schedule is: Saturday — 5 p.m.; Sunday — 9, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. Spanish Mass is 7 p.m. Sunday. Call (704) 252-0842 for more information.

Former Belmont Abbey Dean Appointed to Lees-McRae

BANNER ELK — Dr. Edward Smith, former dean of corporate and continuing education at Belmont Abbey College, has been appointed dean of continuing education, distance learning and summer school at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk.

Having an active history with Catholic churches in the Charlotte and Raleigh dioceses, Smith also obtained moneys for the creation of the Catholic Continuing Education program to help fund activities in western North Carolina parishes.

AIDS Symposium

BELMONT — Cornerstone, the AIDS network in the Charlotte Diocese, sponsors a Catholic symposium on AIDS Nov. 15 at Queen of the Apostles Church. Bishop William G. Curlin is among the speakers at the spiritual and educational event, and he will bless quilt panels for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. To submit a panel, call Father Morris Boyd, (704) 252-3151. For information and registration, call (704) 825-5277.

50+ Club

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Parish meets Nov. 12 at 9:15 a.m. for a Mass in honor of deceased members. Coffee follows. The regular meeting is Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. Please bring a food item for the covered dish luncheon. Call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745, for more information.

Weigh Down Workshop

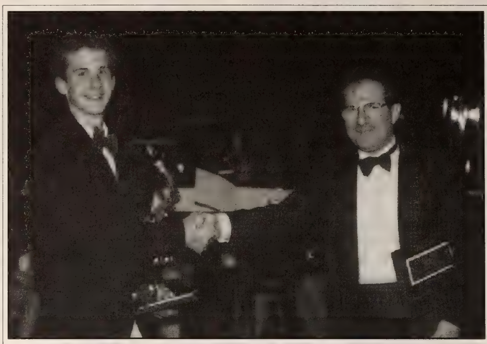
CHARLOTTE — A 12-week, Bible-based weight loss seminar begins Nov. 13 at St. John Neumann Church. The cost is $103. For details, call Donna Rayle, (704) 545-8916.

Memorial Mass

CHARLOTTE — A memorial Mass for those whose spouses have died is Nov. 16 at 2:30 p.m. in St. Gabriel Church. Candles may be lit in the sanctuary beginning at 2 p.m., and a reception follows the Mass. Call B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047, ext. 212, for more information.

Healing Service

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Respect Life office sponsors a healing and reconciliation service for women and men affected by abortion Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. Father Ed Sheridan, pastor, and Dr. Martha Shuping, a psychiatrist, are the featured speakers. For more information, call Maggi Nadol, (704) 331-1721, or Dr. Shuping, (910) 659-1342.



School Band Programs Grow, Schedule Concerts

CHARLOTTE — The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) Instrumental Music Program has grown to include 404 students from six schools, an all-time high. A concert by the 208-piece All-MACS Massed Band is Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel School.

In other school band news, the Charlotte Catholic High School music program, composed of 47 students, recently formed a pep band and is planing on the addition of a large marching band. A concert by the CCHS concert band is Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

A concert featuring Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School band musicians is Dec. 14 at 1:30 p.m.

For details on the concerts, call Dr. Stanley Michalski, (704) 541-8016.

Pictured is Holy Trinity band director Alan Kaufman, right, congratulating saxophonist Barrett Honeycutt after the student was recently designated the outstanding 8th grade band member. Honeycutt is now a member of the CCHS band.

Homosexual Ministry Founding Director Visits

CHARLOTTE — Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father John Harvey, theologian, author and founding director of the Catholic ministry for homosexuals called Courage, addresses the church's teachings on homosexuality and provides information on Courage Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Patrick School cafeteria.

Georgetown Chair Visits

CHARLOTTE — Dr. Anthony Tambasco, chairman of theology at Georgetown University, presents the discussion "The Jesus of the Gospels and the Christ of Faith" Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Peter Church. All are welcome.

NFP Session Cancelled

CHARLOTTE — The introductory session of Natural Family Planning usually held the third Thursday of each month at the Catholic Center is suspended until further notice. For more information, call Cathy, (704) 364-3348, or Carmen, (704) 663-6411.

Christmas Series

CHARLOTTE — Joanne Frazer, director of the diocesan office of Justice and Peace, presents the two-part series "Picture It! A Less Chaotic, More Meaningful Christmas" Nov. 9 and 16 from 8:45-9:45 a.m. in classroom 13 at St. John Neumann Church. Admission is free, and baby-sitting is provided. Call (704) 5354197 for details.

Holiday Extravaganza

CHARLOTTE — The St. Ann's Men's Club Seventh Annual Holiday Extravaganza is Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. and features auctions, food and fellowship. Tickets are $20 each and can be purchased at the parish office. Proceeds benefit Community Food Rescue, Holy Angels, Friendship Trays, Habitat for Humanity and Room at the Inn.

Jesuit House of Prayer

HOT SPRINGS — "12 Steps to Wholeness," a retreat for recovering alcoholic men, is Nov. 21-23 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Space is limited to 17 participants, and early registration is requested. For registration or information, call (704) 622-7366, or Don at (423) 483-7850.

Fire in the Mountains

MAGGIE VALLEY — The diocesan Office of Faith Formation presents Fire in the Mountains '97, focusing on "God's Presence Here and Now — Living a Sacramental Life," Nov. 15 from 9:15-4 p.m. at the Lake Junaluska Conference Center. Mercy Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin facilitates reflection, group discussion and talks on church teaching.

Living Waters Reflection Center

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Great Women of the Church" is a Nov. 21-23 retreat directed by Father Eric Houseknecht focusing through lecture, discussion, reflection and prayer on the many unique contributions to the church made by women. Cost is $90. For registration or information, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, (704) 926-3833.

Unique Auction

MONROE — The third annual Unique Auction sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Women's Guild is Nov. 15. To donate a gift, call Mary Onisick, (704) 233-5737, or Edith Myers, (704) 283-8935.

Thanksgiving Dinner

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts a free Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner Nov. 27 in the parish's Holy Family Center from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for anyone in the Newton-Conover area wanting to spend the holiday with others, especially those who cannot afford a holiday meal. To ensure that enough food will be prepared, call (704) 464-9207 for reservations. Meals will also be delivered to those unable to come to the church, and transportation will be available. Call the above number for details.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Support Groups

ARDEN — The Bereavement Support Group meets Mondays at 1:30 p.m. in the St. Francis Room at St. Barnabas Church for those with significant losses, no matter how recent or remote.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services offers a support group for widowed, separated and divorced persons each second Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Catholic Center, 1524 E. Morehead St. Call Suzanne Bach, (704) 331-1720, for more information.

WINSTON-SALEM — A grief support group meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at St. Leo the Great Church for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close to them. Contact Joanne Parcell, (910) 924-9478, for more information.

World And National News Briefs

Lebanese Bishops Criticize Government on Budget Issues

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Lebanon's bishops have criticized the government for failing to reach any agreement on budget issues, including the country's debts and the increasing taxes. The inability to find a solution to the economic difficulties has a "bad impact on the citizen's daily life," the bishops said in a statement released after their October meeting. "Things will not be straightened out but by a global national reconciliation and the cooperation of all in running public affairs," said the statement. "In any case, the confidence of the Lebanese will not be regained except by establishing the institutional state which will protect democracy and the common good."

NCCW Gives Dolores Leckey Distinguished Service Award

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Council of Catholic Women has honored Dolores Leckey, the executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth, with its Distinguished Service Award. The award, given to individuals for outstanding service to the church and society, recognizes Leckey for her work with the U.S. bishops over the past 20 years.

Cardinal Regrets Massachusetts House Vote on Death Penalty

BOSTON (CNS) — Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston expressed regret after the Massachusetts House of Representatives voted 81- 79 Oct. 28 to reinstate the death penalty in the state. "This is a sad time for Massachusetts," he said in an Oct. 29 statement. "What we have done these days is engage in a primordial cry to the wind giving vent to our rage and frustration over the unspeakable acts of violence which threaten us as a society."

Kevorkian's Plan To Harvest Organs Appalls Cardinal

DETROIT (CNS) — Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida called Dr. Jack Kevorkian's plans to harvest organs of assisted suicide victims "unbelievable." The cardinal was reacting to news reports on Kevorkian's announcement he would harvest organs from one of his future patients. The organs will be made available through the office of his attorney, Geoffrey Fieger. "In effect, Kevorkian is saying that we are all commodities — like bushel baskets of apples or oranges — let's trade, everything is interchangeable ...," Cardinal Maida said during the taping of his monthly cable television interview program "Dialogue."

Jesuit Beheaded in India

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — A Jesuit priest's beheaded body has been found in a forest in Bihar, the eastern Indian state in which another priest was jailed after being paraded naked through the streets. The decapitated body of Jesuit Father Thomas T. Anchanikal, 46, of Hazaribagh province was found Oct. 26, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. He had been missing since Oct. 24 from a village where he had gone for field studies.

CNS photo from Reuters

A resident of the town of Kiunga in the western province of Papua New Guinea drinks from an eroded stream in late September. Drought conditions on the island nation have worsened, leaving more than 500,000 people in need of food and water.

U.S. Catholics Fast To Get More Info On Disappeared Priest

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — A Detroit bishop and three other American Catholics began a fast in Tegucigalpa after meeting with U.S. officials to get more information on the 1983 disappearance of a U.S. Jesuit. Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit and the three demonstrators, including the missing priest's relatives, said they would fast until the U.S. government more fully disclosed information about the disappearance of Jesuit Father James Carney in September 1983. Bishop Gumbleton said he was ready to fast as long as it would take.

New Institute Would Train Those Working With Hispanics

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Northeast Hispanic Catholic Center in New York will establish an Institute of Pastoral Formation to train volunteers and others working with Hispanics in the dioceses served by the center. Increased efforts in pastoral formation are essential because "proselytism by sects continues to wreak havoc on the Catholic faith of Hispanic peoples," according to a paper outlining the institute proposal. The proposal was drafted by Margarita Roque, director of the Hispanic apostolate in the Washington Archdiocese and president of the center's directors.

Diocese Says Insurance Firms Hold Key To Sex Abuse Case Resolution

DALLAS (CNS) — Attorneys for the Diocese of Dallas argued before State District Judge Anne Ashby Oct. 24 that the diocese cannot pay a $119.6 million sex abuse judgment without the support of its insurance companies, which the diocese is now having to sue. Last July, jurors in Dallas awarded the plaintiffs in a civil lawsuit what was a record liability judgment for a sex abuse case involving a Catholic priest. Judge Ashby was expected to rule on several motions before her by the first week in November. If she rules in favor of the plaintiffs' demands for immediate payment of the judgment, the diocese might be forced to file bankruptcy in federal court.

Irish Priest Kidnapped By Muslim Rebels In Philippines

ROME (CNS) — The apostolic administrator of Marawi, Philippines, was kidnapped during a meeting with Muslim rebels to discuss the process of surrendering their weapons. Father Desmond Hartford, a 53-year-old member of the Irish Missionary Society of St. Columban, was kidnapped Oct. 27 by rebels in Iligan, on the island of Mindanao. The rebels claimed the Philippine government had not kept its promises of financial compensation in return for their disarmament. "They kidnapped Des but let a Filipino priest with him go so he could go to the government and tell them the rebels want money," said Father Patrick J. O'Loughlin, the Rome-based procurator general of the Columban missionaries.

Church Officials Stress Rights Of Unborn To U.N. Agency

PARIS (CNS) — Church officials have urged a U.N. agency to remember the rights of the unborn as it drafts a declaration on gene-mapping and human rights. At its general conference Oct. 21-Nov. 12 in Paris, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was reviewing a proposed text of the declaration, which has been under study since July. Following completion of the first phase of the Human Genome Project last year, several church experts expressed concern that gene mapping could open up new areas of discrimination against the living and the unborn.

Called To Hope, Called To Love

A Catholic Symposium on AIDS

Sponsored by CORNERSTONE, the AIDS Network of the Diocese of Charlotte

Saturday, November 15, 1997

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Clergy, laity and all whose lives have been touched by AIDS are invited

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To pre-register or for more information, contact Rev. Richard P. Hokanson, Pastor, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 Main St., Belmont, NC 28012
(704) 825-5277

Parish Profile

St. Patrick Cathedral

St. Patrick Cathedral
1621 Dilworth Rd. East
Charlotte, N.C. 28203
(704) 334-2283

Vicariate: **Charlotte**

Rector: **Very Rev. Paul Q. Gary**

Parochial Vicar: **Father Walter Ray Williams**

Permanent Deacon: **Rev. Mr. Nick Fadero**

Mass Schedule: **Sat.: 5:30 p.m.; Sun.: 8, 9:30, 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.**

Number of parishioners: **3,109**

Number of households: **1,147**

CHARLOTTE — The first Catholic church in the Charlotte region was built in Mount Holly in Gaston County during the last century. The building of that church in 1843, and of St. Peter Church in Charlotte in 1852, marked a slowly growing presence of Catholics in the area. The construction also made way for the building of St. Patrick Church, which would become the cathedral church in the diocesan see city.

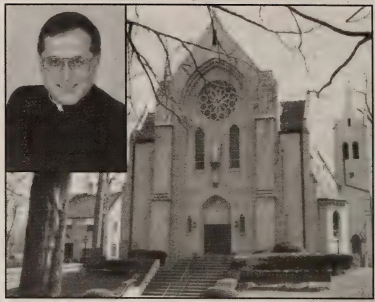
St. Peter Church was in the care of the Benedictines from Belmont Abbey when John Henry Phelan of Beaumont, Texas, donated funds to have a church built in Charlotte in memory his parents. Construction began in March of 1939. On Sept. 1, 1939, Bishop Eugene McGuinness of Raleigh consecrated the church under the patronage of St. Patrick. It became the first church in North Carolina to be consecrated immediately upon completion, and remained in the ministerial care of St. Patrick Parish.

Frank Frimmer, a native of Austria known for remodeling famous Old World churches, designed and supervised construction of St. Patrick Church, with its gray stucco face, 400-seat nave, balcony and 77-foot tall tower. An altar containing relics of St. Jucundus and St. Justina was fitted in the church, and two side chapels were crafted as shrines honoring Mary and Joseph. Stained glass windows depicting the Annunciation, St. Patrick, Joseph's deathbed scene, David with his lyre, St. Cecelia and life events of Jesus were placed in the church as well.

A rectory and convent were completed in 1941, and a Catholic grade school built on the property in 1930 was expanded in 1943 to include high school grades.

Msgr. Lawrence Newman, assistant pastor of St. Peter Church, ministered to the St. Patrick congregation until 1942, when parish status was granted. Msgr. Arthur Freeman was appointed the first pastor of St. Patrick Church on Jan. 21 of that year.

During the next few decades, the influx of Catholics from elsewhere added to the need for ministerial presence in Charlotte, and three parishes grew from St. Patrick's: St. Ann, St. Gabriel, and St. Vincent de Paul.



During the late '50s and early '60s — with the founding of Charlotte Catholic High School — the school reverted to elementary grades and was named St. Patrick School. A cafeteria and gymnasium were added in 1959. As part of the regional Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system, St. Patrick School now serves hundreds of Catholic youngsters' educational needs.

On Jan. 12, 1972, Pope Paul VI established the Diocese of Charlotte, and St. Patrick Church was designated the cathedral church. Msgr. Richard Allen, pastor at the time, was appointed the first rector.

The cathedral experienced a major renovation in 1979, bringing the church to current liturgical standards and introducing a new altar constructed from the original and artwork having local and religious significance. A new locally built pipe organ was installed in the balcony as well.

The cathedral remained closed for six months, and Masses were celebrated in the school. On June 11, Archbishop Thomas A. Donnellan of Atlanta concelebrated the Mass commemorating the reopening of the church with Bishop Michael J. Begley of Charlotte and a host of other church dignitaries.

The parish has continued to grow, and St. Patrick Cathedral has been host to many diocesan events such as a memorial Mass in September 1997 honoring the life of Mother Teresa. That Mass was celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin, who initiated another extensive refurbishment of the cathedral earlier in his pastorate as bishop of the Charlotte Diocese. The work was overseen by Father Frank O'Rourke, then rector of the cathedral.

The completion of the majority of the renovation efforts was celebrated at Easter of 1996, with Bishop Curlin presiding at Passion and Easter Sunday Masses. The work has continued, most recently with the addition of Stations of the Cross brought in from Maggie Valley.

The Very Rev. Paul Q. Gary has served as rector of St. Patrick Cathedral since July of 1996. He is assisted in his sacramental ministry by Father Ray Williams, ordained in the cathedral in June of 1997.

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Asheville, NC 28806

H. Dale Groce - St. Joan of Arc Parish
John M. Prock - St. Joan of Arc Parish

Employment Opportunity

Director of Development: The Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for the Mecklenberg Area Catholic Schools. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications or related field. Appropriate experience in fund-raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to handle numerous tasks at once and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaign, handling all aspects of production of a monthly newsletter and annual report and directing the cultural enrichment program and advertising plan for the schools. Please submit a resume by November 14 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207.

Facilities Assistant needed: St. Matthew Church - Duties include maintenance, janitorial and grounds keeping. For further information, please contact Jim Nass, Facilities Manager at 543-7677 ext. 33., 8:30 - 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

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NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 11• November 14, 1997

Diocese Hosts Social Ministry Conference

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — Social ministry leaders from four dioceses and two archdioceses gathered at the Catholic Conference Center last week to learn more about successfully implementing parish-based social ministry for diocesan and parish workers in their region.

Conducted by Catholic Charities USA, representatives of Catholic Social Services, Justice and Peace, and Catholic Charities met Nov. 5-7 for the parish social ministry regional training project. The congregation included leaders from the dioceses of Charlotte, Charleston, Raleigh and Savannah and the archdioceses of Atlanta and Louisville.

"The purpose of the program is to learn more about parish social ministry using a diocesan approach," Joanne Frazer told the 75 participants.

Frazer, director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Charlotte Diocese, was part of the six-coordinator team who spent 18 months designing a training program with Catholic Charities USA to meet the needs expressed by team members. Other members of the coordinating group were: Myles McCabe, program director of Catholic Social Services in Atlanta; Humility of Mary Sister Susan Schorsten, director of Social Ministry in Charleston; Steve Bogus, director of Parish Social Ministry in Louisville; Sister Joan Jurski, coordinator of the Justice and Peace office in Raleigh; and Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity Sister Maria Cielinski, director of Savannah's diocesan Social Ministry program.

Bishop William G. Curlin welcomed the participants, thanking them for all their work with the homeless, the hungry and the poverty-stricken.

The conference, hosted by the Charlotte Diocese's Catholic Social Services office, consisted of six sessions. It began with an overview by Tom Ulrich, director of Convening and Training for Catholic Charities USA, who has been involved in social work for almost 20 years, including three years directing social ministry in Rockville, N.Y.

Later in the conference, Ulrich gave advice on how to determine the needs in the local community by doing "effective social analysis" to find solutions to specific concerns within a given community. "As a parish team, you need to get to know the reality of the poor," he said.

Sessions emphasized the need for parishes to be engaged in service, advocacy, justice education and community organizing.

Jack Jezreel from the Archdiocese of Louisville was selected by Catholic Charities USA's training team to lead a session on defining parish ministry because of his experience in the field. His lecture involved a discussion of the "scriptural roots" of social ministries as interpreted by Protestant theologian Walter Brueggemann.

Jezreel sees social ministry as a means of social transformation which he feels will lead to a type of parish renewal.

Other speakers included Mary Baudoin, a free-lance program development consultant, who spoke on the "passions and problems" with social ministry in addition to addressing leadership development.

See **Conference**, page 2

CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

Bishop Anthony M. Pilla (center), president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Catholic Conference, opens the annual fall meeting of the U.S. bishops in Washington Nov. 10.

Israel, Vatican Agree On Church's Legal Status

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — After nearly four years of negotiations, Israel and the Vatican have signed an agreement that for the first time spells out the legal status of Catholic Church institutions in Israel.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Archbishop Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, apostolic nuncio to Israel, exchanged greetings in French and expressed hopes for continued development in relations between the two states at a Nov. 10 signing ceremony in Jerusalem.

"After some good work the hour has finally arrived," Levy said as he entered the room and shook hands with the archbishop.

After adding his signature to English and Hebrew copies of the document, the papal nuncio said, "May this agreement ... serve for the good of the Catholic Church in Israel and strengthen relations between the Holy See and this beloved country."

The envoy said that the agreement was very short but very complex, and every word was "meticulously chosen."

The document's 13 provisions establish the status of the church and its entities under Israeli law. It ensures that the

See **Agreement**, page 8

Few Agenda Items Remain As Bishops Hold Executive Session

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With much of their scheduled business already completed, the U.S. bishops headed into executive session on the second day of their fall general meeting in Washington.

In a tie vote Nov. 11 that was resolved by a provision of canon law, Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul-Minneapolis was elected secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference.

Archbishop Flynn won because he is older than Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., and the Code of Canon Law says ties go to the elder of the two candidates.

On the second day of the Nov. 10-13 meeting, the bishops also elected committee chairmen and discussed whether to transfer observance of the feast of the Ascension to the seventh Sunday after Easter, as is done in a number of other countries. But a planned vote on the matter had been removed from the agenda earlier.

Most U.S. bishops favored transferring the observance of Ascension to Sunday when the issue came to a vote in 1991, but the proposal did not achieve the two-thirds approval needed for passage.

See **Executive Session**, page 2

Text Of Bishop Pilla's Presidential Address,

Page 7

Bishops Hold Executive Session, from page 1

The only other public business Nov. 11 was debate and the first in a series of votes on a plan that would restructure the bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign and expand their national communications planning and activities over the next five years.

The plan includes detailed year-by-year goals and strategies of research, development, staffing, training and media use through the year 2001. It projects a doubling of national funding for Catholic communications work, from $3.3 million in 1997 to about $6.8 million in 2001.

Consideration of the plan was to resume Nov. 12 after Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning executive sessions, with adjournment a possibility for Wednesday afternoon.

Other agenda items remaining for debate and vote Nov. 12 were documents describing "light and shadows" in the 25-year battle against abortion and urging Catholics to act in greater solidarity with people beyond the U.S. borders; a report on how to better support Catholic schools; and the proposed text of the first official Spanish-language Sacramentary for the United States.

The Sacramentary is the book of prayers used at Mass. Until now, because there was no U.S. Sacramentary in Spanish, U.S. parishes have been able to choose from among several Spanish Sacramentaries approved by other bishops' conferences.

Also scheduled before the end of the meeting were votes on the continuation of 15 current ad hoc committees, in accord with a "sunset" clause under which such committees must be reviewed for value and effectiveness at least once every three years.

On the meeting's first day, the bishops voted to hold a national meeting of Hispanic Catholics in the year 2000 and to study ways to revive the penitential practices of fasting and abstinence to support pro-life efforts.

They also agreed to extend for an indefinite period the national collection and the Office to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Only a three-year extension had been requested.

The bishops' Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism got approval for a five-year extension of its national staff office for the catechism.

Also getting the bishops' support was a $44.38 million budget for 1998 and a series of priorities for the bishops' conferences through the year 2002.

The bishops gave their unanimous consent to the sainthood cause of Mother Mary Henriette Delille, who founded the Sisters of the Holy Family for black women in New Orleans, and approved English Mass prayers for the observance of the feast of St. Louis Mary de Montfort.

The latter vote followed up on a 1996 Vatican decision to add his feast, as an optional memorial, to the church's general liturgical calendar.

On another liturgical matter, Archbishop Jerome Hanus of Dubuque, Iowa, reported at the meeting that the Vatican has approved the first volume of a new English-language Lectionary for U.S. use in Mass.

A proposed second volume of the Lectionary, originally slated to come to a vote this November, has been delayed until the bishops meet again next June because the final editorial work on the proposed text could not be completed in time for the fall meeting.

The Lectionary contains the texts of Scripture readings used at Mass. Last June the bishops approved a first volume of it, including all the readings for Sundays and certain major feasts.

Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland opened the meeting with his presidential address, centering on reconciliation.

A church divided within cannot witness reconciliation to the world, Bishop Pilla told the nearly 300 U.S. bishops gathered at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington.

He challenged those "who claim to be Catholics and at the same time act like bullies."

"A church which is not at peace with itself acts as a countersign," he said. Catholic polarization must end because it contradicts the Christian "imperative for reconciliation," he added.

One example of a failure at reconciliation was taking place outside the hotel almost as Bishop Pilla spoke.

Angry words were exchanged between members of Dignity, a group of gay and lesbian Catholics, and opponents of the group. Dignity members had convened a press conference in support of "Always Our Children," a statement of the bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family urging parents to love their gay children.

The committee statement, issued in October, was not up for discussion at the fall meeting.

Meanwhile, an attempt to add a discussion of U.N. sanctions against Iraq to the bishops' agenda was rejected by just five votes.

Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit had urged the agenda change, saying that the bishops' own teachings on war and peace would mandate a condemnation of the sanctions against Iraq.

Since the embargo was imposed in 1990 by the United Nations, with strong U.S. backing, "more than a million people have died, including 600,000 children," Bishop Gumbleton said. The sanctions are "leaving behind a trail of resentment and hatred" of Americans in Iraq, he said.

With 163 bishops in favor of revising the agenda and 89 against, the vote was five short of the 168 needed for a two-thirds majority.

But after the close vote, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., chairman of the bishops' International Policy Committee, indicated that he would raise the topic again later in the meeting.

Preceding the general meeting were two half-day workshops for the bishops Nov. 9: one on science and religion on the theme of evolution, the other on lay ministry in the church.

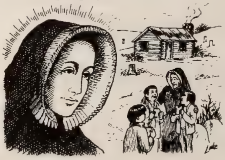
Our U.S. bishops summarized in ten key principles our Catholic tradition of applying our faith and moral teachings to economic life.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Principle #8:
Whether our jobs are in the workplace or the home, whether we are managers, employees or self-employed, whether our jobs are in cities, rural areas or on the road, we know what we need to do a good job, we know what benefits we want to gain from our work, and we know what we need to do to get them. We also know when we are being treated fairly or unfairly. We know who is responsible for our job and our livelihood. But who is responsible for the economy as a whole? Who ensures that every human being has what he or she needs to live a decent human life?

Principle #8: Society has a moral obligation, including governmental action where necessary, to assure opportunity, meet basic human needs, and pursue justice in economic life.

Philippine Duchesne



Rose-Philippine Duchesne was born in France in 1769. As a teen she wanted to become a nun, but the French Revolution delayed her plans. She finally professed at age 37. Philippine had a missionary zeal and traveled to America to work among the poor. She founded the first six free schools west of the Mississippi. She died in 1852. Her feast is Nov. 18.

Saints & Scripture

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Conference, from page 1

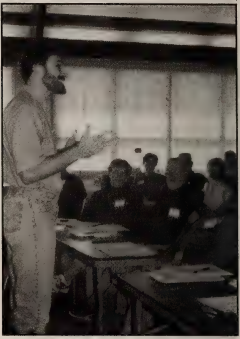

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Tom Ulrich addresses participants at last week's social ministry conference in Hickory.

Mike Brogioli, state welfare reform project director for Catholic Charities USA, led a discussion on welfare reform, and Joan Rosenhauer, special projects coordinator for the Office of Social Development and World Peace, United States Catholic Conference, chaired a session on legislative advocacy.

Catholic Charities USA is composed of 1,400 local agencies and institutions providing services nationwide to millions in need, regardless of religious, ethnic, racial and social backgrounds. It is the nation's largest private network of independent social service organizations.

Scripture

Readings for the week of November 16-22

Sunday	Daniel 12:1-3 Hebrews 10:11-14,18 Mark 13:24-32
Monday	1 Maccabees 1:10-15,41-43, 54-57,62-63 Luke 18:35-43
Tuesday	2 Maccabees 6:18-31 Luke 19:1-10
Wednesday	2 Maccabees 7:1,20-31 Luke 19:11-28
Thursday	1 Maccabees 2:15-29 Luke 19:41-44
Friday	1 Maccabees 4:36-37,52-59 Luke 19:45-48
Saturday	1 Maccabees 6:1-13 Luke 20:27-40

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Celebrates Jubilee

HIGH POINT — Almost 1,000 parishioners and guests filled the High Point Theater for the Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Oct. 26.

In his homily, Bishop William G. Curlin, the principal celebrant, spoke of the importance of a faith-filled life centered on the Eucharist. The bishop recalled the faith of those early High Point Catholics who built the small mission under the patronage of St. Edward just after the turn of the century.

The Benedictines from Belmont Abbey tended to the ministerial needs of St. Edward's parishioners until 1924, when the Diocese of Raleigh was established and the mission was placed under diocesan jurisdiction.

The St. Edward community grew, and in 1947 a new church and school were built and named in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Parish growth has been steady these past five decades, and there are now more than 800 families who make up the parish registry. Renovations have been necessary to accommodate the expanding numbers of parishioners; an eight-wing classroom wing has been added to the school, for instance, and two meeting room walls have been removed to allow for more worship space in the church.

At the jubilee Mass, the Very Rev. Joseph Morrissey, provincial of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, thanked Bishop Curlin for allowing the Oblates to serve the parish and other churches in North Carolina. The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales have served in the High Point parish since 1989.

Oblates Father Joseph Zuschmidt, pastor, later sounded a strong note of gratitude to the members of the parish he serves. "It's a great day," he said. "I thank God for Immaculate Heart of Mary. I thank God for all of you."

Father Zuschmidt also expressed his thanks for all the clergy, women religious, church and school staff, and parish council and commission members who have served the parish through the years.

The pastor concluded with an optimistic look at the Immaculate Heart of Mary faith community's future as it anticipates occupancy of a new church at the turn of the decade on land already acquired.

A luncheon followed the Mass.

ABOVE LEFT: Wanda Garrett, director of music, introduces the Immaculate Heart of Mary Singers.

ABOVE: Bishop William G. Curlin and several priests concelebrate Mass on Oct. 26 to celebrate Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's 50th anniversary.

Photos by Jim Hulin

Young parishioners are entertained at the reception afterward by a clown.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

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Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

Pro-Life Corner

Healing And Reconciliation Service For Men And Women Affected By Abortion

When: Thursday, November 20
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Where: St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
Contact:
Maggi Nadol 704-331-1720
or
Dr. Martha Shuping 910-659-1342

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 16 – 11:00 a.m.
Confirmation
Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem
7:15 p.m.
Lutheran/Aquinas Conference Banquet
Lenior-Rhyne College, Hickory

November 17
Luther-Aquines Conference
Hickory

Visit to Hmong Community
Morganton

November 19 – 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Annaul Dialogue of Parish Catechetical Leaders
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
7:00 p.m.
Confirmation
St. John Baptist De La Salle Church
North Wilkesboro

November 22 – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Board Meeting
Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
7:00 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Aloysius Church, Hickory

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Marian Devotions Inseparable From Faith In Jesus, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Nov. 5.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our continuing catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary highlights the importance of the various forms of Marian devotion. Veneration of the Mother of God is inseparably linked to faith in Christ and finds its foundation in God's saving plan for humanity.

The Hail Mary, the Angelus, the rosary and especially the church's liturgy emphasize Mary's singular role as mother of the Redeemer. Like all other men and women, the Blessed Virgin was saved through the merits of Christ, but she alone was called to cooperate in such a unique way in her son's work of salvation.

The faithful have always recognized the value of Mary's maternal presence on their pilgrim way and have had recourse to her for every kind of grace. We know that we can count on Mary's intercession as we seek to receive from the Savior the grace we need for our spiritual growth, in preparation for the gift of eternal life in heaven.

Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, Japan, Canada and the United States, I invoke God's blessings of grace and peace.

Pope Urges Belgian Bishops To Protect Children, Boost Faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged the bishops of Belgium to concentrate their efforts on protecting children and boosting Belgians' faith in their national institutions. In the wake of a string of pedophilia and mass murder cases that have shaken Belgians' sense of trust in their society and the church, the bishops came to the Vatican on their "ad limina" visits in early November.

Pope Beatifies Three, Including Hungarian Bishop Who Helped Jews

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II beatified a Hungarian bishop who helped Jews during the Nazi occupation and who was later shot to death under communism. The pope, presiding over a Vatican liturgy Nov. 9, also declared blessed the founder of the Scalabrinian religious order and a Mexican nun who ministered to the poor. Beatification is a major step toward canonization, or official recognition of sainthood. The Hungarian bishop was Blessed Vilmos Apor, son of a noble family, who as a priest and bishop became known as the "pastor of the poor" for his generosity to the needy and his defense of the persecuted. He was bishop of Gyor during the Nazi occupation of Hungary in 1944 and helped arrange relief supplies to Jews being deported through the city to death camps elsewhere.

Coming of Age

Amy Welborn

Coping With College Application Time

The high school seniors are not as nervous as they were a month ago, but they're still tense.

It's college application time.

A few weeks ago, my little class of honors theology students would come into the seminar room and do little more than slouch in their chairs and sigh.

"It's all too much," they would moan, "too many decisions."

Teens ask questions like these:

Where do I want to go to college? Where can I afford to go to college? What am I going to study once I get there?

I go to a small Catholic school now. Do I want to stick with a small school or take the risk and expose myself to the diversity and size of a large university? Do I want to be close to my home or far away?

Am I going to have to work and go to school at the same time? And when, tell me, am I going to find the time to fill out all these applications and write all the essays I have to for the various scholarships I need to have?

Well, now in mid-November they feel a bit better. Their choices have been narrowed. Some of them have already been accepted to colleges they're excited about attending. The fill-out-the-application and write-the-essay process is getting routine and a lot easier.

But then another question creeps in: What if I'm making the wrong choice?

It's called anxiety, and it fills the hearts of high school seniors more than you might expect.

Their course work is challenging. Many of them work and play sports. Plus, as they see it, they have to worry about nothing less than their entire future.

How can you cope?

Well, what I tell my seniors drives them crazy, but they usually admit to me in the end that I was right: Don't worry.

First of all, whatever choices you make, you are not setting an unyielding, unswerving path for the rest of your life.

College isn't about narrowing your life — it's about broadening it, and you will be amazed once you get there how big the world really is and what your options are.

There's nothing to be fearful about, but everything to be excited about, including the possibility of changing your mind.

Many years ago I had a student named Doreen, who was a very serious student and scientifically oriented. Upon graduation she had her path set: She was going to attend a large state university, enter the pre-med program and then become a doctor. She moved on, seriously, purposely, and with only the slightest smile to leave behind. As we might say, she had it all together.

I saw her last year when she came back to school for a visit, now in her senior year in college. Her face was one big smile. Her hair was cut from its previous straight-as-a-board schoolgirl style to a sophisticated flip.

Was she still in pre-med?

"Nope," she grinned, "I've transferred to magazine journalism. I love it!"

The best-laid human plans may not be the plans God has for us, and all it takes it fearlessness and an open mind to figure that out.

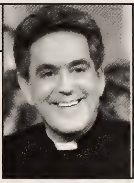
So, as you're filling out those applications, remember that God has great things in store for you. You'll end up at the right place, doing the right things, and you'll meet wonderful people on the way.

Remember too what Jesus said: "Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life span?"

Or, we might add, a point to your GPA?

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



In God's Good Time

The telephone call came a little after midnight and the news was disheartening: "Tom, my mother is back in the hospital. You know the cancer is inoperable. They've got her on oxygen because she can't breathe on her own. She slipped into a coma. The doctors say her kidneys are failing and that there is little reason or hope to prolong the inevitable by attaching her to a kidney machine. What my brother and I have to decide is...."

My friend Jim Wilhelm's voice broke and he fell silent. I risked finishing his thought: "You both are struggling with whether or not the machines should be disconnected."

"Precisely," he whispered. "There seems to be no other option."

So they made the necessary plans: On the weekend the nurses would disconnect all the support systems, the brothers would stand vigil at the bedside, and according to the doctor, in a few hours, if that, their mother would quietly and painlessly die.

Saturday morning, with tearful resolve, Jim phoned just before the nurses carried out the plan. It was also his birthday. He told me he had struggled and finally accepted the idea that this anniversary of the day his mother gave him life would be her last. Then he asked if I would officiate at the funeral which would take place on Tuesday. I told him I would be there.

Before hanging up, he told me how he had held his mother's unresponsive hand throughout the week, telling her over and over again that he loved her. "I must have said it a thousand times hoping that she might hear and give some sign. But nothing."

I made my plane reservations to Erie, Pa., and was set to arrive Monday evening. But on Sunday morning the phone rang. "You are not going to believe this, Tom. After the tubes and all the apparatuses were removed, and my brother and I were ushered back into her room, my mom's eyes opened wide and she sat up. Her voice was raspy from the tube that had been in her throat, but she was able to say: "Boys, I'm hungry, get me something to eat, will you?"

"But here is the kicker," he told me. "Later, while I was spoon-feeding her some custard, my mother held my hand and said, "I heard you, you know, when you kept repeating how much you loved me. I know you love me, Jim, and I hoped you could feel my love. You have been wonderful to me always, but it was so reassuring to hear your voice." Then she said, "Take me home."

In a few days she was no longer on morphine for the pain that had convulsed her the week before. She was able to rest easily with only a mild sedative. As of this writing, she is alert and staying in a nursing home. It has been an extraordinary emotional roller coaster for my friend and his whole family. Everyone is as disconcerted as they are relieved.

The predictions were wrong. Human beings made a reasoned judgment based on science, on facts. Probably 99 times out of a 100 they would have been right. But this time, they weren't. So in the absence of any medical explanation, what *can* we think about such an experience?

One thing I do know: God's ways are not always our own. I'd love to know your thoughts.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Spirituality, Happiness and Health" write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Cremation and the Preference for Burial

***Q.** I have some comments on your recent column concerning cremation, and the church's preference for burial. If St. Paul says our bodies are to be transformed, how does cremation differ from decayed bodies?*

What happens to bodies which are destroyed by bombs, fire, other disasters, and perhaps are never located? Can God pull them back together?

Has the church thought about the financial savings between traditional burial and cremation? Some of us had to.

I believe the body should be treated reverently. Beyond that, what difference does it make?

A. You make several good points, which are shared by many others. Two considerations may help put them in some perspective.

First, you must be well aware of the ever-expanding disrespect for human life around us today. In its teachings and policies, the church attempts to address that tragedy, from life before birth to old age, and everywhere in between.

Our bodies are essential to our human lives. Anything that tends to minimize the sacredness of these bodies, even when that is not intended, must be acknowledged and addressed carefully.

Very briefly, this caring is, I believe, one major factor underlying the bishops' urgings for traditional burial, particularly in countries like ours where burial has a long, meaningful religious and cultural history.

That does not automatically rule out, of course, the choice for cremation, for financial or other reasons.

It is one evidence of our individual-centered morality, however, that moral choices too often are made without seriously considering how they might affect other people and society as a whole.

Second, it is not part of Catholic belief that our bodies after resurrection are the bodies we have had in this life.

There are numerous reasons for this. For one thing, in the ordinary physiology processes of living, our bodily makeup changes frequently, biologists generally say about every seven years, between birth and death.

Which "body" is my body? They all are. All have been "me."

For another, because of chemical transformations after natural or traumatic death, the cells of one's body may no longer even exist.

Again, through the natural food-chain processes, bodily material of people long dead may well become, later, part of other human bodies.

None of all this affects in a negative way our belief in the resurrection. As I've explained before, even after death the spiritual part of us, our "soul," is a human soul; it is not an angel.

As a human soul it must have a relationship to a body, not necessarily the body of our earthly life, but some body, transformed with those characteristics of the risen body St. Paul describes, for example, in 1 Corinthians 15.

See **Dietzen,** page 6

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

November: A Month of Celebrations

Early November is a special time for our family. Andrew's birthday is the 6th and Marty's feast day is the 3rd. Celebrating this feast day reminds us of the legacy into which Marty was born some 12 years ago. We retell the story of how his name was chosen, and remember anecdotal stories of when he was a baby.

We celebrate the feast of St. Martin de Porres and the anniversary of Marty's baptism. According to the liturgical calendar the actual feast day is Nov. 5. But our tradition stems back to 1966, the year of Andrew's confirmation when he chose as his patron saint Martin de Porres, a 16th-Century Dominican who was born out of wedlock in Lima, Peru, on December 9, 1579, to Don Juan de Porres, a Spanish nobleman and adventurer, and Ana Velasquez, a freed daughter of slaves from Panama. Nov. 3rd is, in fact, the day St. Martin de Porres died in 1639.

We also remember the life and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., another namesake. We remember our friend Martin Dumas, who died several years ago, and the work he and his wife, Helen, did with us early in our marriage ministry. We think about Martin Redd and his wife, Pat (who are Andrea's godparents), who also began with us a lifelong mission to bring the Good News to married and engaged couples.

We remember welcoming into our family circle Martin Perry Lyke, born in the season the Chicago Bears won the Super Bowl. By the time he was baptized, Marty was so big he was nicknamed Martin "The Refrigerator" Perry, after the Bears' acclaimed oversized defensive tackle. There was such an excitement in the air that winning season, bouncing "The Fridge" on our laps while watching "The Fridge" and company dominate the NFL.

We remember Father Tom McQuaid, Marty's godfather, struggling to hold Marty with one hand during the baptism, while Father Mike Pfleger preached. We remember the pride in 3-year-old Andrea's eyes as she welcomed her baby brother into our nest.

It's Marty's feast day. But, Nov. 3 is also a day of reflection for our family. We feast on the memories of good times gone-by. We reflect on the blessings of wonderful people who have graced our lives with their love and commitment. We showcase the lives of our Martins, saints who model for us how to live as Christians. And we celebrate each other with whom we make up our primary community of faith.

Your comments and personal reflections are appreciated. See our web site: http://members.aol.com/Lyke2Lyke/fmrflctn.html. Send e-mail to: lyke2lyke@aol.com, Fax: (708) 481-3501.

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Fitting Gift Options Into Existing Plans

By JIM KELLEY

CHARLOTTE — Likes, dislikes, concerns, potentials, and goals — each Catholic has their own individual ones. Yet all of us are united by the shared commitment to serve God, further Catholic principles, and help advance Christ's work here on earth.

The diversity of talents, energy, and resources every person possesses through our Lord's grace can serve to reinforce and strengthen the work of the Church. These resources of the human body and spirit should not be squandered — proper stewardship requires that we develop and use our talents in Christ's service.

A Wide Variety

Stewardship also requires wise and prudent use of our material possessions. As you consider making gifts in support of your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Foundation, or the Diocese of Charlotte, you may wish to look at the personal property you own and see which ones could be offered in lieu of cash. The variety of items that would make welcome gifts may be surprising!

Retirement plan proceeds and life insurance benefits, for example, may expand your giving options. So can stocks, certain bonds, and mutual funds. In fact, savings accounts represent an often-overlooked resource.

Of course, we do not suggest that you withdraw your savings and turn the proceeds over to the Church. This is simply additional information regarding a convenient and easily prepared method of charitable giving, one you quite possibly have not contemplated before.

Savings accounts carry various names, depending upon the specific bank, credit union, or savings and loan association used. "Passbook savings" and "money market savings" are two terms you probably already know. A certificate of deposit (CD) is another familiar vehicle for saving.

Assured Access and Rights

Without threatening either the security of your savings or ready access to your funds, you can create a beneficial gift to the Church. You retain the right to change your plans at any time — and for any reason — under this type of arrangement.

For example, you may be able to create what is sometimes known as a "trust savings account" when:

- You make a deposit in your bank, savings and loan, or credit union.
- You purchase a CD.

Under this agreement, you retain all rights to the principal in the account and to all income the account earns. When you no longer need the funds, whatever remains in the account can go to your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, Foundation or the Diocese of Charlotte.

A "Totten Trust" or "P.O.D." (Pay on Death) account may be loosely compared to owning your savings account jointly with your Church. You have full control and complete access during your lifetime, with any money remaining in the account at death going directly for Church use.

Ask a representative of your financial institution about available methods for naming a charitable beneficiary of your savings accounts, or contact me at the Diocesan Development Office, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003, (704) 370-6299

There's never any obligation or cost involved, and you may discover that gifts other than cash can unlock unexpected ways to further your faith and provide lasting Christian benefits in the Charlotte area and elsewhere.

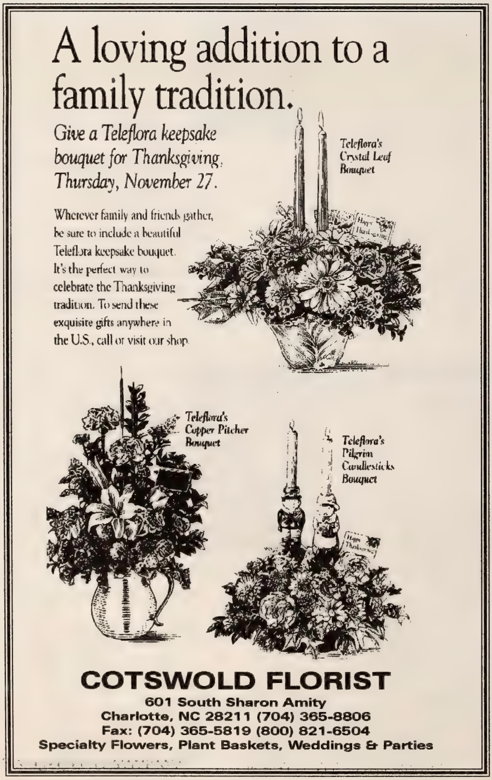
Dietzen, from page 5

Thus, the fact that the molecules and atoms of human bodies are spread throughout the earth, or the cosmos, is irrelevant to what we believe about the Father raising Jesus, and us, to new life.

This, incidentally, is the reason theologians often note that even if the dead body of Jesus had been found in the tomb, it would not deny the resurrection.

The tomb was empty, of course, as the Gospels attest. But Jesus was not merely resuscitated, as was Lazarus (John 11). Jesus' human nature was raised by the Father to a new, glorified, immortal existence.

Thus, the belief of the early Christians, and our own belief, that the Lord of creation lives, is founded on much



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Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Suplemento de The Catholic News and Herald

14 de noviembre de 1997

Festival Latinoamericano

Parte del público que asistió al festival. Foto Luis Wolf

Por LUIS A. WOLF

CHARLOTTE, NC –El pasado 12 de octubre tuvo lugar el VII Festival Latino Americano en los jardines del Museo de Arte Mint. Fue un éxito grandioso al que asistieron casi 15,000 personas.

Este año el festival fue organizado por la Coalición Latinoamericana, la Asociación de Mujeres Latinoamericanas y el Museo Mint.

En la celebración de apertura Pat McCrory, alcalde de Charlotte, y Park Helms, presidente de los comisionados del condado de Mecklenburg, leyeron una proclamación declarando el mes de la hispanidad del 18 de septiembre al 18 de octubre.

Después de la apertura hubo un desfile de las banderas de todos los países hispanoamericanos y de España y a continuación el público fue deleitado por un variado programa de música y bailes con la participación de grupos y personas profesionales y aficionados que duró toda la tarde.

Entre los participantes se encontraban el Grupo Cultural de Atlanta que interpretó danzas de varios países latinoamericanos y España. Los Hermanos Torres de Perú, que iban de regreso a su país después de una gira por Europa, hicieron escala en Charlotte para participar en el festival y deleitaron a los asistentes con su música y canciones. Otros de los participantes fueron el Grupo de Danzas Folklóricas de Rock Hill; el Grupo Azteca Ximalli, que vino de México e interpretó típicas danzas indígenas con típico y colorido vestuario; el grupo de bailes Viva Panamá; el grupo Brisas de México, el grupo folklórico Las Américas, el grupo Ritmos del Caribe y otros más que muy profesionalmente participaron en el festival.

Además del espectáculo artístico hubo quioscos culturales, de venta de comida, de venta y exhibición de artesanía, y de servicio comunitario. También hubo muchas actividades para los niños y el grupo de Teatro Tablas presentó cuatro comedias cortas en el auditorio del museo.

Foto Luis Wolf

Dos miembro del grupo de baile "Viva Panamá".

El Centro Católico de Charlotte exhibió los dibujos y planos de la iglesia que piensa construir y repartió caramelos y globos a los niños y estampas de la Madre Teresa a los mayores.

Fue un día magnífico para este tipo de evento al aire libre y una gran oportunidad para celebrar el Día de la Raza.

Foto Luis Wolf

Después de leer la proclamación declarando el mes de la hispanidad el comisionado Park Helms se dirige al público elogiando la influencia hispana en el condado de Mecklenburg. En la foto se encuentran de izquierda a derecha la Sra. Carmen Hilton, presidenta de la Asociación de Mujeres Latinoamericanas, Park Helms, presidente de la junta de comisionados del condado de Mecklenburg, Pat McCrory, alcalde de la ciudad y la Sra. Tere Vásquez , Presidenta de la Coalición Latinoamericana.

El cerebro bajo control

Por HECTOR ANDRADE

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Cuando el servicio meteorológico pronostica una tormenta eléctrica, hace ciertas recomendaciones para acatar las precauciones necesarias. ¿No es verdad?

La electricidad se emplea en muchos lugares. En el hogar se utiliza en toda la casa, hasta para controlar los aparatos electrónicos que son parte de la vida cotidiana y en el automóvil, gracias a la electricidad, se controla su sistema electrónico computarizado.

El cuerpo humano produce electricidad y cuando éste produce descargas eléctricas internas puede ocasionar serios trastornos al cerebro. Nadie puede predecir dichas descargas, sin embargo ya se pueden controlar.

Cuando el cerebro humano sufre las descargas eléctricas internas produce un ataque el cual se conoce como epilepsia.

Hace muchos años la persona que sufría de epilepsia era considerada como un ser que estaba posesionado por un espíritu maligno.

El siglo XX ha marcado cambios en diferentes campos. El de la medicina no ha sido la excepción y la electrónica juega un papel muy importante en todo esto, ayudando a quienes se dedican a la investigación científica.

El pasado mes de julio la Federal Drug Administration (FDA) aprobó un dispositivo llamado "Estimulador del Nervio Vagal" el cual es implantado en el pecho del paciente que sufre ataques de epilepsia. La función del dispositivo consiste en enviar señales al cerebro, para controlar las descargas eléctricas, a través del nervio vagal.

El dispositivo fue estudiado y puesto a prueba en el Institute of Epilepsy de Carolina del Norte, en la ciudad de Winston-Salem, por el doctor Penry y la doctora Dean en el año 1988.

La doctora Christine Dean explicó, durante la entrevista que nos concedió en el Institute of Epilepsy, que se realizan estudios antes de poder determinar si el paciente requiere el implante del dispositivo, conocido como "Estimulador del Nervio Vagal", el cual tiene un costo aproximado de $25,000 dólares.

El optimismo de la Dra. Dean se refleja en cada una de sus palabras al señalar el éxito que tuvieron con Toney Kincaid quien sufrió aproximadamente 600 ataques a la semana, durante un período de 10 años. Toney vivió una larga pesadilla, debido a que le era difícil continuar viviendo a base de los medicamentos que necesitaba para poder controlarle los ataques de

Continua en la página 3

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Queridos amigos y amigas:

En este mes de noviembre conmemoramos de modo especial a los santos, los que la Iglesia oficialmente nos presenta como modelos de seguimiento a Jesús y los de nuestras propias familias que sabemos fueron personas santa.

Jesús dijo: “Bienaventurados los pobres… los que lloran… los que trabajan por la paz… los perseguidos… porque de ellos es el Reino de los cielos”. ¡Bienaventurados, dichosos... .alégrense y salten de alegría porque el Reino de Dios es para ustedes! Y para todos los que se abran a Dios y se den al cuidado generoso de los demás y abandonen el egoísmo.

Los santos son alegres. Su vida es luz y sal, música y aroma de la raza humana. Ellos, en medio de la lucha, del desprecio o de la noche, conservaron el amor; no perdieron su parecido con Jesucristo. Ese parecido que habían recibido en el bautismo y que acrecentaron en el seguimiento.

Y los santos y santas son tan numerosos que nadie los podría contar. Y proceden de todas las naciones y razas, de todos los pueblos y lenguas y edades y oficios y siglos. Y son personas de carne y hueso y espíritu como nosotros, de tentaciones y luchas, abiertos a Dios y abiertos a las necesidades de sus prójimos. Y son miembros de nuestra familia cristiana, son nuestros padres y hermanos en la fe.

Pero, igual que ellos fueron llamados a ser seguidores de Jesús y a no dejarse corromper por las ambiciones de este mundo, así tú y yo… hemos sido llamados a vivir como Jesucristo, por la gracia de Jesucristo. ¡Lo que tantas y tantos han hecho, ¿no lo podremos hacer nosotros?

“Señor, danos tu Espíritu para que logremos vivir las Bienaventuranzas y, junto con los santos, nos reunamos contigo por los siglos de los siglos. Amén”.

Séptimo Mandamiento “No robarás”

Continuamos con los mandamientos de la Ley comentando sobre el séptimo mandamiento.

I
II
III
IV
V
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IX
X

Dios comparte con el hombre su dominio sobre las cosas y bienes terrenos a fin de que se sirva de todo ello para encontrar, con su inteligencia y trabajo, su completo desarrollo en el orden natural y sobrenatural. Y ya que todos somos criaturas e hijos suyos, este derecho es común a todos y nadie puede apropiarse de los bienes ajenos, sin violarlo. El *Séptimo Mandamiento* prohibe adueñarse injustamente de lo ajeno y perjudicar al prójimo en cualquier manera en sus bienes. En la observancia y aplicación individual y colectiva de este mandamiento, el hombre y la sociedad encuentran el justo orden económico que propicia un sano desarrollo y una existencia digna para todos los individuos.

Actitudes equivocadas. La desenfrenada pasión de poseer, que es el vicio de la *avaricia,* es la fuente envenenada donde nace toda clase de fraudes y engaños y mueren el amor a Dios y al prójimo, la justicia social y la solidaridad. La avaricia se empalma con: el *robo,* cuando se usurpa un bien ajeno contra la voluntad del legítimo dueño; la *rapiña,* cuando el robo se efectúa con medios violentos; la *estafa,* cuando para robar se recurre al engaño; la *usura,* cuando se roba aprovechando las graves necesidades ajenas; el *fraude,* cuando se falta a los compromisos asumidos; la *voracidad,* cuando únicamente se busca aumentar las propias ganancias; y, en fin, con todas esas sucias artimañas como son: aprovechar en propio beneficio los puestos que uno ocupa; cobrar por trabajos mal hechos; no pagar el justo salario a los empleados; dañar voluntariamente propiedades públicas o privadas; vender por buenos productos defectuosos o dañinos.

Hay que recordar que todo robo o injusticia conlleva el grave deber de la restitución y de la reparación.

Actitud cristiana. El verdadero cristiano utiliza y administra los bienes de la tierra como escalera para subir a Dios. Por lo mismo no pierde su vida apegando su corazón al dinero; tiene cuidado en evitar todo robo y toda injusticia; se gana la vida trabajando con honradez; no despilfarra su dinero en vicios o en lujos inútiles, sino que se sirve del mismo para sus necesidades y las de los suyos y ayudando, en lo posible, a los más pobres y necesitados, ayudando, en cuanto puede, a la construcción de un mundo más justo y más bello para todos,

(Comentario al Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica – Edición Española – con permiso de las Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo)

Fiesta de la Virgen de la Providencia

El próximo domingo, 16 de noviembre, se celebrará en el Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte la festividad de Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia, Patrona de Puerto Rico.

Se celebrará la Santa Misa comenzando con una procesión a las 12:00 del mediodía. Después de la Misa se servirá una comida típica puertorriqueña.

La devoción a Nuestra Señora de la Providencia comenzó en Puerto Rico a principios del año 1853, justamente al terminarse la construcción de la catedral que había comenzado tres siglos antes.

Con este motivo, el 2 de enero de dicho año, llegó de España una imagen de Nuestra Señora de la Providencia, cuyo recibimiento y traslado a la catedral fueron apoteósicos. La imagen fue recibida por el obispo Monseñor Gil Estévez.

La imagen contó con un altar en la Catedral de San Juan que estaba adornado con valiosas alhajas.

En 1892 se fundó la primera comunidad devota a la Virgen y su culto llegó a ser el más espléndido y brillante en Puerto Rico.

La devoción fue decayendo con el cambio político registrado en el país en 1898.

No obstante, la Virgen de la Providencia siguió siendo considerada Patrona de Puerto Rico y así aparece en la historia de la Santísima Virgen en España y América, publicada en 1903.

En 1913 y por orden del Obispado, se acuñó la primera medalla con la inscripción “Nuestra Señora de la Providencia - Patrona de Puerto Rico”.

En 1962, el entonces Papa Juan XXIII, la proclama Patrona de Puerto Rico y el 19 de noviembre de 1969 el Papa Pablo VI declara oficialmente a Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia patrona de Puerto Rico.

Papa y presidente argentino tratan sobre los derechos humanos en Cuba

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)

El Papa Juan Pablo II y el Presidente de la Argentina, Carlos Menem, trataron de la libertad religiosa y el cuadro conjunto de los derechos humanos en Cuba durante una reunión privada el 11 de octubre en el Vaticano.

El Presidente Menem, al hablar en una conferencia de prensa más tarde el mismo día, dijo que el Papa le había pedido que informara al presidente de Cuba, Fidel Castro, que la Iglesia necesita y espera una mayor libertad para funcionar en la isla del Caribe.

Un asunto especial planteado por el Papa se refería al pedido de la Iglesia de Cuba de autorización para el ingreso de 100 sacerdotes extranjeros a dicho país, a fin de ayudar a preparar la visita pastoral del Papa entre el 21 y el 25 de enero próximo.

El Presidente Menem dijo que él transmitiría las preocupaciones del Papa durante una conferencia inter-americana en Venezuela en noviembre próximo.

¡Despertad Pueblo Hispano!

Escuche todos los Domingos en el 1170

9:30 am-10:00am

de su Radio en AM el Programa de la Iglesia Católica

Bajo la conducción del Padre Vicente Finnerty, de la Diócesis de Charlotte

Si desea patrocinar el Programa, llame al (704)335-1281. Gracias.

Mensaje del presidente del
Comité de Obispos para Asuntos Hispanos del NCCB
con Motivo del Mes de la Herencia Hispana

12 de octubre de 1997

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Al conmemorar el Mes de la Herencia Hispana y el Día de la Raza de 1997, nos dirigimos a ustedes en un espíritu de celebración, esperanza y solidaridad. Celebramos con ustedes las muchas bendiciones que Dios ofrece a esta gran nación por medio del pueblo hispano/latino, un pueblo católico en su origen y mayoritariamente mestizo.

Compartimos con ustedes la esperanza de superar la discordia y los prejuicios que existen entre personas de distintas razas y orígenes nacionales en Estados Unidos. Como seguidores de Jesucristo y como obispos católicos, hemos sido llamados a ser pastores de la Iglesia del Señor. Vivimos este llamado desde nuestra experiencia y herencia cultural, la cual compartimos con los inmigrantes que sufren separación familiar y discriminación. Sabemos que muchas familias hispanas viven angustiadas a causa de las recientes reformas a la ley de inmigración y al sistema de asistencia pública *(welfare),* y al sentimiento anti-inmigrante que las promueve.

El grado de angustia ha disminuido gracias al trabajo exitoso de la comunidad católica y de otros grupos, quienes lograron persuadir al Congreso de restaurar el Ingreso de Seguridad Suplementaria (SSI) a los inmigrantes legales que residían en Estados Unidos al 22 de agosto de 1996. La restauración de estos beneficios representa un progreso substancial, pero todavía existe gran preocupación en otras áreas. El Congreso no ha abordado la prohibición continua de cupones de comida y ayuda en efectivo.

El debate actual sobre la inmigración. – La Iglesia ha reconocido, desde mucho tiempo atrás, el derecho y la responsabilidad de las naciones de regular sus fronteras para la promoción del bien común. (Homilía del Cardenal O'Connor, 21 de septiembre de 1997). Por otro lado, estamos conscientes de la transformación económica que se experimenta dentro y fuera del país y del incremento que provoca en los niveles de inmigración hacia Estados Unidos. La globalización de la economía ha generado mucha riqueza. Pero este crecimiento económico no ha beneficiado a millones de familias y, en muchos casos, ha contribuido a su desempleo y/o reducción de beneficios.

Desgraciadamente, éste y otros factores económicos y sociales no han sido analizados en profundidad. Tampoco se ha hecho un esfuerzo serio por buscar soluciones comunes al debate sobre la inmigración. Ante esta carencia, los nuevos inmigrantes han sido utilizados como 'chivos expiatorios' por razones políticas que los presentan como una carga social que invade al país. Esta descripción dista mucho de reflejar la complejidad de los hechos y niega los valores que dieron cuna a esta nación de inmigrantes.

El impacto negativo de leyes inadecuadas. — Hemos visto con tristeza y alarma la aprobación de iniciativas estatales como la Proposición 209 y la 187, en California, y las reformas a la ley de inmigración y a la asistencia pública, recientemente aprobadas por el Congreso. Los obispos de Estados Unidos hemos luchado en contra de estas reformas porque contienen elementos que afectan injustamente al inmigrante y al pobre, e ignoran el derecho inalienable que todo ser humano tiene de buscar una vida digna y feliz. Además, debilitan la red de seguridad que protege a las familias más vulnerables de nuestra sociedad y crean un ambiente de desconfianza y temor. A pesar de que dichas reformas han sido aprobadas, continuaremos nuestros esfuerzos para disminuir su impacto empobrecedor y desintegrador.

Estas leyes pueden tener un efecto devastador e incluso trágico para familias y niños. Es común encontrar personas con distintos estados migratorios dentro de un mismo hogar. La deportación causa estragos en la unidad familiar, deja desamparados económica y emocionalmente a algunos de sus miembros y limita las posibilidades legales de reunificación. La angustia sufrida es enorme y la carencia de lo más básico como comida, techo, salud y educación se hace más marcada y difícil. Además, estas familias deben enfrentar la discriminación, los prejuicios y el racismo alimentados por propagandas negativas. Esta realidad daña las fibras de la sociedad y, a la larga, afecta a cada uno de sus miembros, en mayor o menor grado.

La importancia de la participación en la vida civil y política. — Las leyes que rigen un país democrático como el nuestro, dependen de la voluntad y la participación ciudadana. Nos alegra el número creciente de inmigrantes hispanos que se han hecho ciudadanos de este país. Esperamos que muchos más den este importante paso en un futuro próximo. Participar en el proceso político y legislativo es esencial para los hispanos y para la población en general. Para ello contamos con la luz del Evangelio y la enseñanza social de la Iglesia. En ellas se basa el papa Juan Pablo II cuando afirma que la dignidad del ser humano y el bien común son los valores fundamentales de las relaciones sociales. "La democracia sirve a aquello que es verídico y correcto cuando salvaguarda la dignidad de cada persona, cuando respeta los valores inviolables e inalienables, cuando mantiene que el bien común es la finalidad y criterio para regular toda la vida pública y social." (Papa Juan Pablo II, Baltimore 1995)

Felicitamos a quienes, independientemente de su estado migratorio, participan en organizaciones civiles, parroquias y comunidades de fe, en ministerios a los más necesitados, incluyendo a los encarcelados; así como a las agencias gubernamentales dedicadas a servir a las comunidades inmigrantes. También nos alegra el surgimiento de cámaras de comercio hispanas, organizaciones laborales y políticas, y medios de comunicación que sirven a la comunidad hispana. Estos proyectos fortalecen a las familias y favorece su sana integración a la sociedad americana, enriqueciéndola.

Exhortamos a todos los pobladores de esta tierra, que sobre todo es de Dios, a que contribuyan a la búsqueda de un diálogo respetuoso y de soluciones adecuadas en el debate sobre inmigración y otros asuntos sobre política interior que vive el país. Al considerar prioridades económicas, les invitamos a hacer una opción preferencial por las familias que ahora sufren el yugo de la pobreza y la separación de sus seres queridos. Les pedimos que tomen en serio el cuestionamiento que Juan Pablo II dirigió al pueblo estadounidense en la ciudad de Nueva York, durante su visita en octubre de 1995; "¿Es que el pueblo de Estados Unidos está siendo menos sensitivo y menos atento hacia el pobre, el débil, el extranjero, el necesitado? ¡No puede ser así!"

Caminando unidos y con esperanza. — En este Mes de la Herencia Hispana y Dia de la Raza, queremos renovar nuestro compromiso solidario con ustedes, hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes. Nos comprometemos a continuar defendiendo su derecho a lograr una vida digna y feliz para sus familias; afirmar su presencia entre nosotros como una bendición; y reconocer las contribuciones que han hecho y harán para el crecimiento de la fe y la prosperidad de esta nación. Este compromiso se basa en la convicción de que somos "un solo cuerpo y un solo espíritu, pues al ser llamados por Dios, nos dio a todos la misma esperanza." (Efesios 4,4).

Como sus pastores, caminamos a su lado en tiempos de alegría y en tiempos de dificultad. La fe y la historia que nos unen son los mejores recursos para enfrentar los retos del presente y del futuro. Dios nos ha llamado a vivir en solidaridad unos con otros. Continuemos pues siendo levadura del reino de Dios en la tierra de Estados Unidos, que también es nuestra tierra. Para ello contamos con el amparo de Nuestra Santísima Madre María, quien trae consuelo y bendiciones para todos nosotros.

Reverendísimo Gerald R. Barnes
Obispo de San Bernardino
Presidente, Comité para Asuntos Hispanos

Dependencia de Naciones Unidas homenajea a monja estadounidense

GINEBRA, Suiza (CNS) — Una monja estadounidense recibió un galardón de una dependencia de las Naciones Unidas a mediados de octubre por su trabajo con los refugiados centroamericanos.

El Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados, Sadako Ogata, dió a la Hermana Joannes Klas, de 62 años de edad, miembro de la rama escolar de San Francisco, la Medalla Nansen de su Departamento y un premio de $100,000 en las oficinas principales de su dependencia.

La Hermana Klas, de Fredonia, Wisconsin, enseñó en las escuelas primarias y secundarias durante 20 años antes de ir a trabajar en un campamento para refugiados guatemaltecos en Honduras en 1982. En 1991, los refugiados le pidieron que regresara con ellos a Guatemala, donde ella ha trabajado desde entonces en programas comunitarios para ayudar a los regresados.

La Hermana Klas es la cuadragésima-quinta persona, y la quinta de los Estados Unidos, que haya recibido dicho galardón.

Viene de la página 1

epilepsia. Kincaid no podía mantener una conversación con su familia o bañarse si no era bajo supervisión.

"La vida de Toney Kincaid cambió por completo desde que tiene el implante. Ahora él tiene una vida normal y se siente muy feliz, desde luego continúa recibiendo atención médica en forma esporádica", dijo la doctora Dean. Toney Kincaid fue la primera persona en el mundo que recibió el implante, el cual tuvo lugar en 1989. Kincaid vive actualmente en la ciudad de Lexington, Carolina del Norte, llevando una vida con mayor tranquilidad.

La epilepsia es un desorden neurológico, considerado el segundo problema de salud en el mundo, que afecta alrededor de 50 millones de personas. Este desorden se caracteriza por alteraciones intermitentes en la función normal eléctrica del cerebro que provoca lo que se conoce como ataques epilépticos.

Christine Dean considera que "de acuerdo a los avances científicos y tecnológicos, aplicados a la medicina moderna, principalmente al sistema neurológico, se logre controlar el 100 por ciento de los ataques epilépticos en un futuro no muy lejano".

Es un hecho que aun falta por descubrir mucho de los enigmas que tiene el ser humano y que el cerebro sigue guardando infinidad de incógnitas por resolver. El siglo XXI está en puerta y seguramente veremos más avances de la ciencia.

Si desea información en español puede llamar al (910) 659-8205 y pregunte por David Bruce.

(Hector Andrade es natural de Ciudad México, trabaja como voluntario en el Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte, escribe par la "Voz de Carolina" y el "Universal" de México y contribuirá con futuros artículos en el "Comuniquémonos")

Pastor dice que funcionario de Coca-Cola estaba preparado a morir

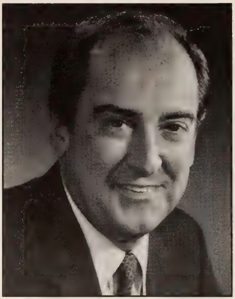

Foto CNS de Reuters

El funcionario ejecutivo principal de la Coca-Cola, Roberto Goizueta, fue recordado por su dedicación a la fe, la familia y el negocio durante su Misa de Funerales en la Iglesia del Espíritu Santo en Atlanta el 21 de octubre. El murió el 18 de octubre a la edad de 65 años como resultado de complicaciones de cáncer en los pulmones

ATLANTA (CNS) – El 21 de octubre en la Misa de Funerales de Roberto C. Goizueta, presidente de la junta de directores y funcionario ejecutivo principal de la Compañía Coca-Cola, su párroco dijo que "Goixueta se preparó para su muerte con la misma atención y el mismo detalle que él dedicaba a su trabajo".

Monseñor Edward Dillon, pastor de la Iglesia del Espíritu Santo, en Atlanta, fue el celebrante principal y homilista en dicha Misa. La Misa fue presidida por el Monseñor John F. Donoghue, Arzobispo de Atlanta.

Goizueta, de 65 años de edad, murió en el Hospital Universitario Emory el 18 de octubre como resultado de complicaciones del cáncer pulmonar, menos de seis meses después de habérsele diagnosticado esa enfermedad.

Goizueta, nacido el 18 de noviembre de 1931 en La Habana, Cuba, era hijo de un propietario de ingenio azucarero. Se graduó de la Universidad de Yale con un título de licenciatura en ingeniería química en 1953.

Al siguiente año respondió a un anuncio anónimo publicado en un periódico de La Habana, que procuraba un ingeniero químico, el cual había sido colocado por la Compañía Coca-Cola. Fue contratado por la Coca-Cola en 1954 como miembro de su división técnica en La Habana.

A continuación del apoderamiento de Fidel Castro en Cuba, Goizueta desertó a los Estados Unidos en 1961 con su familia, una maleta de viaje, $40 y 100 acciones del capital de Coca-Cola.

Se mudó de Miami a Atlanta en 1964 y trabajó en el departamento de investigación y desarrollo técnicos. Dos años después, fue electo vice-presidente de la empresa, llegando a ser la persona más joven que hubiera sido elegida alguna vez para ese cargo.

En mayo de 1980 fue elegido presidente y funcionario principal de operaciones de la compañía, y miembro de la junta de directores. El 1ro. de marzo de 1981, fue elegido presidente de la junta de directores y funcionario ejecutivo principal de la compañía. Durante su ejercicio, el valor de mercado de la empresa aumentó de $4,000 millones en 1981 a cerca de $150,000 millones actualmente.

Papa califica a Fátima de una de las mayores señales de los tiempos

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II dijo que la serie de apariciones marianas en Fátima, Portugal, se clasificaba como uno de los acontecimientos más importantes de este siglo.

La serie de apariciones que terminaron hace 80 años fue "una de las mayores señales" de los tiempos, "también porque anuncia en su mensaje muchas de las señales que siguieron y nos invita a seguir su llamado", dijo el Papa en una carta a Monseñor Serafim de Sousa Ferreira Silva, Obispo de Leiria-Fátima, Portugal. El mensaje, fechado el 1ro. de octubre, fue publicado en el Vaticano el 14 de octubre.

El Papa Juan Pablo dijo que el acontecimiento de Fátima "nos ayuda a ver la mano de Dios" aún en el siglo XX, con sus guerras y otras tragedias en masa.

Y mostró que, a pesar de "haberse separado a sí misma de Dios", a la humanidad se le ofreció la protección de

Confirmación

CHARLOTTE, NC – El sábado 15 de noviembre el Señor Obispo, Monseñor Guillermo Curlin, impondrá el sacramento de la Confirmación a un grupo de jóvenes durante la Misa de las 7 de la noche en el Centro Católico Hispano.

Virgen de Guadalupe

CHARLOTTE, NC – El domingo 14 de diciembre, en el Centro Católico de Charlotte, se celebrará la fiesta de la Virgen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patrona de México y las Américas, cuya fiesta este año cae el viernes 12. Comenzará temprano en la mañana con las tradicionales "mañanitas" a la Virgen, seguido de la celebración de la Santa Misa a las 10:00. Para más información llamar al Centro al (704) 335-1281.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO *St. Joseph*, 326 S. Park St. (910) 629-0221	todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE *St. Eugene*, 1 Culvern St. (704) 254-5193	todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE *Our Lady of the Americas,* 105 Hayde Rd. (910) 428-3051	todos los sábados 5 pm los domingos 11 am y 2 pm confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE *Sacred Heart,* Main St. & Summit	3er. domingo del mes 6 pm
CHARLOTTE *Centro Católico Hispano* Shenandoah Ave.y The Plaza (704) 335-1281	todos los sábados 7 pm confesiones 6:15-6:45 pm los domingos 10:30 am y 7 pm confesiones 9:45-10:15 am
DOBSON *Sagrado Corazón*, Rt. 601 (910) 632-8009	todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY *Immaculate Conception,* 1024 W. Main St. (704) 245-4017	todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA *St. Michael*, 708 St.Michael's Ln. (704) 867 6212	3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO *St. Mary*, 812 Duke St., (910) 272-8650	todos los domingos 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE *Immaculate Conception*, 208 7th. Ave.W.. (704)693-6901	todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT *Cristo Rey,* 1505 East Kivett Dr. (910) 884-0244	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
JEFFERSON *San Francisco de Asis,* Main y Ivy (910) 246-9151	2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS *St. Joseph,* 108 St.Joseph St.	todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE *Holy Cross,* 616 S.Cherry St. (910) 996-5109	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
LENOIR *St. Francis of Assisi,* 1025 College Ave. SW (704) 754-5281	3er. sábado del mes 7 pm
LINCOLNTON *St. Dorothy,* 148 St.Dorothy's Lane (704) 735-5575	todos los domingos 12 pm
MONROE *Our Lady of Lourdes,* Deese y Franklin Streets	todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON *St. Charles Borromeo,* 714 W. Union St. (704) 437-3108	todos los domingos 5 pm
MOUNT AIRY *Holy Angels,* 1208 North Main St. (910) 786-8147	todos los domingos 6 pm
NEWTON *St. Joseph,* 720 West 13th. St., (704) 464-9207	todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO *St. John Church,* 275 C.C. Wright School Rd. (910)838-5562	1er., 3er., 5to. domingo del mes 6 pm
REIDSVILLE *Holy Infant,* 1042 Freeway Dr., (910) 342-1448	todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY *Sacred Heart,* 128 N.Fulton St. (704) 633-0591	todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA *St.Francis of Rome,* Hendrix Rd. (910) 372-8846	1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE *St. Phillip the Apostle,* 525 Camden Dr (704) 872-2579	1er. domingo del mes 2 pm
TAYLORSVILLE *Holy Trinity,* 665 W. Main Ave. (704) 632-8009	do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE *Our Lady of the Highways,* 943 Ball Park Rd. (910)475-2732	todos los domingos 12 pm
WINSTON-SALEM *Our Lady of Mercy,* 1919 S. Main St. (704) 722-7001	todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE *Christ the King,* U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd. (910) 463-5533	todos los domingos 12 pm

Church Divided Cannot Witness Reconciliation To World

WASHINGTON (CNS) — *Here is the text of the presidential address by Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland to the fall general meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference Nov. 10 in Washington.*

I. Church As Sign of Unity and Reconciliation

As we approach the millennium jubilee, the church is being called to a spirit of repentance and reconciliation. The Holy Father who has, many times now, asked forgiveness of those who have been harmed by some of the church's actions, serves as our model in responding to this call.

A spirit of reconciliation is not only "good for the soul," as we say; it is the essence of our being Christ's disciples and our ability to carry out the mission which the Lord gave into our care.

The Second Vatican Council describes the church as the sacrament of the unity of humanity. In the church people of every language and background meet to become a living sacrifice of praise and a reminder that there is only one human family with God as our Father.

However, a church which lacks within a spirit of reconciliation can hardly confront the forces of division that obscure humanity's sense of unity. A church which is not at peace with itself acts as a countersign. It is no longer an impelling witness to the imperative which calls humanity to reconcile its animosities. As church members resist the call to be reconciled with one another, they become an excuse why others need not be reconciled.

The imperative for reconciliation is not hard to resist. Reconciliation is not an abstraction which an individual can profess at little personal cost. It is an act of acceptance of others and, even more daunting, a request to be accepted. It is a confession of fault and an attempt to understand the faults of others. It offers trust where previously there may have been only mistrust. The fullness of reconciliation, following the example of Christ, is an offer of love toward even those who seem unlovable. As St. Paul says, "God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Rom 5:8). This is the measure that we are given by which to judge the generosity of our own spirit of reconciliation.

On more than one occasion we have discussed how we can teach our people more effectively, asking ourselves, for example, whether our statements ought to be fewer in number or briefer or written in more accessible language or format. While such discussions are always appropriate, we need also to question ourselves at a level deeper than what might be called the level of tactics. We need to ask about fundamentals, such as, "Do we truly manifest a spirit of reconciliation and unity among ourselves which inspires our people and which is necessary if the church in the United States is to fulfill its evangelical mission?"

II. The Spirit of Harmony Within The Conference

As far as our conference goes, my own answer is largely in the affirmative. We share a true unity of faith and respect for one another. Our disagreements are over matters which, though very important in themselves, are not matters of core belief. Even these disagreements, whether in public or in private, are usually free of bitterness, personal antagonism, or mistrust. If there is any pitfall, it may be that our mutual respect and civility can be taken as bland indifference to the impact that our discussions and decisions have on those we shepherd.

Our preference for unity over partisanship is foreign to a world whose experience is of leaders who often feel the need to emphasize their differences, even to the point of divisiveness, to make a personal impression. In such a world a distinctive witness in favor of unity, harmony, and reconciliation risks coming across as unreal or false or perhaps even as a compromise with principle. To use Mark Twain's exhortation to do right, we can only hope that if we maintain this witness, it will succeed, at least, in gratifying some and astonishing all the rest.

Bishop Anthony M. Pilla

III. Lack of Harmony in the Church, Liturgy as First Example

I cannot give the same affirmative answer when I look at the wider church. While the church's daily life is far less polarized than some seem to want the public to believe, both the image and the experiences of polarization that do exist take their toll and act as obstacles to preaching the Gospel effectively.

As a result we have an imperative for reconciliation. Without question, this imperative exists where matters, important as they are, do not necessarily involve doctrine or authoritative teaching. A good example of this imperative can be seen in many liturgical matters. It is no secret that some find the irritants that alienate them, paradoxically, in the church's ultimate unifying act of the liturgy. Worship is a deeply sensitive matter. If anything has strained even this body's civility in recent years, it has involved the liturgy.

Those with differing views on the liturgy, whether about its celebration or the creation of the proper environment for worship, must deal with these matters not across a chasm of misunderstanding but together, side by side. Essential to true reconciliation within the church is the principle that being Catholic is not a purely personal and subjective matter, but is something that involves accepting church teaching and practice as the expression both of something that must be deeply personal but which also transcends the personal.

With regard to the liturgy, all Catholics can certainly agree that we have one primary goal for it: that it be the best possible experience of the prayer of the church that it can be. From this reconciling principle, we can restore the liturgy to its pre-eminent place as the source of reconciliation, if we have the wisdom of the scribe "instructed in the kingdom of heaven" who is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom things old and new (cf. Mt 13:52).

IV. Three Other Imperatives for Reconciliation

There are many examples of areas in which the imperative for reconciliation must be responded to, such as church governance and the proper respect for the diverse roles of clergy, religious, and laity. However, there are three in particular about which I would like to speak.

The first imperative for reconciliation surrounds the way in which some public discussion of issues takes place in the church. Across the spectrum of church opinion there are some very angry voices who apparently feel justified in using a rhetoric of violence toward whoever disagrees with them. It is hard to believe that any matter of importance is well served in its defense by language which demeans its user as well as its target. The ministry of reconciliation with which the church has been entrusted is not witnessed too well by those who claim to be sincere Catholics and at the same time act like bullies.

In another era when rhetoric was getting out of hand, Pope Benedict XV wrote, in his first encyclical, that a society's success depends on "the concord of its members." He also wrote that in some circumstances, where differences of opinion did not harm the faith or church discipline, there was room for such differences, expressed in ways that did not offend against charity.

Quite forcefully, Benedict asked Catholics not to use "epithets" or "distinctive names" to mark themselves off from other Catholics. He urged that it is enough for each Catholic to say "Christian is my name, Catholic is my surname," as long as it could be said truly. Useful advice to us, today, who are faced with a veritable encyclopedia of epithets by which Catholics mark themselves off or are marked off from one another.

The second imperative for reconciliation which I wish to raise involves reconciliation with those who have been in any way hurt by ministers of the church, especially clergy. I am thinking especially of those who have been victims of sexual abuse. We have tried to say, with both word and action, how deeply we grieve with those who have been victimized. Clearly we need regularly to renew our message. We bishops regret deeply the harm that has been done to children and young people and which remains with them in adulthood. For those who wish to accept it, we offer them our pastoral care and concern; and, for the sake of their peace of mind and that of all Catholics, we pledge our continuing and constant vigilance in preventing such abuse in the future.

The third imperative is the polarization which takes place around matters of doctrine or, at least, authoritative teaching. Striving for reconciliation in these matters cannot be permitted to obscure the clarity of the faith. However, to give up on the striving may involve a failure to imitate the example of the Good Shepherd who left the 99 to find the one who was no longer with the flock.

In some of these matters, those who doubt and even dissent from what the church teaches invoke the same fundamental Gospel premises to justify their position as do we who teach the faith in its fullness. Because of this, perhaps we can hope that there is some basis for persuading them to regain their respect for all that the church teaches.

Here again I offer the principle that being Catholic is not a personal and subjective matter alone but involves accepting all of church teaching and practice and, with regard to both doctrine and practice, the right and duty of the pope and the bishops to teach, to guide, and to ask for, and insist on, adherence to both. Reconciliation not based on the truth, however difficult the truth may be to accept at the moment, will not be full and lasting reconciliation.

At the same time, the truth must be spoken in love. In this sense, even with issues of doctrine, we must try to talk not across a chasm but side by side. At a minimum, wherever there is a sincere desire to respect the Gospel, there is no room for the angry voices and the violent language about which I have already spoken. Some would claim that Jesus himself said that he came to bring not peace but the sword and that Christianity has a long tradition of polemics, going back to the New Testament authors. However, until we are as perfect as Jesus or as inspired as the authors of the New Testament, the better guide for us is the painful history of the divisions among Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant. This history has taught us the damage done by allowing authentic theological disputes to mushroom into personal and communal hatreds. Christians have been working for most of this century to undo these hatreds and their remnants, and it has not been an easy project.

Similar hatreds — and I do not think that "hatred" is too strong a word — which are spurred on by dismissive and judgmental remarks about church leaders and their motives or by attacks by those who say they are defending or challenging the faith on the moral character of others with whom they have intellectual differences — have no place, on the threshold of the new millennium, among us who wish to enter it proudly proclaiming ourselves Catholic.

See **NCCB Presidential**, page 9

Agreement, from page 1

church has jurisdiction over its organizations, secures its property rights and enables the church to undertake litigation in Israeli courts. It specifies that canon law applies to internal conflicts in church organizations in Israel.

Before the advent of the agreement, the church's rights were determined by a series of overlapping rules and regulations, some dating to the Ottoman Empire, the British Mandate era and the period of Jordanian rule over part of Jerusalem.

Work on the document began after the Dec. 30, 1993, signing of the Fundamental Agreement between Israel and the Holy See establishing diplomatic relations. But when national elections in 1995 toppled the Labor government, which had entered negotiations on the document, the agreement was stalled.

At a Nov. 10 briefing in Rome, Israel's ambassador to the Vatican, Aharon Lopez, denied allegations that the government of Benjamin Netanyahu had deliberately delayed signing the document.

"Nothing can be farther from the truth than such a claim," Lopez said, explaining that government authorities "needed time to study the document ... in order to be able to answer intelligently questions regarding the agreement."

Lopez called the document "a very important milestone in the history of relations between the Holy See and Israel."

Asked whether it would help lay the groundwork for a papal visit to Israel, the ambassador said, "the question should be addressed to the Holy See."

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters the document would have no effect on realizing the pope's often-expressed wish to visit Israel, adding, "that depends on a decision of the Holy Father."

The spokesman and the Israeli ambassador said the issue of jurisdiction over Jerusalem was never intended to be addressed in the new agreement. Because this is a central matter in the Middle East peace process, Navarro-Valls added, it was "multilateral instead of bilateral," and therefore not subject to a discussion between the Vatican and Israel alone.

The document applies only to areas where Israeli law is in effect. Although it ensures the legal status of "new dioceses, wholly in Israel," it says that the status of any new "cross- border diocese" would be "left open." It draws no distinction between the borders shared by Israel and other countries and the border that divides Israel and the area administered by Palestinian authorities.

In a statement to the media, the Vatican noted that its representatives in the past had expressed "perplexity and growing concern" over interruptions in negotiations on the agreement, which was now welcomed "with satisfaction."

The agreement was to be submitted to Israeli government ministers for ratification, then placed before the legislature, the Knesset, for implementation.

The Vatican and Israeli officials pointed out that matters concerning economic relations between the Catholic Church and the state were to be addressed in a future agreement.

Contributing to this story was Lynne Weil in Rome.

Visit Called Encouraging For Catholic-Orthodox Relations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than halfway through his monthlong visit to the United States, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople has already given "great encouragement" to Catholic-Orthodox dialogue here and internationally, according to Cardinal William H. Keeler. The Baltimore archbishop, who hosted the Orthodox Christian leader early in his Oct. 19-Nov. 17 U.S. visit, told Catholic News Service in a phone interview Nov. 5 that Patriarch Bartholomew has said "some wonderfully affirming things" about Catholic-Orthodox relations during the trip.

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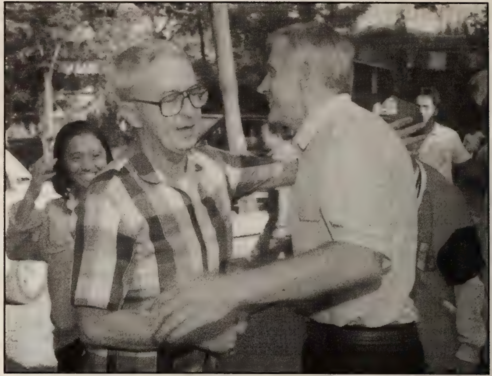

CNS photo from Reuters

Columbian Priest Freed In Southern Philippines

Irish Columban Father Desmond Hartford (right) is welcomed by Father Trunk Krantz, vice superior of the Columban order, after Muslim guerrillas freed Hartford in the southern Philippines, Nov. 8. The missionary priest, who has been working to promote harmony among Christians and Muslims, was held captive for 12 days in a mountain hideout.

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Bernardin Among Those Remembered At Mass

By LYNNE WEIL

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago was among the cardinals, archbishops and bishops remembered as generous and tireless apostles in a special Mass at the Vatican Nov. 11.

Presiding on behalf of Pope John Paul II, who canceled his participation in the hours leading up to the annual Mass, was Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops.

Cardinal Gantin praised the seven members of the College of Cardinals and numerous archbishops and bishops who have died in the last 12 months and prayed that they would receive "the celestial prize promised to all good and faithful servants."

ST. THERESE, THE LITTLE FLOWER

Therese Martin was born to Louis Martin and Zelie Guerin on January 2, 1873. At the age of 15, she entered the Carmelite convent at Lisieux, France. With the religious name of Sr. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, she lived a hidden life of prayer. She was gifted with great intimacy with God. Through sickness and darkness, she remained faithful, rooted in God's powerful love. She died on September 30, 1897, at the age of 24.

The world came to know her autobiography, "The Story of A Soul." She described her life as " a little way of spiritual childhood." She lived each day with unshakable confidence in God's love. What matters in life is "not great deeds, but great love."

The inspiration of her life and powerful presence from heaven touched so many people so quickly that she was solemnly canonized on May 17, 1925 by Pope Pius XI. Had she lived, she would have only been 52 years old at the time of her canonization.

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESE

O Glorious St. Therese, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and inspire the human family, I implore your Miraculous Intercession. You are so powerful in obtaining every need of body and spirit from the Heart of God. Holy Mother Church proclaims you "Prodigy of Miracle.... the Greatest Saint of Modern Times." Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition and to carry out your promises of *spending Heaven doing good upon earth... of letting fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses.* Little Flower, give me your childlike faith, to see the Face of God in the people and experiences of my life, and to love God with full confidence. St. Therese, my Carmelite Sister, I will fulfill your plea "to be made known everywhere" and I will continue to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen.

"I will let fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses" — St. Therese

NCCB Presidential Address, from page 7

V. The Ministry of Reconciliation for the Sake of the World

Our responsibility to carry on the ministry of reconciliation does not extend solely to church matters. We wish also to be instruments of reconciliation within society. We are well aware of the tensions which divide Americans. Racism, as some recent events in the news all too brutally remind us, still thrives in many hearts. The spirit of America seems to have grown less generous in sharing its bounty with the poor person or the immigrant. Our politics often prefers division for short-term political gain over creating a sense of the ways in which we need one another and are not simply groups of opposing "interests." Americans are even becoming divided by age, as worry grows about just how secure Social Security will be into the next century and young people ponder whether they will share in it at all.

Important social issues divide the nation to the extent that people talk of "a culture war" among differing groups. The relationship between church and state is once again a source of dispute as religious people feel that our beliefs and feelings are not as fully respected as they ought to be.

When we consider such an array of challenges to the harmony of society, reconciliation within the church becomes even more pressing. As the sacrament of the unity of humanity, the Lord has called his disciples to be the light that shines for the whole household, the city on the mountaintop that cannot be hidden, the salt that flavors the world with the spirit of peace and reconciliation. "But if the salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under foot" (Mt 5:13). The world cannot bring the spirit of reconciliation to the church. It must be the other way around. For the sake of the world, we must not lose our flavor; not become a waning light.

VI. Conclusion

As Catholics it is our rightful boast that we believe in church with a capital "c." We believe in it as the communion of saints spread out through space and time. We believe in it as one body whose head is Christ and whose members, diverse as they are, are nourished at the one table by the one bread and the one cup. We have also treasured a sense of intimacy within this universal vision, believing that millions whom we do not and will never know are our brothers and sisters. Through a commitment to reconciliation, the church can live up to this tremendous vision and help the world to see what we see and to know that it is a vision not only of God's will for church but also for the entire human family.

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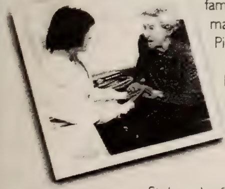

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Diocesan News Briefs

Family Educators

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, western North Carolina's Catholic home school support group, meets each third Friday for a family potluck meal at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Lawrence Basilica Laurentine Hall. Call Sheryl Oligny, (704) 298-0336, for more information.

Georgetown Chair Visits

CHARLOTTE — Dr. Anthony Tambasco, chairman of theology at Georgetown University, presents the discussion "The Jesus of the Gospels and the Christ of Faith" Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Peter Church. All are welcome.

NFP Session Canceled

CHARLOTTE — The introductory session of Natural Family Planning held each third Thursday at the Catholic Center is suspended until further notice. For details, call Cathy, (704) 364-3348, or Carmen, (704) 663-6411.

Memorial Mass

CHARLOTTE — A memorial Mass for those whose spouses have died is Nov. 16 at 2:30 p.m. in St. Gabriel Church. Candles may be lit in the sanctuary beginning at 2 p.m., and a reception follows the Mass. Call B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047, ext. 212, for more information.

Healing Service

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Respect Life office sponsors a healing and reconciliation service for women and men affected by abortion Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. Father Ed Sheridan, pastor, and Dr. Martha Shuping, a psychiatrist, are the featured speakers. For more information, call Maggi Nadol, (704) 331-1721, or Dr. Shuping, (910) 659-1342.

Homosexual Ministry Founding Director Visits

CHARLOTTE — Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father John Harvey, theologian, author and founding director of the Catholic ministry for homosexuals called Courage, addresses the church's teachings on homosexuality and provides information on Courage Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Patrick School cafeteria.

Ecumenism Program

HAMLET — Father George Kloster, pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, presents an adult education program on ecumenism Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in St. James Church. All area Christian ministers have been invited. The history of ecumenism and how it is alive within the Diocese of Charlotte today will be discussed. For more information, call (910) 582-0207.

Charismatic Mass

HIGH POINT — Charismatic Mass is celebrated each third Thursday in Maryfield Nursing Home's chapel at 7:30 p.m.

Jesuit House of Prayer

HOT SPRINGS — "12 Steps to Wholeness," a retreat for recovering alcoholic men, is Nov. 21-23 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Space is limited to 17 participants, and early registration is requested. For registration or information, call (704) 622-7366, or Don at (423) 483-7850.

Living Waters Reflection Center

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Great Women of the Church" is a Nov. 21-23 retreat directed by Father Eric Houseknecht focusing through lecture, discussion, reflection and prayer on the many unique contributions to the church made by women. Cost is $90. For registration or information, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, (704) 926-3833.

Thanksgiving Dinner

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts a free Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner Nov. 27 in the parish's Holy Family Center from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for anyone in the Newton-Conover area wanting to spend the holiday with others, especially those who cannot afford a holiday meal. To ensure that enough food will be prepared, call (704) 464-9207 for reservations. Meals will also be delivered to those unable to come to the church, and transportation will be available. Call the above number for details.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Lending a helping hand.... Members of the St. Gabriel Parish Men's Club and the St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus Council #7343 recently pitched in after a brick wall collapsed in the backyard of the bishop's residence in Charlotte's Dilworth neighborhood. Pictured from left are Knights John G. Sell, John A. Sell, and Mike Horeth with Jordan and Madison Horeth.

Advent Program

NORTH WILKESBORO — St. John the Baptist de la Salle Church presents an Advent program from 10-11 a.m. each Sunday from Nov. 30-Dec. 21. The movie "Jesus of Nazareth" will be shown in four segments and will be discussed with the use of a Biblical study guide. Refreshments will be served.

Parish Bazaar, Lunch

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church hosts a parish bazaar and gumbo lunch Nov. 19 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in Helfrich Hall. Highlights include handmade crafts and holiday decorations, baked goods, prizes and food. A traditional gumbo lunch is served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and take-out orders are available. Call the church office, (704) 633-0591, for orders. Proceeds from the bazaar, sponsored by the parish's Catholic Daughters of America court, benefit parish programs and the school.

Widowed, Separated, Divorced Support

SYLVA — The parishes and missions of the Smoky Mountain vicariate are forming a support group for those who are widowed, separated, divorced, or with new or unresolved grief. The first meeting is at St. Mary Church's Fellowship Hall on Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.; meetings are scheduled for each third Friday afterward. Call the church office, (704) 586-9496, or Mary and Chuck Brogan, (704) 497-9452, for details.

Around The Diocese

Ecumenical, Interfaith Events

ASHEVILLE — The Fifth Annual World AIDS Day Interfaith Healing Service is Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. in Central United Methodist Church.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin co-presides at Charlotte's annual World AIDS Day ecumenical healing service on Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. in St. Peter Episcopal Church at 7th and North Tryon Streets.

GREENSBORO — The 15th Annual Ecumenical Celebration of Thanksgiving sponsored by the Piedmont Interfaith Council is Nov. 23 at 3 p.m. in Dana Auditorium, Guilford College, featuring the Triad Tapestry Children's Chorus, Irish Riverdancers, Shofar Chorus, faith banners, and African drum and dance ensemble. Admission is free. Call (910) 274-6051.

Eucharistic Adoration

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at St. Gabriel Church. Call Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for more information.

Eucharistic adoration is at St. Matthew Church each Friday after the 9 a.m. Mass and lasting until the 9 a.m. Saturday Mass. Call Pat Gundaker, (704) 366-9687, or Bernice Hansen, (704) 846-2958, for details.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Maryfield Nursing Home Chapel. For details, call Joe or Mary Lanham, (910) 454-4551.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts eucharistic adoration Fridays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. First Friday adoration follows the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasts until 10 p.m.

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

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World And National News Briefs

CNS photo from Reuters

Palestinian students from Bethlehem University, run by the Christian Brothers, show Nov. 7 how they believe Israeli jailers abuse Palestinian prisoners. Hundreds of students gathered to watch the demonstration that included the symbolic burning of Israeli flags.

Study Finds Older Churches Fill Needs, Struggle With Upkeep

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Often decaying but nevertheless vital, older churches and synagogues were hailed as essential resources to their communities, based on a survey of such congregations in six cities. The study "Sacred Places at Risk," illustrated statistically what the staff and volunteers of active congregations have long known, said William J. Bennett, co-director of Empower America and co-chair of the National Commission on Civic Renewal at a recent press conference. "It is extraordinary that we have to restate that such churches are valuable to the community," Bennett said. Nevertheless, it will be helpful to have the research by the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work to prove it, he added.

Crucifix Campaign Focuses on Georgetown's Catholic Identity

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A student-led campaign to hang a crucifix in every classroom at Georgetown University in Washington has energized an ongoing dialogue about the school's religious identity, according to the university's new chaplain. Franciscan Father Adam Bunnell, in his first year at the Jesuit-run university, told Catholic News Service Nov. 4 that "religious symbolism is a complex issue," as Georgetown is both "Catholic and interfaith." Father Bunnell said the university response to the student campaign is "to welcome the enthusiasm and certainly the debate, and to say we are moving to take all of it into consideration." Georgetown is the oldest Catholic university in the country. According to a university spokesman, there currently are crucifixes in about 40 percent of the university's classrooms, mainly in the older, historic buildings.

New Book Says Shroud of Turin Is Authentic

ROME (CNS) — A new book says the Shroud of Turin is neither a medieval fake nor a miraculous relic, but the natural, chemically produced image of the crucified Christ. The author, Swiss archeologist Maria Grazia Siliato, said recent photo-computer analysis reveals a series of inscriptions on the cloth identifying the man as "Jesus-Nazarene." "This represents archeological evidence that, on the cloth covering his body, the Roman authorities certified his identity, the death sentence and the fact that it was carried out," she said at a book presentation in Rome Oct. 30. Her book is called "Shroud: The Mystery of the Image of 2,000 Years."

Polish National Catholic Clergy Seek Roman Catholic Communion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Officials of the Roman Catholic Church and Polish National Catholic Church discussed a PNCC clergy proposal to seek full communion with Roman Catholicism during a dialogue Oct. 28-29. PNCC participants informed their Roman Catholic counterparts that the PNCC priests and bishops passed a resolution in June calling for restoration of full unity with the Roman Catholic Church. The resolution is to be brought up for a vote next year at the general synod. The synod, a national gathering every four years of bishops, priests and elected lay representatives, is the PNCC's highest decision-making body.

Louisiana Bishops Respond To State's Covenant Marriage Act

BATON ROUGE, La. (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Louisiana said Catholic ministers may accept either the state's standard or covenant civil marriage license but may not give pre-marital instruction on divorce laws. In a pastoral statement released, the bishops also said that all couples requesting a Catholic marriage in Louisiana dioceses will continue to be required to complete the marriage preparation program currently in use. The bishops' statement is a response to the Covenant Marriage Act that took effect Aug. 15, making Louisiana the first state in the nation to approve a covenant marriage license option. This option allows divorce only in cases of abandonment, adultery or abuse, or if a spouse is convicted of a felony.

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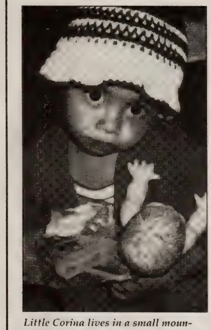

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Card No. ______ Exp. Date
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Parish Profile

St. Helen Church

St. Helen Church
Dallas-Spencer Mountain Road
Gastonia, N.C.
(704) 824-4857

Vicariate: Gastonia

Pastor: Father Richard Hokanson

Mass Schedule: Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Number of parishioners: 120

Number of households: 48

SPENCER MOUNTAIN — The Catholic church in Spencer Mountain placed under the patronage of St. Helen was built in the mid-1910s, but it was from the 19th-century shadows of the Benedictine monastery at Belmont that this mission was born.

Abbot-Bishop Leo Haid, the Benedictine abbot at Belmont and vicar apostolic of North Carolina, directed the building of St. Benedict Church just south of the abbey to serve the black Catholic population in the area. But with the building of the abbey church in the early 1890s, most St. Benedict parishioners assimilated into that new church community.

St. Joseph Church near Mount Holly — the oldest existing Catholic church in western North Carolina, built in 1843 — became a mission for black Catholics for a brief period as well.

By the mid-1910s, Benedictine Father Michael McInerney, a renowned architect, was designing plans for a new church to be built in Spencer Mountain, north of the abbey. The site for the church — and, in part, its inspiration — came from Robert Gardin, a former Baptist who in his younger days converted to Catholicism after having a dream in which St. Peter himself called on Gardin to continue his faith journey by way of the Catholic Church.

Local lore? Perhaps, but Gardin's conversion is said to have brought hundreds of friends, neighbors and family members — including eight siblings — into the church. With Gardin's enthusiasm and Father McInerney's plans, the red-brick church was constructed.

Benedictine Father Melchior Reichert, one of the original monks who traveled from Pennsylvania to help establish Belmont Abbey, was the first priest assigned to St. Helen Church. He later founded St. Joseph School for black children in nearby Dallas.

By the mid-1930s, when Abbot Vincent Taylor began his pastorate of the abbey and its territory, the black parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly had transferred to St. Helen Church. The school in Dallas was closed as well.

The Spencer Mountain church would remain in the care of the Benedictines for decades to come, and except for the period from 1926-34, when St. Helen's was a weekend assignment, there was a regular ministerial presence there.

The nullius territory of Belmont Abbey was partitioned in 1960, placing St. Helen Church under the administration of the Raleigh Diocese. The church became a mission of Queen of the Apostles in Belmont, another of many parishes established with the help of the missionary zeal of the nearby Benedictines.

In November of 1991, the Benedictine pastorate officially ended in Spencer Mountain, and the church there became a mission of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, with Father George Kloster serving as pastor of the two communities.

With the diocesan landscape growing and changing during the 1990s, the mission was again placed in the care of Queen of the Apostles in July of 1995. In addition to his priestly duties in Belmont, Father Richard Hokanson, pastor, also ministers to the almost 50 households composing the Spencer Mountain church family.

Through Benedictine cultivation and ancestral heritage, St. Helen Church conveys in its mission statement a dedication to tradition — that of the church and of African and African-American culture.

Employment Opportunities

Minister of Music / Pastoral Musician / Organist:

Established, growing downtown parish of 950 families desires a full-time minister of music / pastoral musician / organist. Wonderful opportunity to enhance present programs and vitalize new ones. Willingness to collaborate with present musicians and staff a must. Must be competent in organ / keyboard. Familiarity with pre- and post-Vatican II music and liturgical styles necessary. Responsibilities include: choir direction and development; cantor training, resourcing parish musical programs. Degree in music or liturgy or both a plus. Benefits and salary commensurate with experience and training. Resume and references to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA 24504 (804) 846-5245; Fax (804) 846-7022.

Production Associate:

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD has an opening for a part-time production associate. Candidate will be proficient with Pagemaker 6.5 (a PC environment preferred) and Photoshop 4.0. Position involves layout and pre-press of weekly newspaper. Graphic design experience helpful. Please forward layout / design samples and resume to: THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD, P.O. 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237, or e-mail CNHNEWS @ AOL.COM.

Facilities Assistant needed:

St. Matthew Church — Duties include maintenance, janitorial and grounds keeping. For further information, please contact Jim Nass, Facilities Manager at 543-7677 ext. 33., 8:30 - 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

Music Teacher / Organist:

Provide piano lessons & educate & train church school children (grades 2 - 6) in the fundamentals of sacred music. Plan & implement music & workshop education opportunities, incldg. participation in the Pastor's information classes. Plan & coordinate music education, piano lessons and other musical activities for summer music camp. Play organ at weddings, funerals & other special events. Prepare music to be included in worship bulletins, oversee maintenance of the church's musical instruments & publicize musical events in consultation w/Pastor & church office. Reqs. BS in Music (w/ Piano Performance or Piano Pedagogy) & 2 yrs. in job offered or as Piano Teacher or Concert Pianist. The 2 yrs. exp. must include work w/conducting instrumental ensembles & vocal choirs, piano performance, piano teaching, sight reading, improvisation, musical arrangement & composition & piano tuning & maintenance. $9.06/hr., 40 hrs./wk. Submit resume incl. SS# to Fr. Daniel Carboy, St. James Catholic Church, 251 Union Street, Concord, NC 28026.

Preschool Teacher:

St. Thomas Aquinas Mothers Morning Out / Preschool has a position open for a Lead Teacher for the 3-day 4-year old program. Applicant needs to be certified in education. Anyone interested needs to contact Lori Schoeneman Monday - Thursday between the hours of 8:30 - 1:30.

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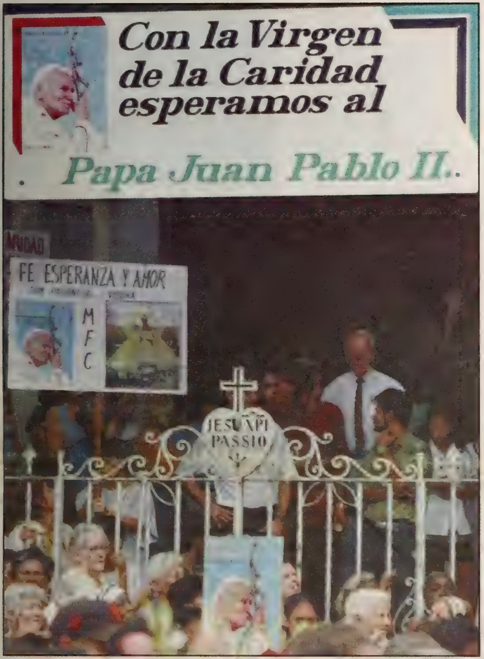
THE CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 7 Number 12 • November 21, 1997



CNS photo from Reuters

Cubans wait at a church in Havana for a Nov. 16 Mass celebrated by Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino. The signs speak of awaiting Pope John Paul II, who is scheduled to visit Cuba in January for the first time.

Called to Hope, Called to Love

AIDS Ministry Conference Conveys Compassion

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

BELMONT — The music ended. Tears were wiped away, and smiles and hugs were exchanged. One woman paused a moment longer to glance at a flower arrangement left to celebrate her son's memory, and to share her thoughts about the person whose existence far transcends the virus and syndrome that took his life.

"Danny was so many other things," said Carolyn Lesser, who with her husband, Bill, earlier presented a workshop on grieving losses at "Called to Hope, Called to Love: A Catholic Symposium on AIDS" at Queen of the Apostles Church on Nov. 15.

"I had to look at my son as he was shriveling to nothing, but the spirit in him was so much greater. He was always lov-

See **AIDS Conference,** page 3

Pope Urges Leaders To Discuss Persian Gulf Crisis

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Apprehensive about the possibility of new fighting in the Persian Gulf, Pope John Paul II urged world leaders to insist on dialogue as the only way to defuse the crisis in Iraq.

The pope, speaking at a Sunday blessing Nov. 16, appealed especially on behalf of Iraq's civilian population, which has suffered under a U.N.-mandated trade embargo opposed by the Vatican and local church leaders.

"The fate of our brethren in the Gulf region is the source of strong and renewed concern," the pope said from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

"In this moment of extreme tension, with the possibility of a new armed confrontation in Iraq, I want to make a heartfelt appeal so that the path of dialogue and diplomacy is not abandoned as a way to preserve and strengthen respect for justice and international law," he said.

In a reference to the trade embargo imposed on Iraq since the time of the Gulf war, the pope said he wanted to remind leaders of the "civilian population, especially the children and the sick, who have been caught up, without wanting to be, in a spiral of violence that could make their already difficult situation even more tragic."

"Let us ask the Lord to enlighten the minds and hearts of those responsible for the destiny of peoples, so that they understand that peace is the only instrument capable of guaranteeing justice," he said.

It was the first time the pope, an adamant critic of the 1991 Gulf war, has spoken out about the current crisis in Iraq, which arose when Iraq expelled U.S. members of a U.N. weapons inspection team.

U.S. President Bill Clinton called the Iraqi action unacceptable and beefed up U.S. military forces in the Gulf, while Iraq threatened to shoot down any U.S. reconnaissance planes. Clinton also expressed hope that the crisis could be resolved through diplomacy.

European, U.S. Governments Debate Religious and Human Rights of Nations

By JONATHAN LUXMOORE

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The chief Vatican delegate to an intergovernmental meeting said churches should respect the history and traditions of particular nations, besides demanding equal rights.

The delegate, Msgr. Ivan Jurkovic, a Vatican Secretariat of State official, also said he believed there would be "no future for Europe, the Christian church or humanity" if new divisions opened up over observance of religious rights.

Msgr. Jurkovic led the Holy See delegation to a mid-November meeting of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Warsaw. Fifty-four nations gathered to review implementation of humanitarian pledges during the post-1975 Helsinki process.

Besides human and religious rights, government and nongovernmental delegations from Europe and North America were to debate democratic institutions and the rule of law, as well as sexual equality, migration, racism and other problems.

He added that Holy See delegates had a "small, simple, clear mandate" for the Warsaw meeting and would be pushing "very actively" to ensure that fidelity to the OSCE's original commitments was "checked and double-checked."

Msgr. Jurkovic said OSCE organizers had accepted a 1996 Vatican request that religious freedom should be treated separately from more general human rights.

"As a diplomatic forum, the OSCE is less politicized than bodies like the Council of Europe," he added.

Asked about likely discussions on the religious situation in Russia, the delegate said the Vatican was still studying and evaluating the new religion law signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in September.

"We have to consider freedoms and liberties in the context of each society," he said. "But it is certainly bad when religious groups are put under legal pressure, or under other pressures which are more hidden but just as real."

In two background reports on Russia prepared for the Warsaw meeting by an OSCE advisory group, a British researcher, Michael Bourdeaux, accused "Orthodox fundamentalists" of spread-

See **Human Rights,** page 2

Of
One Heart
and
One Mind

A PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CATHOLICS OF NORTH CAROLINA

8-page insert in this issue

Development Leads To Discovery of Rock Where Virgin Mary Rested

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Development of a Jewish settlement has unwittingly led to the discovery of a fifth-century Byzantine church built around a rock where, according to Christian tradition, the pregnant Virgin Mary rested on her way to Bethlehem.

Traces of the church and stone, known as the Kathisma, or "seat" in Greek, were first found in 1993, during work to widen a road whose trajectory was then moved in order not to destroy the ancient building. At the time the dig did not continue due to lack of funding.

The current excavations on the land, owned by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, began in October when building contractors for Har Homa, the controversial new neighborhood of Jerusalem, laid out water pipes over the property so water could reach a guard who was keeping watch over their construction machinery.

The Israel Antiquities Authority saw the work on the protected site and, in accordance with Israeli law when archeological remains are found, required the contractors to pay for three weeks' worth of excavation of the site. The authority paid for one more week to uncover the entire church, 142 feet by 172 feet. The rock, 8-by-10, is in the middle.

"There is no doubt this is one of the largest, if not the largest churches found in Israel," said Jerusalem region archeologist Gideon Avni. "We have not found a similar church in the area. We are almost 100 percent sure this is the site venerated. The whole reason for the church is only the rock."

Stories in the New Testament mention that such a spot where Mary rested existed somewhere in the area where the church was found, three miles from Jerusalem, he said. For centuries pilgrims would stop along the Jerusalem-Bethlehem highway in the vicinity of where the church was found, only three feet under the ground in an olive grove.

Rina Avner, who directed the excavation, said church sources have enabled them to narrow the date of the construction of the church to between the years 450 and 458.

The church consisted of two outer octagonal rings around the center where the stone lay, with the interior ring serving as a walkway from which worshipers could view the stone. The outer ring was divided into four rooms, with four chapels between every two rooms.

Between the chapels on the east stood a large central apse with a raised prayer platform. An enveloping square wall surrounded the entire structure, whose floors were covered with mosaics, said Avner.

The church's feast day was Aug. 15, which was later adopted by the Catholic Church as the date for the feast of the Assumption, said Avner.

CNS photo from Reuters

Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodorus is assisted by two priests Nov. 9 as he blesses a large stone believed by Christians to be the place where Mary rested on her way to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus. At the site near Jerusalem, archaeologists excavated remains of a large fifth-century church that surrounds the recently discovered rock.

The site is also significant, she said, because according to the legend of the Star of Bethlehem, the star that led the three Magi from the East disappeared somewhere in Jerusalem and reappeared to them over a water system, also three miles from Jerusalem. Remains of an ancient water system can still be seen several yards away from the church.

Archeologists have no idea how or when the church was destroyed, although mention of the church in historical sources stops somewhere in the eighth century, said Avni. She conjectured that the church may have been destroyed in the year 1009 by Muslim Khalif Hakim, who was known as one of the most fervent fighters against Christianity during the Muslim rule in the area. In that same year Hakim destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Representatives of the Antiquity Authority said they would like to see the area restored and developed into a tourist and pilgrimage site. Although Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I also indicated his willingness to continue with work at the site, Avner remained a bit skeptical.

"That is the same thing he said last time. They own the land, and he said he was willing and nothing happened. I hope this time something will happen," she said. "This site is not only important for Christians, but it belongs to everyone who lives in this society who wants to enjoy and learn and live its history. This is part of history."

Human Rights,

from page 1

ing "propaganda against religious equality."

However, that view was rejected by a priest of the Russian Orthodox Patriarchate of Moscow, Father Vsevolod Chaplin, who claimed in his report that the new law had been supported by Russian Catholics and Protestants.

Among other advisory group reports, a U.S. legal expert, Jeremy Gunn, said different laws on religious issues could "illuminate the rich cultural and historical traditions of states and nations."

However, he added that there had been a retrenchment since 1991 in various countries' legal practices and said religious figures and government officials had promoted hostility and discord through "provocative and disparaging" statements.

"Although each country presents an entirely different situation, there is an emerging tendency for governments to use their powers either to interfere in religious activities, or to support the dominant religion," Gunn's report noted.

"European countries have witnessed the tragic results of governmental policies that vilify minority religions. Although such policies initially target very distinct minorities, they set a precedent whereby the state assumes responsibilities beyond its competency," the report said, adding that "the state is not a good judge of religious truth."

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

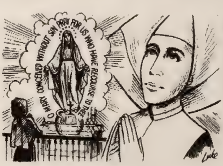
Our U.S. bishops summarized in ten key principles our Catholic tradition of applying our faith and moral teachings to economic life.

Principle #9:

Every day throughout the United States people make millions of economic decisions and actions; buying, selling, producing, consuming, planning, prioritizing. Individuals, companies, institutions, organizations, government are all part of the economy. We make our decisions on the basis of whether a project will work, whether a product will sell, whether we can afford to buy something, and whether we can get away with it. But we are not just workers, employers, producers or consumers. As human beings, we are created in God's image and likeness. We are called to be stewards of God's creation as a community. Aren't we called then to make our economic decisions not only on the basis of what will work, but also keeping in mind what is morally right and just?

Principle #9: Workers, owners, managers, stockholders and consumers are moral agents in economic life. By our choices, initiative, creativity and investment, we enhance or diminish economic opportunity, community life, and social justice.

Catherine Laboure


O MARY CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN PRAY FOR US WHO HAVE RECOURSE TO THEE
Luke

Zoe Laboure was born in France in 1806. She became a nun and took the name Catherine. In 1830 she began to have visions of the Virgin Mary. In one appearance, Catherine saw the letter M with a cross above it and below it two hearts. A voice instructed her to have a medal struck with the emblem. The medal, still worn by many believers today, is known as the "miraculous medal." Her feast is Nov. 28.

Saints & Scripture

© 1997 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of November 23 -29

Sunday	Daniel 7:13-14 Revelation 1:5-8 John 18:33-37
Monday	Daniel 1:1-6,8-20 Luke 21:1-4
Tuesday	Daniel 2:31-45 Luke 21:5-11
Wednesday	Daniel 5:1-6,13-14, 16-17,23-28 Luke 21:12-19
Thursday	Daniel 6:12-28 Luke 21:20-28
Friday	Daniel 7:2-14 Luke 21:29-33
Saturday	Daniel 7:15-27 Luke 21:34-36

AIDS Conference, from page 1

ing and caring, right up to the end."

That message of hope and love, conveyed by keynote speakers, group discussion facilitators and the diocesan shepherd, pervaded during the symposium.

Leaders in AIDS ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte gathered for the informational and spiritual event to converse with those whose lives are touched by AIDS: the parent whose son or daughter died from the affliction, the parishioner trying to establish an AIDS ministry in her parish, the clergy member looking for better ways of reaching out to those infected with the HIV virus.

The symposium was sponsored by Cornerstone, a diocesan network of Catholic parish-based AIDS ministry groups founded in 1995 by members of Caring Hearts, the AIDS ministry of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Asheville. Cornerstone continues to assist parishes in establishing AIDS ministries throughout the diocese.

Father Morris Boyd, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish and founding member of Caring Hearts, said the event was one way of hearing feedback on the positives and challenges surrounding AIDS ministry. Like others present at the symposium, he credits Catholic outreach to those living with AIDS as a milestone of mercy.

"When the church is open in its support and ministry of persons living with HIV and AIDS, it just makes the church a safer place for people (with the virus and syndrome) to come," he added.

Workshops designed for specific elements of AIDS ministry were offered, focusing on clergy response, AIDS-related grief, and group support for people with AIDS and their family members and caregivers.

Resource and educational materials were available as well.

In two keynote addresses, speakers stressed how the AIDS pandemic affects the population as a whole and that those suffering should be embraced with kindness rather than pushed away with bigotry.

"People with AIDS are not numbers; they're faces and they're real," said Barbara Bell, associate director for patient services for the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Asheville, board member of the Western North Carolina AIDS Project, and Caring Hearts member.

"I ask people to look beyond the headlines in the newspapers and see the flesh and blood that make up those headlines," added Bell, whose keynote speech focused on the changing face of an affliction once primarily affecting the gay community but that now especially ravages minorities and poor women of color as well.

Patrick Evans, whose extensive work in AIDS service organizations has also included involvement in the National Catholic AIDS Network and Caring Hearts ministry, continued Bell's assertion that people with AIDS hold equal membership in the body of Christ.

"The church's response to AIDS ... has done more to destigmatize the AIDS population than anything else," Evans added.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Bishop William G. Curlin blesses panels of an AIDS memorial quilt during "Called to Hope, Called to Love: A Catholic Symposium on AIDS" at Queen of the Apostles Church Nov. 15.

"AIDS is here to stay, but the prejudice that surrounds AIDS can and must end," he said. "We need to strive to remember that when we minister to 'those people,' we are ministering to ourselves. They are, and we are, the body of Christ."

Bishop William G. Curlin, who has ministered to people with AIDS since the early '80s, urged those in attendance to remember that "Christ is the center of our lives, and he appears in many disguises," even in acts and words of prejudice.

"The challenge of Jesus is to respond without anger," the bishop said. "We must find the words to touch people's hearts. Otherwise, we fail."

Bishop Curlin concluded the symposium by blessing memorial quilt panels honoring the lives of participants' loved ones taken by AIDS. He also blessed a memorial altar cloth.

Standing nearby during the blessing was Father Boyd, who later echoed the symposium's theme, saying, "AIDS calls us to compassion and to love, to heal as Jesus healed."

"What events like this do is show that the church cares — and it's a call to the church to care," he added. "Everyone benefits, and that was the powerful thing that happened here today."

Private Schools Seen Facing More Challenges Than Ever

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — Today's private schools are challenged to maintain their own identity, take on a more public role and keep informed of changing educational policies, said a speaker at a national educational conference in Dayton.

No changes in public policy will make private schools "capable or deserving of survival" if they fail to maintain their character, Charles Glenn, a Boston University professor of educational policy, told educators and scholars.

"Ironically, just as public opinion and the law are becoming less hostile toward distinctively religious schools, the private school universe in the United States seems to be less and less religiously distinctive," added Glenn.

He spoke during a recent national education conference hosted by the University of Dayton to explore the challenges faced by private kindergarten-12 schools.

"What turns many parents away from public schools has nothing to do with lack of resources or even with academic outcomes," he said, "but with the sense that they are not morally coherent, character-forming institutions."

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

If we remember that God loves us, and that we can love others as He loves us, then America can become a sign of peace for the world. If you become a burning light of justice and peace in the world, then really you will be true to what the founders of this country stood for.

MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 22 — 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

November 23
Prayer Breakfast
Christ The King Church
Portland, Maine

November 27
Thanksgiving Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

November 30 — 3 p.m.
HIV / AIDS Healing Service
St. Peter Episcopal Church, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope, With Sore Throat, Greets Visitors at General Audience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's prepared English remarks at his weekly general audience Nov. 12.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

After describing the relationship between the Blessed Virgin Mary and the church, the Second Vatican Council goes on to consider her place in the doctrine and devotion of the other Christian churches and communities. Careful study of the thought of various Protestant reformers has revealed their love and veneration of Mary and their awareness of her singular holiness. Today many Anglican and Protestant Christians have come to positions very close to that of the Catholic Church regarding Mary's divine motherhood, her perpetual virginity, her holiness and universal spiritual motherhood. Among Orthodox Christians, Mary has always been honored and revered with ardent devotion. All of this is a sign of great hope on the path of ecumenical dialogue. Just as at the beginning of the church the Blessed Virgin supported the Christian community's unity in prayer and the proclamation of the Gospel, so today she intercedes with God on our behalf, that reconciliation and full communion may be restored among all believers in Christ.

I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, Canada and the United States, and invoke upon all of you peace and joy in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope To Remember Cloistered Nuns in November

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One of the Catholic Church's least-publicized annual celebrations is centered on prayers and thanksgiving for one of its least visible communities — the nuns who live contemplative lives in the cloister.

Pope Pius XII began the celebration, setting aside Nov. 21, the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as the Day "Pro Orantibus" (For Those Who Pray).

Pope John Paul II usually mentions the special day during a Sunday Angelus or Wednesday audience talk that week, highlighting the church's need for religious devoted exclusively to prayer and offering the church's thanks to the women who dedicate themselves to a cloistered life.

According to the latest Vatican figures, there are 51,268 cloistered nuns in the world. They represent 6 percent of the church's religious women and silently work and pray in 3,451 autonomous monasteries.

The majority of the world's cloistered convents — 68 percent — are in Europe, with Spain, Italy and France hosting the greatest numbers.

In the Americas, Mexico heads the list with 236 cloistered convents and 3,788 nuns. The United States follows with 102 convents and 1,232 nuns.

Why We Need Thanksgiving

Antoinette Bosco

The great Greek philosopher Epictetus said, "He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not but rejoices for those which he has."

Some people, sadly, never seem to be able to give thanks for all they have. In early November, I watched a TV interview with the very money-rich Donald Trump. He has written a new book about his comeback after he lost most of his fortune. Now he has money back in multiples; apparently he gives full credit for this to himself.

Trump writes that when he was in danger of losing all his fortune, there were people who could have helped him and didn't. Now he takes pleasure in financial revenge against them. The interviewer pushed him on this, asking why he wouldn't, in effect, forgive. Trump answered, "I believe in an eye for an eye." Then he repeated a line I hear often and detest, "I don't get mad, I get even."

He'll probably be eating turkey and celebrating Thanksgiving Day, but if people take full credit for their good fortune, can they really be grateful for anything? If gratitude means anything at all, it has to be focused on a higher source than ourselves. In fact, gratitude and grace share the same root. So grace, gratitude and thanksgiving are connected to our relationship with God.

I love a quote from the famed English writer G.K. Chesterton: "You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing, and grace before I dip the pen in the ink."

Now there's man who understood how closely gratitude links us to our Creator. He didn't need a Thanksgiving Day to remind him!

I have given many talks in the past few years to people who are grieving. They have suffered a great loss, the death of a loved one. So often people are locked in anger, resenting God for all that has been taken away. In their bitterness they turn away from God; they find nothing to be grateful for. They are so wrong.

I remember interviewing a mother whose son suffered a sudden, severely debilitating episode of manic-depression at age 18. While her heart was broken, she could still find much to be grateful for. She told me, "We tend to ask, 'Why me?' but my father always said if we ask that of the bad things, we have to ask it of the good, too." That was wisdom.

On Thanksgiving Day, we are supposed to remember all the blessings we have been given and express our thanks to God for these. Some people can't, because they get blocked, either by their own egotistical self-credit or by anger over what they feel are their losses or deprivations. I would pray in this holiday season that everyone finds a way to recognize all the good things life has brought.

One great woman who helped me learn that lesson was Helen Keller, physically blind and deaf, but oh, so spiritual. She said, "I thank God for my handicaps, for through them I have found myself, my work and my God."

That is the spirit in which to celebrate the great holiday of Thanksgiving: gratitude for all that has been given to us, beginning with the greatest gift of all, life itself.

Antoinette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

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Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

Edith Stein: The Saintly Jew

Having recently returned from a short trip to Munich, Germany, I was intrigued that in every church or center I visited, there she was. She was on posters, leaflets, bulletin boards. She was memorialized on reliefs, small bronzes and large statues, etched in stained glass, even commemorated on a postage stamp.

She is Dr. Edith Stein, known to us since her beatification by Pope John Paul II on May 1, 1987, as Blessed Teresia Benedicta of the Cross, O.C.D. Her dynamic command of fidelity and freedom makes her a model for the 21st century. I happened to meet several of her former students and learned that while she was shy and self-effacing, she was also determined, direct and open to the force of ideas.

Indeed, a quote over her photo in one of those pamphlets I collected illuminated her internal struggle as well as her strong will: *"Meine Sehnsucht nach Wahrheit war ein einziges Gebet."* ("My desire for truth was itself a prayer.")

Edith Stein's heroic life began October 12, 1891, in Breslau, Germany (now Poland since reconfiguration after World War II) and ended August 9, 1942, just 150 miles southeast of there — a place where a sturdy birch forest collided with fire — a place called Auschwitz.

As a young woman she was assistant to the great philosopher Edmund Husserl. While vacationing with university colleagues, she found a copy of St. Teresa of Avila's "Life". Perhaps it was the fact that St. Teresa's own great-grandfather was a Spanish Jew who became a Christian convert that invited Edith Stein to see herself as part of a larger community of seekers. Riveted, she read the entire work in one night, becoming in essence a daughter and disciple of Teresa of Avila, reformer. She proclaimed, "This is Truth!"

Dr. Stein's religious and cultural heritage as a Jew already prepared her for a circuitous journey which would include a bout with atheism and end with commitment to Jesus Christ. In this I recalled the wisdom of the late Pope Paul VI, who carefully reminded the world at the canonization of Mother Elizabeth Ann Bailey Seton that Elizabeth's holiness began with her Anglicanism and matured into the expression of her devotion to the poor and uneducated as a Roman Catholic.

For Edith Stein, like Elizabeth Seton, holiness had everything to do with wholeness. Her search for authenticity led her, as any good philosopher knows, from question to doubt to refinement to resolution and lastly to conviction. Her stalwart determination to find God meant that she not only *believed* that the "desire for truth was itself a prayer" — she lived and died for it.

As I traveled by train in Germany, stopping to visit friends, in God's providence, I was grateful to be reintroduced to the life of this earlier traveler whose final journey, also by train, ended in the hell of Auschwitz. What an extraordinary witness to a life which still reverberates with hope for anyone striving for intellectual or moral fortitude.

Dr. Edith Stein, Sister Teresia Benedicta of the Cross, emits a radiance that casts out the confusing doubts in our often ambiguous moral darkness. Soon she will be proclaimed a saint within the official rubrics of the Catholic Church.

With the God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Joseph and Mary, all His children can embrace and celebrate this woman not just of fate, but always and ultimately of faith.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Christians and Jews", write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Prayers for the Dead

Q. Our group has a question concerning prayers for the dead. As we understand it, God has no "time." If that is true, can our prayers help toward the salvation of someone who has died?

This would mean that God foresees one's prayers and good works for the deceased, and answers those prayers while the person is still alive.

This seems to make sense, and is a wonderful, comforting thing to know as we think of our loved ones who have died.

A. Your instincts about prayer are right on target. What you say is true.

It's safe to assume that most Catholics still see their prayers for the dead as primarily affecting the time of purification (or purgatory) a deceased individual might undergo after death.

Their prayers can have that effect, as our centuries-old Christian and Catholic tradition holds. The reality is infinitely larger and richer, however, as your comments indicate.

As far as we can know from our own human perspective, there is no "time," as we experience it, for God or in eternity.

In the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit has no desire to answer scientific or philosophical questions about God. Everything is seen and described in the experience people have of God, both before and after Christ.

That experience is always of one who is beyond time and space.

As the catechisms (new and old) phrase it, God has no beginning and no end; he is "from everlasting to everlasting" (new Catholic catechism, No. 213).

For him there is no past or future. Everything, from the beginning of time in the universe to the end, is as one eternally present moment.

Thus, our prayers, offered in earthly time, go to a God who is not bound by those limits. A prayer may be said a year after someone died; as God receives it, however, the moment of that person's birth is as present to him as the moment of death — and every moment in between.

None of this is speculation or conjecture. It all follows immediately from our Catholic doctrine about God and eternity.

It also explains why even the earliest Christians felt a living presence with their dead as they committed them into God's hands — a conviction proclaimed in the art and inscriptions which one can still see in their cemeteries.

The same belief, of course, tells us our prayers and good works extend into the future as well as into the past. We can pray for our children and grandchildren, for those not yet born. They too are in God's eternal vision and presence, and are touched by our intercessions for them.

This reality is a wonderful illustration of the living relationship we on earth have with those now deceased, a relationship the Apostles' Creed calls the Communion of Saints.

We don't know how all that works. We know only that in God's mysterious love and intimate care for us, there is a "communion" of love we share in God our Father and in Christ.

Spirituality For Today

Father John Catoir

Starting Your Own Fiat Prayer Group

One of my goals in life is to fulfill a promise I made to the late Cardinal Leon Suenens back in 1983. He was the primate of Belgium when I was the director of the Christophers, and he asked me to travel with him on several of his visits to the United States.

Over the years he introduced me to Pope John Paul II twice and arranged a private visit for me with King Baudouin of Belgium. He wanted me to help him bring his Fiat pastoral program to the States.

Fiat is a Marian devotion which emphasizes evangelization.

Mary replied to the Angel Gabriel in these words: "Be it done unto me (in Latin: Fiat mihi) according to your word." The word "fiat" represents Mary's yes to God, her acceptance of her unique vocation to become the mother of Jesus.

Cardinal Suenens had started the Fiat movement in Europe earlier, and it had already expanded to more than 80 countries worldwide. Specifically, we asked me to start a network of Fiat prayer groups throughout the United States and Canada. Each one was to operate on its own, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The rules are simple: The group meets once a month to pray the rosary, or an abbreviated version which is called Fiat Rosary. Members do this by uniting with Mary and calling upon the Holy Spirit for the courage to spread to Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, no one is ever asked to participate beyond his or her level of emotional comfort.

Cardinal Suenens used to say, "Alone we are weak and unproductive, but in a prayer group we can encourage and inspire one another to do more. Then miracles begin to happen."

To get this project under way we opened a Fiat office at 130 West First St., Clifton, N.J. 07011. I wrote many columns about it, and in my book "God Delights in You" (Alba House, New York, page 139ff) I wrote a brief history about it.

People soon began starting Fiat prayer groups all over the country. I am still looking for volunteers to start new groups.

Cardinal Suenens wanted each group to pray to the Holy Spirit in union with Mary in the same way that the apostles did in the upper room shortly after the crucifixion. On that day, 12 frightened apostles gathered together with Mary to pray for a downpouring of graces from the Holy Spirit, and they were miraculously transformed into heroic missionaries.

Mary's role in the mystery of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles was key. She not only was present at the birth of Jesus, but she had an important role at Pentecost, the birth of the mystical body of Christ, which is the church.

Why not start a Fiat group of your own? The Holy Spirit will guide you.

Just keep the rules simple. At each meeting, after a brief period of prayer, each member in turn tells what he or she did in the past month to bring the love of Christ to others.

This is all you need to know about starting your own Fiat prayer group.

'Tis The Season To Do Christmas Differently

By JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER
Director, Office of Justice and Peace

Around the first week in January when the credit card bills start arriving, when the scales verify the merry Christmas gift of 10 extra pounds, and the kids' Christmas toys have been forgotten, many a weary folk proclaim with certainty: "Next year, we're doing Christmas differently."

But despite good intentions, each year seems to be a reprise of the previous one. Just making the decision to change won't make it happen. Plans must be made.

This year, why not hold a discussion *before* Christmas instead of after Epiphany? Plan a "Whose birthday are we celebrating anyway?" family meeting after the blessing of the Advent wreath.

First, talk about what your real values are for the Christmas season, a period which begins with the first Sunday in Advent and ends on Epiphany on Jan. 6 (societal celebration patterns notwithstanding). Include all family members' opinions and ideas. Your values might include celebrating the birth of Christ, spending more time with family, reuniting with relatives, creating a festive environment, giving gifts, or remembering the poor, lonely, and needy. Often when trying to clarify our holiday values, we begin to realize that we must choose between competing worthy values if we are to practice what we most believe in — or we get caught up in holiday excess.

Next, list all the preparations that are likely to be part of your Christmas celebration. Include even the most minute tasks: gifts and cards (making, buying, wrapping, mailing), decorations (making, buying, hanging, cleaning up), family events (reunions, travel plans, cooking, baking), and parties (invitations, cooking, cleaning). Then go back and designate who does what. Hint: Women have been called the Christmas magicians. Should the preparations be more evenly divided among family members?

Include in your discussion what can be done to foster spiritual growth during the season, such as reading from scripture or Advent calendar, lighting the Advent wreath each evening, getting together with friends to sing carols (some even dance to these songs!), or attending special activities at church.

Lastly, discuss who gets presents on birthdays. If we were to ask Jesus what *he* wants for his birthday, what would he respond? Wouldn't he answer that he is to be found in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned? We give Jesus a birthday gift he really wants when we provide food, clothing, shelter, and compassion to those in need. Many individuals and families practice "alternative giving" during the season. Instead of buying a gift for an individual, the giver donates money, time or talent in honor of the gift recipient.

Some suggestions for your giving during the season include:

Amnesty International USA 322 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10001, (212) 633-4256, *promotes human rights around the world*

Bread for the World 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1000 Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 608-2400, *promotes education and legislation on issues of international and domestic hunger*

Campaign for Human Development Dr. Bernard Offerman, Diocesan Director, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003, *provides funding for grassroots organizations working to change the cycle of poverty*

Catholic Relief Services Joanne K. Frazer, Diocesan Director, 1123 South Church, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003, *assists the poor and disadvantaged outside of this country*

Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte *provides food distribution, adoption, emergency assistance, Hispanic services, social justice issues/education, refugee services, counseling. Over 65 percent of CSS funding comes from grants and private donations.* (Please mail to the Administrative Office and designate which office should receive your donation.) · Administrative Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003 · Charlotte Regional Office, Charlotte · Piedmont Regional Office, Winston-Salem · Western Regional Office, Asheville · Office of Justice and Peace · Office of Special Ministries · Refugee Office

Center of Concern 3700 13th Street, NE Washington, DC 20017, (202) 635-2757, *provides social analysis, theological reflection, policy advocacy and public education on issues of peace and justice*

Habitat for Humanity 121 Habitat Street Americus, GA 31709, (800) HABITAT, *works in partnership with poor people around the world to build simple, decent houses*

Mary's Pence PO Box 29078, Chicago, IL 60629-9078, (312) 783-3177, *funds programs that serve economically deprived women and children in need of shelter, education, legal advice and psychological spiritual development*

National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) 1275 K Street, NW, Suite 975 Washington, DC 20005, (202) 682-0338, *co-sponsors with Catholic Relief Services programs which allow parishes and individuals to sponsor poor children around the world and support clean water projects*

Network 806 Rhode Island Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20018, (202) 526-4070, *national Catholic social justice lobby which provides advocacy for the poor and disadvantaged*

Bomb Threat Phoned In To NCCB-USCC

By MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' headquarters building in Washington was evacuated and shut down late in the afternoon Nov. 12 after a woman phoned in a bomb threat to the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

The call came in as Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, was making a presentation at the bishops' fall general meeting on the statement "Light and Shadows: Our Nation 25 Years After Roe vs. Wade." The meeting was being shown live on the EWTN cable channel.

"The caller was unclear whether the threat was directed to our building or to the hotel," Bruce Egnew, assistant general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a memo to employees at the NCCB-U.S. Catholic Conference headquarters.

"Nobody on the hotel staff or the security staff recommended that we terminate the (bishops') meeting," Egnew told Catholic News Service Nov. 13.

Virtually all NCCB-USCC senior staff were at the Capitol Hill hotel, where the meeting was conducted.

"With hotel security and the police, we concluded that the safety of those at the meeting could be assured without interrupting the meeting," Egnew said in his memo.

But "in view of the hour and cold weather, we asked the staff to leave and not return," he added.

The call came in at about 4 p.m. The woman asked, "Is this the bishops' committee?" and "Is this where the bishops are meeting?"

When the woman got an affirmative answer, she replied, "Well, you'd better get out of the building quickly because there's a bomb in there," and hung up.

"Hotel security believes they know the source of the threat," Egnew said. One woman tried to get to the hotel meeting room where the bishops were gathered, but was prevented by security officers hired for the meeting.

Egnew told CNS the NCCB-USCC was "not pursuing" the matter.

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A Pastoral
Letter
to the
Catholics
of
North Carolina

November 24, 1997

SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

TO SERVE · NOT BE SERVED

Most Reverend F. Joseph Gossman
Bishop of Raleigh

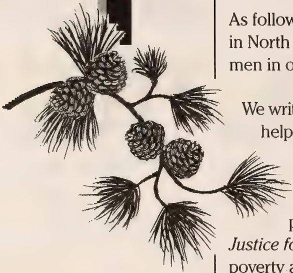
Of One Heart and One Mind

Supplement to *The Catholic News & Herald* and the *NC Catholic*

Of One Heart and One Mind

A Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of North Carolina

> ***For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors for ever and ever.*** ***(Jeremiah 7:5-7)***



As followers of Jesus Christ our Lord, and as pastoral leaders of the Roman Catholic community in North Carolina, we feel compelled to express our grave concern for the children, women and men in our state who lack sufficient economic means to live full and fruitful lives.

We write to ask you, our sisters and brothers, to embrace with us our Church's responsibility to help shape our world so that the God-given dignity of every human being will be acknowledged, respected and protected.

We speak because our American economy has expanded dramatically and many have prospered in the eleven years since the U.S. Bishops' 1986 pastoral letter, *Economic Justice for All*. Yet we are still haunted by how the least among us are faring. There is too much poverty and too little economic opportunity for all our citizens. Our faith tradition as Catholics calls us to put the needs of the poor and the vulnerable before all else. In our job-oriented economy, this tradition is expressed in the security of gainful employment.

We are concerned because in the midst of a strong economy there are those among us looking for work who cannot find it; those who need and desire full-time jobs but are limited to part-time or temporary employment; and even among full-time workers a substantial number who fall below subsistence wages and are unable to provide for their family's basic necessities. The economic recovery of the last six years has generated a wider income and benefit gulf between the upper and lower ends of our work force. To the working poor, the impact of the expansion has been selective and discriminatory. These economic disparities lead to injustices demanding our attention. We must raise our voices and act to improve and change these conditions.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these. ***(John 13:34-35, 14:12a)***

Jeremiah and the prophets of old remind us repeatedly that justice is the sign of God's life-giving love. In the gospels, Jesus Christ proclaims that the hallmark of His followers is that we love one another according to the example He has set. We call all believers to embrace this discipleship, to act always in ways that bestow the same compassion and justice on others that Christ lived and taught.

We invite you to work with us in finding ways to achieve economic justice for all. The mandate of Scripture is clear, and our Catholic social teaching gives us the direction and the context for reaching out to the poor and the vulnerable among us. Discipleship is not an easy journey, but we are challenged to imitate the life of Jesus in our world of human as well as spiritual need.

The Catholic community in the United States and in North Carolina has made a significant financial and human investment in serving the poor and the powerless. Our parishes and our diocesan agencies, Raleigh's Catholic Social Ministries and Charlotte's Catholic Social Services, consistently provide for those who struggle to be economically secure. Despite this continuous outpouring of good works over the years, the signs of distress are all around us: people without jobs that pay a living wage, families without housing living in shelters, and children without access to health care.

As Catholics, though we are relatively small in number in North Carolina, we have a responsibility to continue to use whatever influence we have to ensure that public policy decisions are more accountable to the common good of all North Carolinians, from the native born to the newly arrived.

ERA OF CHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN NORTH CAROLINA

The national safety net programs of 60 years are undergoing fundamental change and the very nature of our response to poverty is being shaped for the foreseeable future. Will the removal of the federal system of guaranteed minimal assistance for the most vulnerable among us enable men and women to move into good jobs? Our hope is that it will, but our fear is that many will be left behind. For many in society it appears that the person exists for the economy rather than the economy for the person.

There is a high expectation that churches, non-profit agencies and the private sector will be willing and able to move into the vacuum created by the approximately $30 billion[5] in budget cuts over the next five years in programs for the poor and low-income workers. While private programs do play an extremely important role in fighting poverty, they cannot, and should not, take the place of government. Indeed government at every level, including our own state's, must continue to grapple with how best to address the problems of poverty.

NORTH CAROLINA WORK FIRST

The goal of the North Carolina Work First (welfare reform state plan) is to move families from public assistance to self-sufficiency through employment.[6] This is a worthy objective but one that needs close attention and examination. Goals must always be measured against the reality of the times. People cannot succeed if the system lacks adequate opportunities for success. Are we simply moving people off welfare rolls, or are we prudently moving them toward gainful employment? Are good jobs available throughout all the counties of our state? Is there enough time to prepare people for gainful employment? Are there adequate job training opportunities? Does this employment truly provide for all the basic needs of a family?

Meet Maureen and her four-year-old son, Richard

Maureen works at a fast food restaurant earning $6.25 per hour. She works as many hours per week as her manager will schedule her. Since she works at least 30 hours a week, she is eligible for medical insurance. However, the employee share of the cost is very high in proportion to her earnings. Richard has frequent respiratory infections and has had to be hospitalized on several occasions. Recently it was discovered that he is allergic to a wide variety of substances, so Maureen has had to go to the expense of changing her heating system to include electronic filtering. Her rent has also recently been increased. In spite of working full-time, she earns only $13,000 per year, which is not enough to meet her expenses.

* * *

Maureen, like 40,000 year-round, full-time workers in North Carolina, is one of the working poor: a worker who cannot afford basic necessities.[1] And there are 84,000 families and individuals without children who work, yet live in poverty in our state.[2] The majority of the 300,000 North Carolinians who earn under the minimum wage of $5.15 per hour are female adults (not teenagers) and like Maureen are often the sole wage earner in the family.[3]

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS ON ECONOMIC DIVISIONS

We ask you to consider this:
Why, in the midst of economic growth, does the imbalance between those who have and those who do not have continue to escalate? Why, in 1993, did the incomes of the highest earning 20% of households increase by about $10,000, while the income of the 20% of households at the bottom income range decreased by $1200.[13] Why, in the United States, which has the world's highest living standard, do 20% of our children live in poverty, while the child poverty rate in Canada is 9%, the United Kingdom, 7.4%, France, 4.6%, and Germany, 2.8%?[14] Would not the prophets call these the "orphans" of our day – those without the means to develop their potential according to their God-given dignity?

OUR CATHOLIC TEACHING[18]

The place where they gathered shook as they prayed. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God's word with boldness. The community of believers were of one heart and one mind. None of them ever claimed anything as his own; rather everything was held in common. With power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great respect was paid to them all; nor was there any needy among them. ***(Acts 31-34a)***

Today, we must pray for, hope for, expect that God's Holy Spirit will embolden us to act as one body in building the reign of God where, because we share from our livelihood, each one among us will have access to that which is necessary to live a life of dignity. We must be open to the power of the risen Lord to lead us, as individuals and as community, in ways that we might not ordinarily have imagined.

Our Catholic social teaching holds that all economic life should be shaped by moral principles. Economic choices and institutions must be judged by how well they protect the life and dignity of the human person, support the family, and serve the good of all people. As a community of faith, we must look to the common good of all our brothers and sisters.

Our Church teaches that:
- work enhances human dignity and therefore should be expected and rewarded.
- people have a right to productive work, to living wages and benefits, to decent working conditions as well as the right of association for mutual benefit.
- in an industry or sector in which there is a pattern of paying below a living wage, social justice requires employees and/or employers to come together to raise wage and benefit standards for the common good of the industry as a whole.
- to the extent they are able, people have a responsibility to provide for themselves and their families; they have a corresponding right to the means to be able to do so (work, health care, food, shelter, clothing, rest).
- when these conditions are not being met by the private sector, society, including governmental action, must guarantee this security.
- economic policies are to be evaluated according to their impact on the poor and the vulnerable.
- in our role as citizens, we must share in shaping and implementing such policies.

As we U.S. Bishops assert in our 1997 Labor Day Statement, "In our [Catholic] tradition . . . a person connot be regarded as a tool of production. Work, at its best, helps people to share in the creative activity of God. Work helps each of us to realize our God-given potential and is a vital part of the way in which we contribute to the community. Workplaces should be structured to advance these human and spiritual needs."

Meet Rita and Carlos and their children, Carolina and Juana

This couple left their native land and legally immigrated to the U.S. because they could not find work in order to feed and clothe their children. Carlos works long hours in the fields earning up to $7,000 during the harvesting season. Although he always looks for work in the off season, jobs are hard to come by; thus he rarely earns more that $15,000 per year. Rita cares for the children in the mobile home they share with another family of three. Though they have applied for citizenship, the wait is long (up to two years). Between harvesting seasons they have had to ask for food stamps to tide them over. But due to changes in the law, because they are not U.S. citizens, they have lost access to food stamps.

■ ■ ■

Rita and Carlos are the "aliens" in our land about which Jeremiah would exhort us – they, along with 3600 legal permanent resident immigrants in NC, are barred from receiving food stamps.[4] (Food stamps are vouchers low-income people use to purchase enough food to obtain a nutritionally adequate diet; the food stamp program suffered some of the deepest 1996 "welfare reform" cuts.) Though he harvests food for NC families, Carlos is unable to adequately feed his own family.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S ROLE?

We must continue to address the ***effects of poverty*** by serving the poor in homeless shelters, in food pantries, with clothing drives, and in literacy centers; but we must also include action aimed at resolving the root ***causes of poverty***. In addition to addressing the immediate needs of individuals and families, we must work to change societal conditions and public policy to be more responsive to human needs.

To reduce poverty, there is no more effective strategy than providing access to jobs that pay a living wage. We must form partnerships with our state and county governments and with our local businesses to ensure that any process for reducing poverty includes substantial commitments to assist Work First participants and low-wage workers with education, job training, reliable transportation, and child care, so that they may move up to higher wage jobs. And we must ensure that workers are being trained for jobs that actually exist.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

To some, this present time may seem to be a time of confusion and disunity. To these we respond with boldness: we trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to fill us with a sense of unity, to lead us in new ways to meet the needs of the poor, to act out of God's own life-giving love. We rely with certainty on God's promise in Jeremiah to dwell with us as we "act justly with one another."

And so, dear sisters and brothers, we conclude our reflections with a deep and abiding appreciation for all that you do and have done for the poor and the vulnerable among us, and we challenge you to look about and see what yet needs to be done.

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

F. Joseph Gossman

Most Reverend F. Joseph Gossman
Bishop of Raleigh

As we have prayed to discern what our commitment shall be as leaders of the dioceses, we pledge the following:

- We will add the voice of the Church loudly and clearly to the conversation about poverty in our state. Children must be protected. Families must not be abandoned as they move off Work First. They must be given the support they need to achieve economic security.
- We commit to delivering social services to those in need to the best of our ability and resources.
- We commit to making advocacy for justice an integral part of our charitable efforts.
- We shall convene and/or enter into new partnerships with other faith communities, non-profit agencies, and government to find real solutions to poverty.
- We will monitor and document the human impact of laws being passed and assess who is being helped and who is "falling through the cracks," in order that we may be effective advocates for just public policies.

Meet Janet and her two-year old daughter

Janet is proud that she has managed to get off Work First by taking two part-time jobs: one is year round and pays $5.25 per hour, the other pays $6.00 per hour during the school year; however neither provides benefits. She rents a one-bedroom apartment for $395 per month. She pays $60 per month for public transportation to get to work. Monthly day care costs are $346. Janet is ineligible for food stamps (because of a complicated formula applied to earnings for the 10 month school year), but she and her daughter are enrolled in Medicaid. After paying payroll taxes and including an Earned Income Tax Credit, her monthly income is $1080. Janet lives with the reality that "there is never enough money to go around," and lives in fear that her rent will increase, or there will be a medical emergency forcing her to quit work.

■ ■ ■

For the Janets, whom we could compare to Jeremiah's "widows," the question at the end of the month is whether they can afford the rent, the groceries, or the utilities. Like many of the 25% of the private sector work force that is made up of part-time, seasonal workers, and consultants/subcontractors,[7] Janet does not receive health insurance. In 1995, an average of 918,000 North Carolinians (13.3% of the total population) were uninsured.[8] An additional 1.1 million (16%) were considered underinsured.[9] Over 250,000 children lacked health insurance.[10]

In North Carolina a person employed at the hourly minimum wage of $5.15 will likely pay between 35% to 45% of his/her income for an average one-bedroom apartment. Child care and food could consume another 50%, leaving little for other necessities.[11] Applying the broadly-used measure of economic stability of 185% of the federal poverty line, the hourly wage necessary for a family of three to stay out of poverty is around $11 or an annual salary of around $22,000.[12] We question whether enough of these jobs are available to the poor citizens of North Carolina.

Meet Kathy and Andy and their four children, ages 5-15

Both Kathy and Andy work. Andy has worked as a maintenance man at a manufacturing facility for seven years and now makes $7.00 per hour ($14,500 per year). In order to get her certificate in child care, Kathy has been going to school after her full-time job as a housekeeper in a hotel where she earns $5.40 per hour (approximately $11,200 per year). With child care subsidies Kathy and Andy have been able to scrape by from month to month. Every two or three months they have to ask for help with food stamps in order to keep up with their growing children's nutritional needs. Occasionally, they must ask for groceries from their church's food bank.

■ ■ ■

Though they earn two full-time salaries, Andy and Kathy have a difficult time subsisting without help; even so they make more than the federal poverty guideline for a family of six which is $20,573.[15] Their children, like 29% of children in the United States are at risk of hunger or are hungry.[16] Food pantries throughout our state and nation report that increasing numbers are showing up at their doors, and that many are neither the jobless nor the homeless, but the working poor.[17] Andy and Kathy are an example of the growing economic divide between the rich and the poor.

◆

Of people in the business community, we ask that as you pray to discern your commitment to the well-being of the impoverished and the less powerful in your communities, you consider the following:

- Work with local governments to guarantee that policies provide the support necessary to move individuals and families out of poverty.
- Offer practical help by giving time, expertise, job readiness and training resources. Seek out local job-training organizations and offer cooperative positions during training.
- Create jobs and offer on-the-job training and mentoring for new employees.
- Make work pay. Most people moving from Work First to jobs will be employed at a minimum wage before they can qualify for a living wage. Convene local business coalitions to create and support services that will enable people to take these entry-level jobs, i.e., subsidized child care, low-cost and reliable transportation, job benefits, and mentoring in skills building.
- Form an alliance of business persons who will take the initiative in working with community colleges to identify the education and training needs for viable jobs in your area. Then be certain that courses to meet these needs are available.
- Invest with non-profit community self-help organizations that help low-income families gain access to the housing market in healthy, safe neighborhoods.
- Work with local community development corporations and business incubators to provide mentoring in the development of business plans for micro-enterprise efforts in poor communities.
- Insist on strong schools for all North Carolinians. There is a strong correlation between the level of education and the amount of earnings.

◆

Of our parishes, we ask that you develop your social ministries by engaging your entire membership in education, justice, advocacy and charity on behalf of the poor through the following:

Prayer and meditation:

- Read and meditate on God's word in Scripture as individuals and as community. Pray to discern God's will for us as disciples on how we are to influence societal structures and institutions for the good of the poor.
- Incorporate the moral and ethical dimensions of economic life into Eucharistic liturgies through homilies, general intercessions, and general announcements.
- Resist efforts at stereotyping the poor or blaming the poor for their plight. Begin parish meetings by praying for guidance on how to assist the poor in our communities.

Study and Action:

- Study and reflect on Catholic social teaching, especially the ten principles of Catholic teaching on the economy, *A Catholic Framework for Economic Life.* Host adult education sessions on the *Economic Justice for All.*[19]
- Organize listening sessions with individuals and/or groups to assess the most pressing human needs.
- Become involved in diocesan legislative networks. Organize letter-writing and telephone campaigns on economic issues such as fair taxes, welfare reform, minimum wage.
- Learn more about the Catholic Church's domestic anti-poverty program, the Campaign for Human Development, and the projects it funds in North Carolina. Support CHD through its annual parish collections every November.
- Analyze the underlying causes and results of poverty in your communities — childhood hunger, elderly isolation, unemployment, underemployment, lack of job training, lack of affordable child care, spouse/child abuse, lack of affordable housing.
- Decide on an issue for your parish to work on and then team up with others who are working on that issue (large social and economic justice issues are rarely solved by small numbers, there must be a large constituency who cares).

Partnerships and relationships with other churches:

- Participate with other parishes or in ecumenical groups to study the employment situation in your area. Research the answers to these questions: in your community, is there a discrepancy between the number of available jobs and the number of persons who must move into those jobs? is there adequate funding available for low-income families' child care subsidies? is there job training for real jobs that pay real living wages?
- Establish partnerships between parishes in areas of low and high poverty rates (some counties have up to 24% poverty, others as low as 9%).

Partnerships with local agencies

- Contact the Work First Coordinator at your county Department of Social Services and ask how you can help families move from welfare to work. Some suggestions: adopt a family during the first few months of work, provide transportation, donate child care spaces, mentor parents, tutor children, form a support group for adults seeking work, donate professional clothing, start a food pantry, rent apartments/housing to Work First participants, lend/sell/ give used cars to Work First participants, hold job fairs.
- Each county should have a Work First Task Force with representatives from the various segments of the community. Contact your Work First Coordinator and ask who represents the religious community and then form a relationship with that individual. If there is no representative, offer to serve.

* * *

Special invitation to retirees:

- Retirees (comprising up to 20% of our North Carolina Catholic population[20]) with your vast experience and talents, we encourage you to seek additional avenues to serve the poor, especially in ways that will help move families from poverty to economic independence.

Of One Heart and One Mind

Endnotes:

[1] NC Budget and Tax Center, The 1997 People's Budget for North Carolina, p. 3, February 1997.

[2] Ibid.

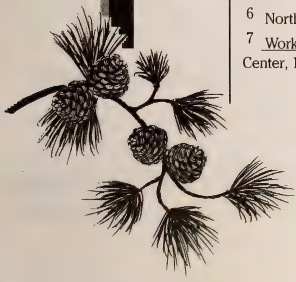
[3] From a presentation on Welfare Reform Issues, by Dan Gerlach, Senior Fiscal Policy Analyst, NC Budget and Tax Center. Sponsored by the United Way of North Carolina and the NC Budget and Tax Center, May 1997.

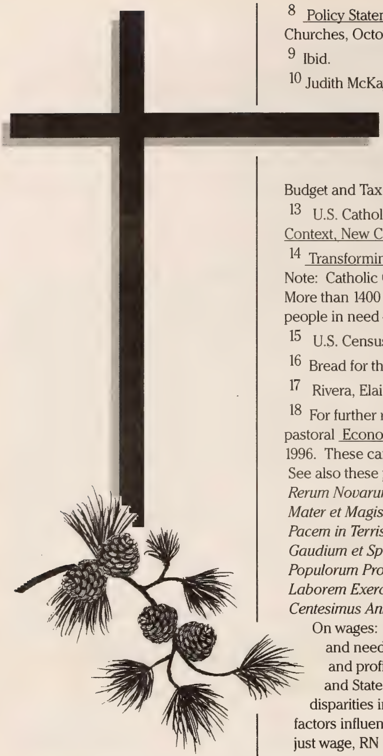
[4] Alison Brown of Immigrants Legal Assistance Project, telephone conversation on August 26, 1997.

[5] Wendell Primus, Budget Analyst, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washngton, DC. Telephone conversation on September 8, 1997.

[6] North Carolina State Plan for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, April 1997.

[7] Working for a Living in North Carolina, An Analysis of Tax Policy & the Working Poor, NC Budget and Tax Center, 1994, p. 3.





[8] Policy Statement on Health Care, Adopted by the House of Delegates, North Carolina Council of Churches, October 19, 1996.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Judith McKay, Executive Director, Caring Program for Children, PO Box 2291, Durham, NC 27702, telephone conversation on June 15, 1997.

[11] Gerlach, Dan, Ed. Jobs Under Work First: Do They Exist?, BTC REPORTS, January, 1997.

[12] Working for a Living in NC, An Analysis of Tax Policy & the Working Poor, NC Budget and Tax Center, 1994, p. 6.

[13] U.S. Catholic Bishops, A Decade After "Economic Justice for All": Continuing Principles, Changing Context, New Challenges in Tenth Anniversary Edition of Economic Justice for All, 1997. p. 8

[14] Transforming the Welfare System, A Position Paper of Catholic Charities USA, Alexandria, VA., 1994. Note: Catholic Charities USA is the nation's largest private network of voluntary social service agencies. More than 1400 local agencies with over 230,000 staff members and volunteers serve more than 14 million people in need — mostly families and children — each year.

[15] U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Thresholds, 1996. March 4, 1997.

[16] Bread for the World, Silver Spring, MD. *Tell Congress Hunger Has a Cure*, 1997, p. 8.

[17] Rivera, Elaine. "Hungry at the Feast," Time, July 21, 1997, p. 38.

[18] For further reading on Church teaching as it applies to economic life, see U.S. Catholic bishops' pastoral Economic Justice for All, 1986, and their statement, A Catholic Framework for Economic Life, 1996. These can be ordered by calling 1-800-235-8722.
See also these papal encyclicals and Vatican II documents:
Rerum Novarum ***(RN)****, Pope Leo XIII, 1891*
Mater et Magistra ***(MM)****, Pope John XXIII, 1961*
Pacem in Terris ***(PT)****, Pope John XXIII, 1963*
Gaudium et Spes ***(GS)****, Second Vatican Council, 1965*
Populorum Progressio ***(PP)****, Pope Paul VI, 1967*
Laborem Exercens ***(LE)****, Pope John Paul II, 1981*
Centesimus Annus ***(CA)****, Pope John Paul II, 1991*
On wages:
and needs of families, MM 33, LE 19.2
and profit sharing, MM 32
and State, PT 64
disparities in, MM 68
factors influencing, MM 71, PT 20
just wage, RN 17.1, 44, LE 8.5, 15.1, CA 7.2
key issues, LE 19.4
threats to, LE 17.2
On work:
and common good, LE 10.2
and society, LE 10.2
and the family, LE 10
as merchandise, LE 7.1
changing nature of, LE 8
conditions of, MM13, 21, GS 66.2, LE 15.1, CA 7.1, 12.2
creation of, GS 66.1, LE 18
dignity of, CA 6, 19.2
duties of State towards, RN 36, PT 64
gospel of, LE 25.2
heart of social question, LE 7.3
obligation to, RN 45, CA 43.2
right to, CA 43.3
theology of, GS 67.1, LE 24
value of, PP 27, LE 9.2, 11, 25

[19] Ibid.

[20] Task Force on Aging Diocesan Survey, Office of Special Ministries, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte, 1997.

Note: Individuals in case studies are composites of situations described by agencies across the state.

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1123 South Church Street
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Diocese of Raleigh
715 Nazareth Street
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Entertainment

CNS photo from Columbia Pictures

Writer and director Terry Jones stars as Toad in a scene from "The Wind In the Willows," a film based on the classic children's tale. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Switchback

Imminent Danger At Every Curve of the Road

NEW YORK (CNS) — A cunning serial killer on the loose ensnares an FBI agent on his trail and a traveler into his deadly net in "Switchback" (Paramount).

Writer-director Jeb Stuart has a command of making action films but is not as adept in fleshing out his characters.

Opening up the story in different states, a baby sitter is murdered and the little boy she was watching kidnapped. Months later a couple of bloody bodies are found in a Texas motel.

Two likely suspects materialize on the wintry roads of New Mexico and Colorado where, for the first hour, we are not so sure who is the bad guy; is it the affable ex-rail worker Bob Goodall (Danny Glover) whose car interior is covered with nude pinup photos, or hitchhiker Lane Dixon (Jared Leto) who is hiding a secret past?

Further complicating matters back at the Texas crime scene is the arrival of grim FBI agent Frank LaCrosse (Dennis Quaid), who claims to recognize the motel murders as the work of a serial killer he's been tracking. The local sheriff (R. Lee Ermey) doesn't know what to think when told the FBI has suspended LaCrosse since they ruled the serial killer a suicide and the case closed.

The kidnapped child is the key to why the G-man is convinced the real killer is still out there baiting him.

The plot unreels like a combination cat-and-mouse game and road movie with the killer and the agent drawing closer together as a road-blocking blizzard blankets the search area.

Glover's spooky portrayal helps to overcome the fact that the plot is far-fetched at several junctures, relying on the killer predicting exactly what the agent will do to catch his prey.

Quaid's character, however, is scripted as totally humorless and one-note, a performance that inevitably becomes uninteresting.

On the other hand, we don't get to know enough about Glover's or Leto's characters, and even at the end we have no better idea about what motivated them, which is unsatisfying.

And so "Switchback" works better on the level of a suspenseful action movie with hair-raising scenes, but falls down as a compelling character study. Are we just supposed to chalk the killer's behavior up to garden-variety psychosis with no hint of what drove him to such extremes? So it appears, and the other suspect is similarly underwritten, his fate left unknown.

Nicely paced, and chilling in its atmosphere of imminent danger at every curve of the road, most of the deaths happen off-screen but there are shots that are unnecessarily gory.

Due to intermittent violence, nude pinup photos and occasional profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Big Heat" (1953)

Gritty crime thriller in which a homicide detective (Glenn Ford) whose wife is murdered by a bomb intended for him turns in his badge and goes it alone to bring down a powerful crime syndicate, its unsavory boss (Alexander Scourby) and his corrupt City Hall cronies. Directed by Fritz Lang, the melodrama's harsh action, sordid atmosphere and seedy characters are relieved by the idealistic cop and a gangster's abused girlfriend (Gloria Grahame) who dies helping to crack the case. Much menace and stylized violence, some of it quite nasty. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults.

"Cornered" (1945)

Tough thriller in which a Canadian airman (Dick Powell) tracks the Nazi agent responsible for his wife's death to Buenos Aires, where he stumbles into a nest of escaped war criminals and their Argentinian collaborators (notably Walter Slezak). Director Edward Dmytryk keeps the tension high as the vengeful veteran blunders through the devious intrigues of fascist agents and counteragents in quest of personal justice. Stylized violence, some of it quite nasty. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.

"The Dark Mirror" (1946)

Psychological thriller in which a homicide detective (Thomas Mitchell) gets a psychologist (Lew Ayres) to examine identical twin sisters (Olivia de Havilland in a dual role) hoping to learn which of them committed a murder. Directed by Robert Siodmak, the plot turns on the doctor falling for one of the sisters which pushes the other over the edge in a twisty ending that compensates for the movie's slow pacing. Menacing situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.

"Panic in the Streets" (1950)

Gripping thriller about a medical officer (Richard Widmark) in New Orleans to track down carriers of a deadly plague before it blossoms into a runaway epidemic, but he needs police help when the trail leads to some murderous street criminals (Jack Palance and Zero Mostel). Director Elia Kazan combines fine performances, striking location photography and a credible story to heighten the tension over the city's plight until an edge-of-the-seat chase through waterfront locales nabs the carriers. Stylized violence, menacing situations and marital discord. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults.

"Pickup on South Street" (1953)

Run-of-the-mill crime caper turns into a counterespionage case when a New York pickpocket (Richard Widmark) filches a wallet containing government secrets on microfilm, then finds himself caught in the middle between a communist spy ring (led by Richard Kiley) and a squad of G-men. Writer-director Samuel Fuller loads the far-fetched plot with violence, especially directed at women (Jean Peters and Thelma Ritter), with a hokey ending lauding the nasty crook as a hero after he nails the communists. Hard-edged violence and sexual situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults.

"The Set-Up" (1949)

Classic picture of the fight game in which an aging boxer (Robert Ryan) refuses to take a dive in a bout his manager has agreed to fix and suffers the consequences when he scores a KO. Directed by Robert Wise, the brutality inside the ring is reflected in the bloodlust of the spectators and the hard cases who make their living off prizefights. Ryan brings an inner sense of dignity to the role as does Audrey Totter as his caring wife. The violence is brutal but meaningful. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults.

"Sorry, Wrong Number" (1948)

Uneven thriller from Lucille Fletcher's taut, half-hour radio play about a wealthy, bedridden neurotic (Barbara Stanwyck) who accidentally learns her husband (Burt Lancaster) has hired someone to kill her in the next few hours. Directed by Anatole Litvak, the adaptation spends more time on flashbacks providing the motivation for the crime than on the suspenseful situation of the helpless woman whose life hangs on a telephone line. Much tension and vicious criminals. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.

"The Street with No Name" (1948)

In a story described as "from the files of the FBI," a G-man (Mark Stevens) goes undercover to worm his way into a gang run by a murderous psychopath (Richard Widmark) who tries to kill him after learning his real identity from a corrupt police official. Director William Keighley's semi-documentary approach uses some actual FBI facilities and personnel, but this doesn't add any greater credibility to the formula crime story or the actors' melodramatics. Stylized violence and threatening situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.

None of the movies listed are rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

People In The News

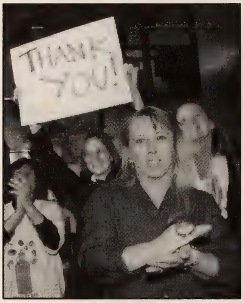
Peace Prize Winner Presses For Advocacy On Land Mines

By PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams said she understands the political and military reasons why land mines are used, but won't rest until the voices of those opposed to the weapons prevail.

In remarks to the National Council of Churches meeting Nov. 13, this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner for her fight to end the use of land mines said President Clinton and other world leaders need to hear from their people, not just military authorities who convince them land mines are a necessary part of warfare.

"Unfortunately our leaders are only willing to hear the voices of the military," Williams said. "But a statesman hears everyone. President Clinton needs to listen to their counsel, but he needs to listen to us, too."



CNS photo from Reuters

American Jodie Williams (front) won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

Williams' presentation followed the showing of a video made by the NCC's Church World Service and Witness unit describing the civilian toll of land mines, sometimes years after wars are over.

It noted, among other details, that the number of land mines scattered around Cambodia exceeds its population and that every 20 minutes someone is injured or killed by one of the millions of mines used around the world.

Williams lauded the success in just one year of a worldwide agreement, known as the Ottawa Resolution to ban the use of anti-personnel land mines. The agreement is scheduled for a signing ceremony in December in the Canadian capital.

"We achieved this ban because we were right," Williams said, "because land mines are never necessary and because it is the morally and ethically correct position."

Canada's decision to sponsor the agreement was important in persuading other nations to sign on, she said.

President Clinton announced in September that he would not sign the treaty because the Pentagon regards land mines as essential to protecting South Korea and the 37,000 U.S. troops there from an invasion from North Korea.

"I find it unfortunate that our leaders are letting the military determine policy in a global issue," Williams said.

She urged the assembled delegates to the NCC to appeal to the members of their churches to "remind the president he needs to be a statesman ... and to be on the right side of history."

After Williams' address, the NCC unanimously passed a resolution calling for a ban on anti-personnel land mines.

The U.S. Catholic Conference, which is not a full member of the NCC, has made several statements supporting the ban on land mines over the last year and is part of a coalition that formed the U.S. Catholic Campaign to Ban Landmines this summer.

Bishop Says World Has Abandoned Catholics in Bosnia

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (CNS) — Frustrated by what he sees as a lack of international will to fully implement the Dayton peace accords, Bishop Franjo Komarica of Banja Luka expressed the sense of abandonment shared by Catholics in his diocese. "Catholics have been abandoned by the international community," the bishop said through an interpreter to American visitors to his diocese this fall. "Croatians have been ejected from their land. They have no rights. We are totally innocent," he said, clenching his fist and slamming it onto the polished surface of the table in his sitting room. "We want all Catholics in America to raise their voices in protest of this injustice for their Catholic brothers and sisters here.... This is a state without rights. We are like mice under the feet of elephants. We have a feeling that there is an international campaign against Croatian Catholics."

Leckey Receives Papal Honor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dolores Leckey, director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth, received a papal award and a standing ovation from the bishops during their November meeting in Washington. Leckey, 64, plans to retire at the end of the year after 20 years of service at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, NCCB president, announced to the bishops Nov. 12 that three days earlier Leckey received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross from Pope John Paul II. "Pro ecclesia et pontifice" means "for the church and the pope." Leckey began working with the NCCB in 1977 as director of its Secretariat for the Laity.

Vietnamese Turn To Bishop For Help In Calming Unrest

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After more than a week of civil unrest, local Vietnamese officials have turned to a Catholic bishop seeking his help in bringing an end to protests over government confiscation of land, including church property. Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said about 10,000 peasants in the Thong Nhat district, about 25 miles south of Saigon, were involved in recent demonstrations and confrontations with police. "Tension is still high, and there is a heavy police presence in the area," Fides reported Nov. 12. Women and children have continued their sit-in in front of local government offices, protesting corruption, especially as it relates to the confiscation of land.

Cardinal Maida Supports Fasting, Abstaining For Pro-Life Cause

DETROIT (CNS) — Catholics need to return to meatless Fridays in order to combat society's current "culture of death," Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida said in support of an effort by the U.S. bishops to revive the tradition of fasting and abstinence on Fridays. He made his comments earlier this month in Detroit. "Here in Michigan, we have the assisted suicide issue around us all the time," Cardinal Maida said. The U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities "felt that maybe we should challenge this, not only in technical, political ways, but in the spiritual way," he continued. "That's at the root of who we are, and we feel that by fasting and prayer we might touch the hearts of many people and also enlist the help of the Lord." Cardinal Maida is a member of the pro-life committee.

Boggs Sworn In As Vatican Ambassador Amid Family, Friends

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The first woman to become U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Corinne "Lindy" Claiborne Boggs, took an oath of allegiance to the U. S. Nov. 12 amid a crush of family and friends. Watching were more than 200 people, many of whom were members of Congress, where she and her late husband, Hale, served across five decades. Placing her left hand on a Bible given to her by Sisters of St. Joseph, Boggs swore her allegiance to the United States "against all enemies," saying she would "support and defend the Constitution," and that she took her obligations freely.

Thinking of Priesthood?

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Ashe County Group Giving Kids New Beginnings

By PATTY McMEANS

WEST JEFFERSON — Children who are placed in foster care by the Department of Social Services (DSS) often enter that care with only the clothes on their backs or a few clothes in a garbage bag. However, one local group, New Beginnings, is making a difference for those children.

New Beginnings is a foster care support group in Ashe County, said Bernadette Zimmerman, group founder and a parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson. "In general, children in foster care are victims of a situation over which they have no control," she said.

Zimmerman was inspired to form the the group after hearing Glenmary Father Roland Hautz, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, incorporate foster care into a homily during a weekend Mass.

Although there is no personal contact with the children, the group provides for the extraordinary needs of the children in foster care. Items provided include clothes, school supplies, toiletries, a stuffed animal and overnight bags for boys and girls of all age groups. New Beginnings has provided support to over 30 children since the program began in May.

The group can also help children who have been appointed a Guardian ad Litem if requests are made through social services.

"The needs of these children are far greater than food and shelter," Zimmerman said. "The goal of New Beginnings is to provide some of the little extras that will give the child a sense of stability during a very turbulent time in their lives. The knowledge that someone cares can be very reassuring to a child," she said.

Organization member and St. Francis of Assisi Church parishioner Sandy Chatman agreed. "The program is by Ashe County for Ashe County," she said. "The items provided for the children are new. Wearing new clothes to school can really help their self-esteem. We want them to feel that they matter."

"It's a community-based project," Zimmerman added. "All the money comes from donations."

While the group uses the facilities at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church as a headquarters, church groups of all denominations have provided support for the project. Various individuals and community groups have also provided support. Some businesses have made one-time donations to the non-profit group, while others have offered discounts on services.

There are a variety of ways for people to become involved, she said. These include offering monetary support, respite foster care, and respite meals, volunteering as secret pals and resource persons, and providing clothing, toiletry, sewing and craft items.

"It started out with two or three ladies who wanted to make security blankets for the children and has grown into an enormous organization," Zimmerman said. "There are no meetings or dues. The only requirement for membership is a generous heart."

The group produces a newsletter called Pathways each month telling about ongoing projects.

"It's a wonderful help because of the things they do to help the children," DSS worker Terri Wagoner said. "They are always willing to help. They're ready to help with anything."

The group is already working on Christmas stockings which will be filled with items such as books donated by the Friends of the Library.

"They're a wonderful asset to us," Wagoner said. "They don't ask questions; we just tell them what we need. It makes the kids feel special and like someone loves them."

The group's latest project is refurbishing a room at the old hospital which is used for interviews, Zimmerman said. A kickoff roast beef dinner to generate community awareness and raise funds for the project took place Oct. 24 at Mt. Jefferson Presbyterian Church. Father Roland Hautz, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, was the emcee.

For more information on the group, write to New Beginnings, P.O. Box 1, Jefferson, N.C. 28640.

Patty McMeans is a staff reporter for the Jefferson Post in West Jefferson. Her story, which originally ran Oct. 21, is reprinted with permission.

Contributing to this story was Jimmy Rostar, staff writer of The Catholic News & Herald.

Take A Tour Of Historic Belmont Abbey College

BELMONT — A church with breathtaking hundred-year-old windows. A grotto blessed as the only pilgrimage shrine in North Carolina. A building erected in sections in 1886, 1887, and 1898, which then burned and was rebuilt by monks and students in 1900.

These are just a few of the sites of historic Belmont Abbey College and Monastery, located in Belmont, midway between Charlotte and Gastonia on I-85.

Visitors to the campus now have a handy booklet for use in self-guided walking tours. "A Walking Tour of Historic Belmont Abbey" may be picked up at the Abbey Church or requested from the Public Relations Office on the first floor of Robert Lee Stowe Hall. The free booklet contains brief descriptions of the Abbey buildings and directs visitors along a circuit beginning at the Abbey Church of Mary Help of Christians, which is on the National Register of Historic Places as the country's only "abbey cathedral." Inside the church are German-made windows which won gold medals at the Columbian Exhibition, the World's Fair of 1892.

"We welcome people to visit our beautiful campus and enjoy the atmosphere of our unique environment," said Dr. Robert A. Preston, President of the college. "This booklet helps visitors to tour the campus at their own pace."

Tours also may be arranged for larger groups. Call (704) 825-6890 to make arrangements.

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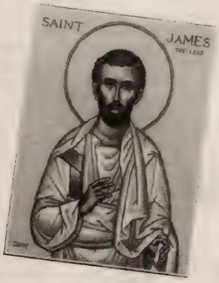

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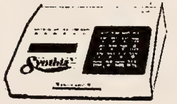

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Diocesan News Briefs

Paul Kovacich, a parishioner of St. Francis of Rome Church in Sparta, sits in front of a Marian shrine he recently constructed on the church grounds. Kovacich, 15, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout for his work during a court of honor Oct. 26 at the church. The project also included landscaping at the church. Kovacich was assisted by his Troop 299 members and assistant Scoutmasters Ricky Brinegar and Stan Edwards. The parish council financed the project.

Bereavement Support

ARDEN — The Bereavement Support Group meets Mondays at 1:30 p.m. in the St. Francis Room at St. Barnabas Church for those with significant losses in their lives, no matter how recent or remote.

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence provide free tours of the historic church following every weekend Mass. The Mass schedule is: Saturday vigil, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. Spanish Mass is at 7 p.m.

Group Rosary

CHARLOTTE — A group rosary is prayed every first and third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m., immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass, in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for more information.

Separated, Divorces, Remarried Support

CHARLOTTE — A support group for those separated, divorced, and remarried "outside the church" meets every second and fourth Wednesday at St. Ann Church. Call Kathy Wooley, (704) 376-1503, for details.

Contemplative Prayer Group

CHARLOTTE — A prayer group open to all, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, or HIV/AIDS status, meets every second and fourth Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. in St. Peter Church. Gather at the rear entrance. Call David Brown, (704) 535-3684, for details.

NFP Session Canceled

CHARLOTTE — The introductory session of Natural Family Planning each third Thursday at the Catholic Center is suspended until further notice. For details, call Cathy, (704) 364-3348, or Carmen, (704) 663-6411.

Seniors' Thanksgiving Dinner

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Parish hosts its ninth annual senior citizens' Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 23 in the activity center following the 12:15 p.m. Mass. Call (704) 523-4642 for reservations.

Italian American Club

GREENSBORO — The Italian American Social Club presents its 22nd annual Christmas dinner-dance Dec. 6 at the Cardinal Country Club from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Cost is $33 per person. Call Guy Cerrito, (910) 852-0714, for details.

Christ the King Feast

HIGH POINT — The Christ the King Parish community gathers for a celebration of the feast of Christ the King Nov. 23. The Very Rev. Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, is the principal celebrant at the 11 a.m. Mass in the church. A dinner follows at 2 p.m. in the National Guard Armory, featuring international entertainment and guest speaker Louis Quijas, High Point police chief. Cost of the dinner is $5 for adults, $3 for children. Call the parish office, (910) 884-0244, for more information.

Thanksgiving Dinner

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts a free community Thanksgiving Day dinner Nov. 27 in the parish's Holy Family Center from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for anyone in the Newton-Conover area wanting to spend the holiday with others, especially those who cannot afford a holiday meal. To ensure that enough food will be prepared, call (704) 464-9207 for reservations. Meals will also be delivered to those unable to come to the church, and transportation will be available. Call the above number for details.

Spanish Rosary

NEWTON — A group rosary is prayed in Spanish every Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. Eucharistic adoration follows.

Advent Program

NORTH WILKESBORO — St. John the Baptist de la Salle Church presents an Advent program from 10-11 a.m. each Sunday from Nov. 30-Dec. 21. The movie "Jesus of Nazareth" will be shown in four segments and will be discussed with the use of a Biblical study guide. Refreshments will be served.

Scriptural Series

TRYON — A scriptural series focusing on "Breaking Open the Gospel of Luke" continues at St. John the Baptist Church Mondays at 7 p.m. in the church hall. Call (704) 859-9574 for more information.

Healing Companions

WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, meets each first and third Thursday in Conference Room A at St. Leo the Great Church at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Joanne Parcell, (910) 924-9478.

Jesuits Discussion

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus Council #11102 hosts an informational presentation on the order of the Society of Jesus — the Jesuits — by Jesuit Father Francis P. Gillespie, pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Nov. 25 at 7:15 at the church. Light refreshments will be served. Call Don Lawing, (704) 536-8233, or Vince Coscia, (704) 536-4287, for details.

Operation Rice Bowl Director Visits

CHARLOTTE — Corryne Delibiarto, national director of Operation Rice Bowl, is this month's featured speaker at Catholic Campus Ministry of UNC-Charlotte's Voices program Nov. 23 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church following the 5 p.m. Mass. Her topic is "Our Call to Family, Community and Participation." A covered dish dinner is planned, and all are invited. To RSVP, call Barbara Neff Hutchison, (704) 547-4069.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Ecumenical, Interfaith Events

ASHEVILLE — The Fifth Annual World AIDS Day Interfaith Healing Service is Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. in Central United Methodist Church.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin co-presides at Charlotte's annual World AIDS Day ecumenical healing service on Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. in St. Peter Episcopal Church at 7th and North Tryon Streets.

The Park-Sharon Association of Churches presents its annual Thanksgiving service Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Sharon United Methodist Church. This year's special collection is for Habitat for Humanity.

An ecumenical Thanksgiving service hosted by Trinity Presbyterian Church is Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Father Ed Sheridan, pastor of St. Gabriel Catholic Church, will preach.

GREENSBORO — The 15th Annual Ecumenical Celebration of Thanksgiving sponsored by the Piedmont Interfaith Council is Nov. 23 at 3 p.m. in Dana Auditorium, Guilford College, featuring the Triad Tapestry Children's Chorus, Irish Riverdancers, Shofar Chorus, faith banners, and African drum and dance ensemble. Admission is free. Call (910) 274-6051 for details.

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence welcomes all to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. For information, call (704) 252-6042.

BELMONT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Belmont Abbey Chapel, located behind the abbey church and monastery. For more information, call (704) 399-2701.

CHARLOTTE — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Matthew Church each Friday after the 9 a.m. mass and lasting until the 9 a.m. Saturday Mass. Call Pat Gundaker, (704) 366-9687, or Bernice Hansen, (704) 846-2958, for details.

Eucharistic adoration is at St. Thomas Aquinas Church each Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for details.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Maryfield Nursing Home Chapel. For details, call Joe or Mary Lanham, (910) 454-4551.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts eucharistic adoration Fridays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. First Friday adoration follows the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasts until 10 p.m.

World And National News Briefs

NCC Presidents Bring Greetings To Catholic Bishops

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The outgoing and incoming presidents of the National Council of Churches brought greetings to the U.S. Catholic bishops Nov. 12 and expressed hope that such collaborative efforts would continue. "Baptismal water is thicker than any denominational affiliation," said Episcopal Bishop Craig B. Anderson, who was installed as NCC president for 1998-99 later that evening. "We are all relatives, all brothers and sisters in Christ, all children of God." United Methodist Bishop Melvin Talbert, outgoing NCC president, said, "It is truly by God's grace that we are continuing to be reconciled together." As the two were speaking, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, was addressing the NCC general assembly, also meeting in Washington. Both groups said it was the first time that they have sent officers to address each other's organization.

Eastern-Rite, Latin-Rite Confirmation Conflict Raised

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Reports that some Eastern-rite Catholic children are being confirmed a second time in Latin-rite ceremonies was a main topic of discussion during a Nov. 12 meeting of U.S. Eastern-rite bishops. The Latin-rite practice approved by the Vatican permits the sacrament of confirmation to be conferred between the ages of 7 and 18 at the discretion of the local bishop. The Eastern-rite practice calls for confirmation, known among Eastern-rite Catholics as chrismation, at the time of baptism. "Some Eastern young people in Roman Catholic schools are presented to Latin bishops for confirmation," said Auxiliary Bishop Nicholas J. Samra of the Melkite-rite Diocese of Newton, Mass. "The sacrament cannot be repeated and students should not be presented," he told the Eastern-rite bishops, whose meeting was held in conjunction with the U.S. bishops' fall general meeting Nov. 10-12 in Washington.

Vatican Warns Some Lay Ministries May Be Harmful

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lay ministries that obscure the differences between the ordained priesthood and the laity, even if motivated by a desire to serve priestless communities, are harmful to the church, Vatican officials said. Archbishop Crescenzio Sepe, former secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy, said that, while qualified lay people may be called to supplement the ministry of priests in certain emergency situations, the faithful and the church will suffer if the lay minister goes beyond his or her auxiliary role. Archbishop Sepe and officials from four Vatican offices spoke at the Nov. 13 release of a Vatican instruction on "the collaboration of the nonordained faithful in the sacred ministry of priests." The document, signed by the heads of eight Vatican agencies — including the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Council for the Laity — was approved by Pope John Paul II in mid-August.

Laypeople in Ministry Top 26,000 and Growing, Says Priest

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic parishes now have more than 26,000 paid lay ministers, Msgr. Philip J. Murnion told bishops in Washington Nov. 9. That figure is nearly 5,000 higher than it was six years ago, he said. More than 50 U.S. bishops attended the half-day workshop on ecclesial lay ministry, held the day before the start of their annual fall meeting. The workshop, sponsored by the lay ministry subcommittee of the bishops' Committee on the Laity, focused on three main areas: the current situation of lay ministry in the U.S. Catholic Church, the theology of ecclesial lay ministry, and what is being done in diocesan lay ministry formation and certification programs.

CNS photo by Bob Roller

Bishops of the United States process to the altar at the start of Mass Nov. 10 inside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The bishops gave special recognition to the missionary life of the church.

Faith Translating Beliefs Into Action To Be Examined At Synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The faith of Catholics in the Americas and how well they translate their beliefs into action for justice, charity and the protection of human life will be examined at the monthlong special Synod of Bishops for America. The Nov. 16-Dec. 12 synod will bring together representatives of the church from 24 countries in North and South America. The theme chosen by Pope John Paul II for the gathering is: "Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ: The Way to Conversion, Communion and Solidarity in America." The synod is one of a series of regional gatherings the pope has called to prepare the Catholic Church for the new millennium.

Church In Northwestern China Works Despite Difficulties

HONG KONG (CNS) — Despite government surveillance, financial problems, decreasing support from the international church and other difficulties, the Catholic community that remains loyal to the pope in northwestern China continues its efforts. "In the 1980s, our activities were regarded as underground. But since the 1990s, we have been operating openly, and government officials know that we are offering Mass and other liturgies," said a priest there who is not affiliated with the local government-approved Catholic Patriotic Association. "We are not an underground church, we are just the unofficial one because we do not join the CPA," the priest in Gansu province told a visiting Catholic source from Hong Kong recently. His remarks were reported by UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

As Role Becomes Clearer, More Italians Join Permanent Diaconate

ROME (CNS) — As the role and identity of the permanent deacon have become clearer, more Italians are called to the ministry, said an Italian bishops' official. Archbishop Enrico Masseroni of Vercelli, president of the Italian bishops' commission for the clergy, said Italian Catholics are starting to realize that permanent deacons are not "substitute priests," but have their own identity and mission. Starting with the deacons themselves, he said, "one perceives a more missionary understanding of their service, because of the significant and opportune presence of deacons in the world of work." The deacons, he said, have seized the Italian bishops' call to go out into the world, especially as witnesses of Christian charity.

Church Divorce Stand No Bar To Ending Abuse, Priest Says

NORWALK, Conn. (CNS) — The church's teachings on divorce are not at odds with its obligation to support women who leave an abusive husband, according to Father Stephen Dohner, a consultant on domestic violence. Speaking to more than 50 lay ministers, religious and mental health professionals at St. Philip Neri Parish in Norwalk, Father Dohner said the church is in a position to prevent violence by clearly and consistently condemning it. The workshop was sponsored by the Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force of the Social Concerns Office of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Father Dohner is director of marriage and family development for the Diocese of Cleveland. He said if a woman in an abusive marriage leaves her husband, "the responsibility for the ending of the marriage rests not with her but with the one who abused her."

Senate Defeats Education Savings, Prepares For Vouchers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although the U.S. Senate voted down a bill that would have given families a tax break on money saved for their children's education, a Catholic school official was not defeated by the action. One vote "is far less connected" to the overall success of tax breaks for parents "than the longer haul," said Leonard DeFiore, president of the National Catholic Educational Association, who says support for tax credits and vouchers continually gains momentum. DeFiore told Catholic News Service that the bigger news is "we are one (presidential) election away from positive federal action to public aid" for students who wish to attend private schools. The Parent and Student Savings Account Plus Act — designed to allow parents to save money in a tax-free account for expenses such as home computers, tutoring, transportation and tuition — fell four votes short in efforts to get it through the Senate. The bill had already been passed by the House.

Korean Famine Victims Getting Aid, Though Crisis Not Over

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Relief supplies are filtering through to North Korea's starving population, though the situation is far from resolved, reported Bishop John J. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla. Bishop Ricard, chairman of the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services, was part of a delegation of religious leaders who visited North Korea in early November. "What we witnessed was truly disturbing," Bishop Ricard said in a brief report Nov. 11 to the U.S. bishops. The severe food shortages the group witnessed are not a problem simply caused by drought or flood, despite three years of harvests that were dramatically reduced by those natural disasters, he said. "The country is in severe economic decay," said the bishop. Part of the emotional struggle Bishop Ricard said the North Koreans face appears to come from the fact that the country's political struggles, dating from the Korean War of the 1950s, remain unsettled.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

Parish Profile

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
Lambert Branch Road
Mail: P.O. Box 202
Cherokee, N.C. 28719
(704) 497-9755

Vicariate: Smoky Mountain

Administrator:
Father Eric Houseknecht

Parochial Vicar:
Father Gregory Littleton

Mass Schedule: Saturday, 6 p.m.; Sunday 12 p.m.

Number of parishioners: 150

Number of households: 40

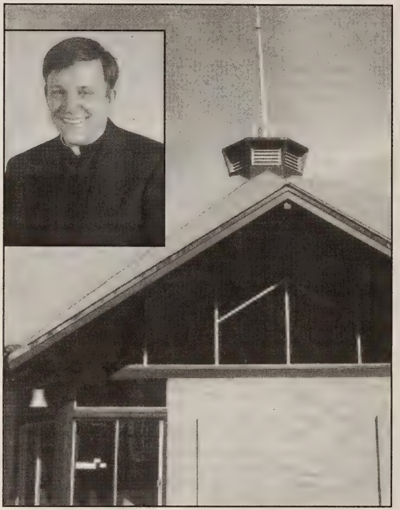
CHEROKEE — The Catholic church in Cherokee is the product of combining Roman Catholic tradition with Native American heritage — an amalgamation of cultures set in the western North Carolina mountains.

Catholics living in and around Cherokee gathered for liturgies in various places prior to the church's construction in the mid-1960s. Glenmary priests serving the westernmost sections of North Carolina ministered to Cherokee Catholics.

Lelia Queen, a convert, dedicated land on which to build a new church, and plans were set for construction. Because the donated land rested on Cherokee territory, a proposal had to be sent to the Cherokee tribal council before the Catholic community could proceed. A resolution was signed in 1960 by the principal chief, thus allowing for a Catholic chapel to be built.

Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh dedicated the newly built structure in August of 1966, placing it under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The building became the first Catholic church to be constructed on the Cherokee Indian reservation.

It was Bishop Waters himself who is said to have directed that the church reflect Cherokee culture. Built in the pattern of the ancient and sacred Cherokee council house, the church has seven sides representing the tribal clans. In the floor are mosaic symbols representing those clans: the Paint, the Deer, the Panther, the Wolf, the Bird, the Potato and the Blue Holly.



Highlighting the north section of the church is a large stained-glass historical mural representing Catholic and Native American tradition. Included is the heavenly appearance of Mary to Juan Diego, the Aztec Indian peasant who reported witnessing visions of the Blessed Mother in Guadalupe, Mexico. Also crafted among the 5,000 glass pieces are renderings of the famed Cherokee Sequoia, who designed a new alphabet that led to his people's literacy, and an ancient Cherokee village complete with a seven-sided council house.

Bishop Waters commissioned artist Franz Van Bergen, from Holland, to design the window in 1963. The project took two and one-half years to complete.

When Bishop Michael J. Begley of the newly created Diocese of Charlotte established St. Joseph Parish in Bryson City in September of 1972, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church became a mission of the new parish.

Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, arrived at the mission that year for a variety of missionary tasks benefiting Catholics, Cherokee, and members of the local community alike. Their work included teaching at the reservation high school, giving music lessons, leading religious education classes, and assisting in ecumenical and community efforts.

Two Franciscan nuns continue in parish and community ministry from the Cherokee mission today.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church celebrated its first 25 years with a jubilee Mass and meal in December of 1991.

Earlier this year, Bishop William G. Curlin transferred ministerial care of the mission to St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley. Father Eric Houseknecht, administrator, and Father Gregory Littleton, parochial vicar, serve the 40 households composing the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church registry.

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Preschool Teacher:

St. Thomas Aquinas Mothers Morning Out / Preschool has a position open for a Lead Teacher for the 3-day 4-year old program. Applicant needs to be certified in education. Anyone interested needs to contact Lori Schoeneman Monday - Thursday between the hours of 8:30 - 1:30.

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Of One Heart and One Mind

N.C. Bishops Issue Pastoral Letter, Appeal To Dioceses

Photo by Joann Keane

Bishops William G. Curlin and F. Joseph Gossman hosted three news conferences around the state Nov. 24 announcing their pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind". The bishops call upon Catholics statewide to become acquainted and involved with the economic reality facing the impoverished in the state.

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — With the holiday season fast approaching, North Carolina's two Catholic bishops joined with a plea to all of the state's people of good will to reach out to those in dire economic need.

Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh addressed three North Carolina audiences Nov. 24 to outline the principles of their "Of One Heart and One Mind," a pastoral letter inviting Tar Heel Catholics and their neighbors in business, government and the community to find ways of ensuring economic justice for everyone.

The bishops' missive, published in the Nov. 21 issue of The Catholic News and Herald and in the Nov. 23 issue of the Raleigh Diocese's NC Catholic, is the first joint pastoral letter by North Carolina's two Catholic bishops. In the Catholic tradition, the pastoral letter expresses urgent concern on a specific topic and calls the church to swift and sincere action.

Following the gathering in Charlotte, the pair traveled for press conferences at the Franciscan Center in Greensboro and Immaculate Conception Church in Durham. Audiences were composed primarily of clergy, religious, and members of diocesan and community social action groups.

"When one hurts, we all hurt. When one suffers, we all suffer," said Bishop Curlin in Charlotte. "Our purpose in issuing this pastoral is to say we believe as a Catholic community that we have a commitment to and a love for Christ that must reveal itself in the way we treat others."

Plans for the pastoral began a little more than year ago, when Joanne Frazer, director of the Justice and Peace office in the Charlotte Diocese, and Franciscan Sister Joan Jurski of the Raleigh Diocese's Peace and Justice office, met

See **Bishops**, page 2

Bear Jesus Christ's Cross, Youths Told At Conference

By KEVIN KELLY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — Wearing Christ's crown means bearing Christ's cross, the pastor of Nativity Parish in Washington told teen-agers at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City.

"You can't wear his crown if you can't bear his cross," Msgr. Ray East said in a homily during the closing Mass Nov. 23 at the biennial conference.

As thousands of teen-agers listened attentively — and shouted back "Amen" when the Washington priest gave them the cue — Msgr. East sent many of the youths squirming in their seats when he challenged them to ask themselves how well they kept the covenant of the Nov. 20-23 conference.

In that covenant, the youths promised to stay away from drugs and alcohol, to keep a midnight curfew and stay out of the hotel rooms of other youths, and not to disturb other guests in their hotels while in Kansas City.

"It was a simple covenant," said Msgr. East. "But for some of us, it was hard to keep for just four days. What are we going to do when we have to keep the covenant of Jesus Christ for the rest of our lives?"

Msgr. East also congratulated the young people for their witness of faith during the conference, but told them the many more thousands of youths who didn't come need their witness when they go home.

"My heart is so burdened for young Roman Catholics who go through baptism, confirmation, and years of Catholic school and still don't have a clue who Jesus is," he said.

"Then when someone from (the evangelical Protestant) Crusade for Christ comes up to them on campus, it's like they are accepting Jesus for the first time," he said.

"Well," Msgr. East said, "if you can't find Jesus in this Catholic Church, you can't find him anywhere.

"We know Jesus, too," he said. "We know him for ourselves. But it is not enough to know him. We have got to take his reign into our hearts. To accept him as our Lord and Savior, we have to accept what he wants us to do."

See **Youths**, page 2

Bishops At Synod: With Conversion, Gospel Values Church Can Change World

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Conversion and Gospel values must permeate the people of the Western Hemisphere if the Catholic Church in the new millennium is to be a united force for change in the world, said members of the Synod of Bishops for America.

Underlying the synod's opening-week discussion of Latin America's foreign debt burden and North America's growing secularism — and of poverty, injustice and a scarcity of priests throughout the hemisphere — were calls to holiness, to fidelity to the church and to concrete acts of solidarity.

Pope John Paul II opened the synod with a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and a call for cooperation among Catholics in North and South America.

He cleared his calendar of almost all appointments so he could listen to the formal presentations of the 233 synod members and invite small groups of them in for discussions over lunch and dinner.

And he had his own suggestion for joint action by the bishops Nov. 22, a cold day of pounding rain: "We should build Noah's ark."

By the end of the first week of the synod, 138 members had addressed the gathering; 85 of them spoke in Spanish, 27 in English, 18 in Portuguese, six in French and two in Italian.

As bishops outlined what they saw as the problems facing their people and their churches, there were repeated calls for the reduction or even forgiveness of Latin America's foreign debt. The bishops also called for more just North-South economic policies to prevent further debt build-up and to let Latin America into the global market on a more equal footing.

Justice requires that the people of the United States and Canada pay more for the goods they import from the South and that they lower prices on the goods they export to the South, said Archbishop Roman Arrieta Villalobos of San Jose, Costa Rica.

Archbishop Victor Lopez Forero of Nueva Pamplona, Colombia, told the synod that the Northern-dominated globalization of the economy "is contributing enormously to the growing impoverishment of our people ... and is openly

See **Synod**, page 3

Bishops Call All Catholics To Help Impoverished, from page 1

with the bishops amidst a backdrop of the nation's discussing $30 million in federal budget cuts to economic and social programs.

Bishop Gossman called late November a "rather appropriate" time for the premiere, given that for many Thanksgiving is a celebration of family, friends, food and gratitude.

"It's the beginning of the holiday season," he said, "but there will be tens of thousands of other Americans who won't be celebrating in this fashion. They are the forgotten ones, the poor, the impoverished, the marginalized, the homeless.... "

Bishop Gossman urged the Charlotte audience to look beyond the newspaper articles and television news segments about holiday outreach to the poor in soup kitchens and shelters. The plight of the impoverished is for many a year-round problem, he added, and "it would be more helpful if we did a better job of reporting upon the poor, the needy, the parents who struggle to make ends meet as best they can."

Both bishops emphasized getting to the base of poverty as the key to bringing about change.

The point is highlighted throughout the pastoral as well. "We must continue to address the effects of poverty by serving the poor in homeless shelters, in food pantries, with clothing drives, and in literacy centers," they write, "but we must also include action aimed at resolving the root causes of poverty."

The bishops continue that while the immediate necessities of individuals and families must be met, the church "must work to change societal conditions and public policy to be more responsive to human needs."

In their pastoral and during the press conferences, the bishops expressed cautious optimism that programs like the welfare reform initiative North Carolina Work First will indeed move families toward self-sufficiency, but they — and several audience members representing Catholic and community social agencies and non-profits — emphasized that the availability of jobs paying a living wage is essential to the success of any reform efforts.

The bishops said that the pastoral is only the first step in a concerted, organized undertaking to heighten people's awareness and move them to assist in the fight against poverty. The document offers practical and spiritual pledges by the bishops themselves, as well as suggestions for businesses and parishes who want to help.

The diocesan Justice and Peace offices will lead that next step of advocacy into vicariates, deaneries and parishes across the state. Sister Joan applauded "the unity of both bishops and dioceses as a whole" in seeking to provide "a voice for the voiceless."

She noted the needs for a return to the "teachings of Jesus, the tradition of the church and to Catholic social teachings" and "to remind ourselves that all is not well" when it comes to North Carolina's true economic state.

Frazer agreed, calling the pastoral a significant document for both dioceses. "In issuing this letter, Bishop Curlin and Bishop Gossman are speaking out, along with Pope John Paul II and the U.S. bishops, as they lift up the human and ethical dimensions of economic life — two aspects which are often neglected in public discussion."

Although North Carolina Catholics' numbers are relatively small, she added, "we have in our parishes and businesses people who want to know how to address the systemic structures and issues that surround our economic disparities."

To effect that change, the bishops realize that they and North Carolina Catholics — who make up less than 5 percent of the state's population — must appeal to members of the business, government, ecumenical and civic communities. They said their hope for the future rests with the parishioner, the businessperson, the civic government official, the television reporter, the interested citizen, the local expert on social justice and advocacy.

"We as Catholics are the minority, but we've got a big heart," added Bishop Curlin. "The action of helping people is what we do best."

And with the caring assistance from the community, Bishop Gossman said, improvements can be made. "That should be our motto: 'Yes, we can,'" he said. "Yes, we can do a lot, if we try."

Youths Urged To Follow Christ, from page 1

Msgr. East told the youths to learn about Jesus through his word, noting that the American Bible Society would provide each of them with a copy of the Gospel of John as they left the closing Mass.

"If you know Jesus in his word, his word will get inside of you and you will take him wherever you go," he said.

Msgr. East said that something profound happened in Kansas City as thousands of teen-agers made new friends with peers from across the nation.

"We became members of one family, the body of Christ. In this hall, there is no division. There are no strangers," he said.

He urged them to take that lesson home. "If you can build a community here in four days, you can build it anywhere," he said.

At the close of his homily, he borrowed from an evangelical "altar call" and asked youths to stand, but only if they were willing to witness to Christ at home and really meant it.

When the entire assembly stood, Msgr. East turned to the concelebrating bishops.

"I give to you, at least 14,000 strong, not the church of the future, but the church of today," he said.

Even though many of those packed into the huge H. Roe Bartle Convention Center hall could barely see as they watched the Mass on huge video screens, they remained reverently quiet when the liturgy was quiet, and reverently exuberant when the liturgy called for them to express their joy.

Archbishop James P. Keleher of Kansas City, Kan., served as the principal celebrant.

Concelebrating were Bishop Raymond J. Boland of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo.; his brother, Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah, Ga.; and Bishops George K. Fitzsimons of Salina, Kan.; Joseph L. Charron of Des Moines, Iowa; David E. Foley of Birmingham, Ala.; and Stanley G. Schlarman of Dodge City, Kan.

CNS photo by Joe Cory

Laura Fritz (left) of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Maureen Perro of Fort Worth, Texas, add details to a painted cross at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

Our U.S. bishops summarized in ten key principles our Catholic tradition of applying our faith and moral teachings to economic life.

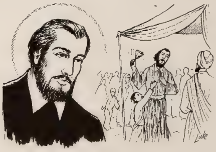
Principle #10:

Radio, TV, and now the Internet have connected people around the globe. Whether we live in a big city, the suburbs, or a rural area, we are neighbors with others far beyond our locale. Even without the media, we are connected: we wear blouses and shoes designed in Europe and manufactured in the Far East. In the winter our tables carry fruits and vegetables from the southern hemisphere. Our autos are designed in one place, the parts are manufactured in many different places, the cars are put together in still another, and the financing comes from banks with deposits from all over the world. We live in an economically unified world. When it comes to our own country, we believe that we should treat one another fairly and justly. Shouldn't this conviction be applied to our economic relationships with people everywhere?

Principle #10: The global economy has moral dimensions and human consequences. Decisions on investment, trade, aid and development should protect human life and promote human rights, especially for those most in need wherever they might live on this globe.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Francis Xavier



Francis was born in Spanish Navarre in 1506. He met Ignatius Loyola in college and became one of the first Jesuits. On his 35th birthday, Francis took a missionary assignment to the Far East. He ministered among and taught the faith to those who had not known Christ. He learned native languages and performed works of charity. His converts were many. Francis fell ill on a voyage to China and died at age 46. He is patron of foreign missions. His feast is Dec. 3.

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

Readings for the week of
November 30 - December 6, 1997

Sunday	Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2 Luke 21:25-28,34-36
Monday	Isaiah 2:1-5 Matthew 8:5-11
Tuesday	Isaiah 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday	Isaiah 25:6-10 Matthew 15:29-37
Thursday	Isaiah 26:1-6 Matthew 7:21,24-27
Friday	Isaiah 29:17-24 Matthew 9:27-31
Saturday	Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26 Matthew 9:35—10:1,6-8

Bishops at Synod, from page 1

contrary to the will of the Creator, who destined the earth and all it contains for the use of all men and women and all peoples."

Bishop Jorge Avila del Aguila of Jalapa, Guatemala, told the synod that some countries were using 25 percent of their annual budgets to pay off interest on their foreign debt.

The church, he said, should propose a remittance of the debt, or at least of the interest, and encourage an examination of the unfavorable conditions placed on debtor nations by lending institutions.

Auxiliary Bishop Raymundo Damasceno Assis of Brasilia, Brazil, said Latin Americans were grateful for the financial assistance they receive from North American Catholics, but the church as a whole must keep trying to influence the global policies behind the poverty — including foreign lending practices and speculative investment.

Other bishops took a more positive approach to the globalization of the economy, looking at it as an opportunity for greater unity and solidarity among peoples, but only if Gospel values were allowed to influence the process.

Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland of Milwaukee told the synod the Gospel values to be promoted include human dignity and respect for life; the importance of the family; the equality of men and women; religious freedom; preference for the poor; job creation and just governments.

No international political or social organization is strong enough to lead the push for values in the global market, he said, so the church must try to lead the way and rally all people of good will.

While serious social and political problems were discussed in detail, synod participants emphasized the spiritual mission of the church and the need to ensure that all its social activities flowed from conversion to Jesus Christ and communion with the universal church.

Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh focused his talk on the need to improve religious education programs, particularly in the face of secularism.

Secularism, he said, claims to have an exclusive right to the public forum and attempts to push all religious influences into the sphere of people's private lives.

Archbishop Francis E. George of Chicago said the private, individualistic culture of the United States is the result, in part, of its development in dialogue with Protestantism.

To overcome a cultural suspicion of Catholicism, he said, the church needs "a new apologetics, a loving and nondefensive, but clear response to the arguments against the Catholic faith."

Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana said capitalist societies are not the only ones that try to deny the place of religion in social life.

It occurs as well in "the most rancid Marxist systems," the Cuban cardinal said.

He told the synod that it is important to proclaim the right of every Christian "to be present amid the structures of society" and to bring their talents to the work for social unity and justice.

Bishop Raymond J. Lahey of St. George's, Newfoundland, told the synod the marginalization of Christianity is not simply the result of secularization, but of the church's failure to communicate with all sectors of society.

"The church often attempts to preserve the Gospel rather than communicate it," he said. "Many times it simply repeats religious language the culture finds meaningless."

Many of the bishops, particularly those from Brazil, used the synod as an occasion to praise the contributions of lay people and the essential role they have in ministering to priestless parishes.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, like several of his Latin American counterparts, called for a revitalization of parish life, including parish support and coordination of smaller communities of prayer, outreach and service.

CNS photo by Arturo Mari

Pope John Paul II joins bishops from North and South America at the Synod for America at the Vatican. Latin America's foreign debt, North America's growing secularism, poverty, injustice and scarcity of priests were some of the issues discussed during the first week of proceedings.

"The local parish is still the best tool that we have for evangelization," but the way most parishes currently operate is not good enough, the cardinal told the synod.

Auxiliary Bishop Alberto Brazzini Diaz-Ufino of Lima, Peru, said the first evangelization of the Americas 500 years ago was successful because of the holiness of the evangelizers.

"Today, in many sectors, we are in a state of mediocrity. Evangelization has lost strength because our human contribution is poor and inadequate," he said. "The call to holiness is less strong in the family, in Catholic schools and in our parishes. We have to renew the core of the church."

A repeated concern, especially among Latin American bishops, was the growing number of Catholics who leave their parishes for smaller Protestant churches, evangelical groups and sects.

Like Bishop Romulo Emiliani Sanchez of the apostolic vicariate of Darien, Panama, they condemned what they see as a "coordinated play" to alter the religious identity of Latin America. But they also acknowledged that people would not be leaving Catholicism if their needs were being met in their parishes.

Ensuring the holiness of priests and improving the celebration of Sunday Masses were two specific suggestions mentioned over and over again by bishops from the North and the South.

"Our peoples' faith in the Lord is connected to the credibility of his disciples and pastors," said Archbishop Alberto Suarez Inda of Morelia, Mexico. "We have to allow the tenderness of God to be reflected in our witness of merciful love, unqualified justice and closeness to the weak."

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver pointedly raised the sights of the bishops a bit higher: their own holiness and contact with their faithful.

"Too often those of us in the church — and even we bishops — simply do not believe deeply and zealously enough," he said. "It is too easy today for a bishop to abdicate his missionary zeal to others and become a captive of his own administrative machinery."

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East ☩ Charlotte, NC 28203 ☩ (704)334-2283

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

DECEMBER 8th
National Night of Prayer for Life
Eucharistic Adoration Asking God's Help and Forgiveness For the Unborn Lost To Abortion:

Participating Parishes
Holy Family, Clemmons
St. Mary, Greensboro
Our Lady of the Annunciation, Albemarle
St. Pius X, Greensboro
St. William, Murphy
St. Therese, Mooresville
Sacred Heart, Salisbury
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville
St. Joseph, Asheboro
St. Gabriel, Charlotte
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte
St. Margaret Mary, Swannanoa

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 30
3 p.m.
HIV/AIDS Healing Service
St. Peter Episcopal Church
Charlotte

December 3
10 a.m.
Visit to New Hope Center
Burnsville

December 7
Catholic Heritage Society Mass & Reception
Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Preparing For The Year 2000

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Nov. 19.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Creed we have reached the point where we profess our faith in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. These "last things" can only be understood in the light of the divine plan which unfolds in human history and in the life of each individual. Jesus Christ, son of God and lord of history, leads creation back to the Father through the life-giving action of the Holy Spirit. This is the context which also enables us to explain the meaning of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, for which we are preparing.

Through a free act and motivated only by love, God created all things. In creating the universe he created time, which he guides in its development. God is also the author of the New Creation: In Christ he has healed and renewed our human condition, wounded by sin. While the jubilee speaks to us of what God has done in the past, it is also a reminder that the future, too, is in his hands. We approach the jubilee therefore with hope and trust, for we know that it will bring about the fulfillment of the divine plan of love for each of us and for all humanity.

Today I extend a special welcome to the staff and students of the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland, who are in Rome as part of their graduate school program. Dear friends, during the last few months you have had an opportunity to deepen your ecumenical commitment and responsibility. It is my hope that your visit will further encourage you to be servants of the unity for which Christ prayed on the night before he died (cf. Jn 17:21). God bless you all!

I am also pleased to greet the participants in the course organized by the NATO Defense College: May your dedicated professional efforts always be aimed at building a world of true and lasting peace.

Upon all the English-speaking visitors and pilgrims, I gladly invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope To Visit Four Major Cuban Cities in January

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican confirmed that Pope John Paul II will visit four major Cuban cities in January, traveling to the four largest dioceses in the Caribbean nation. The 77-year-old pontiff will arrive in the capital, Havana, on the afternoon of Jan. 21 and will make day trips to Santa Clara, Camaguey and Santiago de Cuba, returning to the capital each evening. He will conclude his stay Jan. 25, celebrating an open-air Mass in Havana, and will arrive in Rome the next day after an overnight flight. The Vatican published the abbreviated schedule of the pope's planned visit Nov. 20.

First Sunday of Advent: A New Age

Rev. Francis T. Gignac, S.J.

With this Sunday of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year, the "Year of Luke." The continuous reading begins toward the end of the Gospel (21:25-28, 34-36), with a passage based on the one from Mark two weeks ago. The final cataclysm is portrayed with the same imagery of the sun, moon, and stars falling from the sky, storms at sea, and the Son of Man coming in power and glory.

This figure is now applied by the Christian community to Christ, our hero who was expected to come back to lead us to victory in his heavenly kingdom.

This apocalyptic rhetoric, common in the time of Jesus, is a rhetoric of hope that the present evil age would soon be replaced by a new one in which God's will would reign supreme for all time. Before this happened, the world would revert to primeval chaos, symbolized in the Bible as storm at sea and the heavenly bodies not yet fixed in the firmament. The passage concludes with salutary warnings: Let not indulgence, drink, and everyday activities bloat our spirits. We should be awake, sober, on guard, and pray constantly for the strength to escape the forces of evil.

A new age was in fact inaugurated in those days — not with an apocalyptic cataclysm but gradually, in the person and message of Jesus. Advent and Christmas invite us to begin a new age in our own lives, to let Christ be reborn in us, so that in turn we may bring his message of hope to others and try to bring about his values of justice, peace, and love.

The first reading from Jeremiah (33:14-16) follows closely after the prophet's oracle of a new covenant, in which he pictures Yahweh, the God of Israel, saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days.... I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

In today's section, Jeremiah sees the days coming when the Lord will fulfill the promise he made to them that the throne and dynasty of David would be established forever. Even though the leader of Judah had been taken off to exile, the prophet says that Yahweh will raise up a "just shoot for David," a worthy successor to the throne, who will "do what is right and just in the land," so that Judah and its capital Jerusalem will be safe and secure.

Early Jewish Christian writers read a deeper meaning into this passage and applied it to Jesus, who in their view had become a son of David and king of Israel in a way that the prophet had never dreamed of.

Perhaps the second reading today can best tell us how to prepare to receive Christ into our hearts this Christmas. It is taken from the earliest letter of Paul that has survived (1 Thess 3:12-4:2). In it he prays that the Lord Jesus might make us overflow with love for one another, and that he might strengthen our hearts to make them blameless and holy before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones.

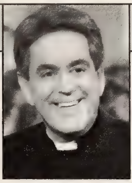
We know that God can be experienced directly. As Christians, we also believe that God is continually accessible and available to us in the person of Christ and of the Spirit dwelling within us. We also know that we cannot experience God of our own accord. But we can and should prepare and discipline ourselves so that we may be ready for God's self-communication, that the power of the ever-present Christ may transform our nature.

This is what the liturgy is asking us to do during Advent. As we begin to prepare for Christmas, let us open our minds and hearts to the word proclaimed to us, and let us strive to make our Lord's values our own.

Jesuit Father Francis T. Gignac, S.J., is a professor and chairperson of the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Thanks For Thanksgiving

It seems appropriate that the first celebration of the "holiday season" is Thanksgiving.

It is deeply spiritual and wonderfully human. We all know the story of the Pilgrims' "First Thanksgiving," or think we do, some of the facts having been obscured by legend. Venison played more of a starring role than turkey. Five deer were supplied by members of the Wampanoag tribe who joined the party. Still, it's nice to contemplate this celebration when people too often enemies met for a little while as friends.

Around certain dinner tables in 1997, the relations among people may be nearly as problematic if not as ultimately fatal: There are only a few hundred Wampanoags still living among the millions of cultural and biological descendants of the Pilgrims.

Face-to-face over breadbaskets, gravyboats and platters piled high with turkey, white meat and dark, clans are gathering. It's not uncommon for relatives and friends to see each other more between the fourth Thursday in November and New Year's Day than the other 10 months of the year. Even in homes where folks truly love and respect each other, there can be a strain. Sadly, more than a few holiday meals are flavored by anger and hurt. Recent slights, ancient feuds and half-remembered misunderstandings can all contribute to bad feelings among the company.

Then there are all the troubles everyone endures at some point. Did someone have an accident or get a serious illness? Is there grief over the death of a loved one? What about financial or legal difficulties? Then there's the person out of work, or passed over for a promotion, the kid struggling to keep up in school or fighting the pressure to drink or use drugs. Even a happy event like getting married, having a baby or retiring can create a major change that really takes a toll.

So is everyone secretly envying the turkey who, at least, is out of its misery?

Of course not. We love life too much. We care about ourselves, even when times are tough. And we do care about other people, even when they occasionally drive us crazy. We know the meaning of compassion.

Thanksgiving Day is a reminder. A reminder not only of all the things we have to be grateful for, but of all the people. When you thank God for his bounty, do you think of the farmers and fishermen? What about the food packers? Those cranberries didn't jell themselves in a can. Truckers delivered them. Did you forget the marshmallows for your family's favorite sweet potato recipe? No problem. Head out to the local convenience store next to the gas station — both open while you and yours are settling in for the next big football game. By the way, who's doing the cooking today? Who cleaned the house? Who will do the dishes?

Human beings need food, clothing and shelter to survive. And God provides — through other people. That includes those right next to us who feed our spirits, protect our feelings and shelter our dreams.

Should a poor soul eating a holiday meal off a plastic plate at a soup kitchen be more grateful than we are?

George Herbert, an English poet and cleric, wrote a prayer right around the time the Pilgrims were starting their new way of life on this side of the Atlantic. He said, "O God, you have given so much to me; give me one thing more, a grateful heart."

So before we see each other again at Christmas or New Year's, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, let's take the time to say thank you to God. And to the people we take for granted, whether we scarcely know their names, or we share the same name.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Limbo

Q. *We always enjoy your column, but the recent one on the fate of unbaptized children was especially enlightening.*

It recalled what I was taught in Catholic grade school in the 1930s. Limbo was the answer then. Do we not recognize limbo now? It's been years since I've heard the word.

A. It's true, as you recall; there was formerly much talk and writing about limbo. Some few older Catholics still think of it, along with heaven and hell, as a third "place to go" after death.

There were, in fact, two limbos much discussed at certain times in Christian history: "limbo patrum" (literally limbo of the fathers), referring to deceased people of ancient times, and "limbo puerorum," limbo of children, usually meaning those who die without baptism.

The truth is, the church never did have much at all to say about limbo. For centuries Christians simply assumed that God took care of those people in his own way.

Some theologians once taught that unbaptized children suffered some sort of pain, but by the 12th or 13th centuries that idea was pretty much ignored.

Limbo only became a subject of heated debate later, when a widespread, severely repressive wing of the church called Jansenism held that all non-baptized infants were condemned to hell.

In 1794, Pope Pius VI condemned this teaching, along with numerous other offbeat Jansenist beliefs. People may believe in a limbo, he said, a "middle state" of happiness, and still be Catholic.

That is obviously a long way from saying that limbo belongs anywhere in official Catholic teaching. It remains the only mention of limbo in any significant official Catholic document.

Despite its common occurrence in the past, even in some catechisms, one seldom hears the word anymore. The present Catechism of the Catholic Church doesn't even mention it.

The reason is understandable. Limbo implies some sort of two-level final destiny for human beings. One is eternal life with God.

The other is a "natural" happiness apart from God (limbo) where people go who, for whatever reason, do not reach the top level.

This theory contradicts a central teaching of Christian faith, which we understand better now perhaps than before. There is only one final goal and desire of happiness for all humanity, life with and in the God who created us.

As the catechism explains, we may attain that objective or we may reject it by our own fault. But there is no half happiness somewhere in between.

God has raised us to a supernatural life, a sharing in his life, his being, far beyond our natural capacity or hopes. Once having done this, there is no, so to speak, going back.

The desire for this happiness, says the catechism, is built into our nature, a gift of God, a calling addressed to every human being.

See **Dietzen,** page 11

Immaculate Conception: A Model For Humanity

Brother Donald Boccardi, S.M., S.T.D.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception focuses much confusion among Protestants as well as among some Catholics. Many think it refers to the conception of Jesus at the Annunciation, when, in fact, it refers to Mary's conception in the womb of her mother.

In 1854 Pope Pius IX declared that Mary was preserved from original sin, by virtue of a special grace of God and in view of her being the mother of Christ. Some worried that it meant that Mary had no need of redemption, but as one theologian explained it, you can be saved from a pit by being pulled out of it or by having someone keep you from falling into it; the latter is the case with Mary.

The concept of the Immaculate Conception has had a stormy past. Some of the great saints of the Middle Ages did not accept it. At the time of the Reformation, the debate on the idea among theologians had become so out -of-hand that the pope put all writings on the subject on the Index of Forbidden Books. A further irony is found in the openness which Martin Luther had to this idea around the same time.

Nevertheless, the feast was being celebrated in the liturgy and, after the appearances claimed by Catherine Laboure and Bernadette, devotion among the faithful proliferated in the 19th century, the former in 1830 before the dogmatic proclamation and the latter afterwards in 1858.

At a time when Marx was proclaiming his economic theory defining man, when Nietzsche was expounding on the idea of superman, and when the industrial revolution was trivializing the importance of the individual, the church presented a feminine model of what it means to be human, that is, a belief that there is more to life than the material world and that we are each unique beings in the sight of God.

It is important to keep the dogmas of the Immaculate Conception and Assumption within sight of each other. They really proclaim to us anew that Mary is a model for all the faithful disciples of Jesus who are born in grace and who are destined for resurrection and eternal life. We need this kind of symbolic theology to translate the more abstract aspects of its meaning into our lives.

As important things in life easily fade into the background by more pressing needs, seeing the Immaculate Conception within the concept of the biblical Mary and her relationship to Christ and the church can help us to see ourselves more clearly as faithful disciples of Jesus.

Brother Donald Boccardi, S.M., S.T.D., serves on the faculty of Theological College at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

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Maryfield Nursing Home Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By **KATHY SCHMUGGE**
Correspondent

HIGH POINT — On Nov.13, the cheering crowd in the parking lot of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church might have thought they stepped back in time when a 1940s Rolls Royce parked in front of the church and three passengers came out of the car to greet their supporters.

Dressed in the original habits worn by members of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God congregation, Sisters Mona Comanskey and Clare Francis from the same religious community and employee Elizabeth Gloster played the parts of the first courageous nuns who left their native Ireland to be missionaries in America. That group consisted of Sister Patrice, Sister Anne Christina, Sister Monica, Sister Ellen Fitzgerald and Sister Maria Benignus, who founded Maryfield Nursing Home in 1947. Their original welcoming committee was not as large as those attending this golden jubilee celebration but consisted of Father Robert MacMillan, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Mrs. Melva Price and Mrs. Lillian Neely, who then embraced the sisters and their dreams.

After the reenactment, an anniversary Mass took place at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church to celebrate the establishment of the nursing home. Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Joseph Zuschmidt, pastor, concelebrated with Father Philip Kollithanath, pastor of Christ the King Church, also in High Point; Father Tom Fitzpatrick, pastor of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville; Father Joseph Kelleher, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington; and retired priests Msgr. Arthur Duncan and Father Patrick Gavigan, who are residents at Maryfield. Father Frank Connolly of Saint Pius X Church in Greensboro was also in attendance.

During his homily, Father Zuschmidt pointed out that the celebration coincided with the feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, an immigrant nun from Italy who also came to the U.S. to share her faith. Father Zuschmidt surmised that these women most likely experienced similar hardships — the hardships which come from leaving family, friends and culture.

"Just like St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, these sisters suffered loneliness and I am sure at times felt homesick, but these great women persevered and with obedience followed the will of God," he said.

Turning to the congregation, Father Zuschmidt expressed gratitude toward the numerous supporters of Maryfield. "Many of your parents welcomed the sisters when they first came, and your families continue to be the backbone of the Catholic community here," he added, thanking everyone who sacrificed, prayed and worked towards making Maryfield the success story it is today.

"We are so excited about the opportunity to celebrate this important milestone. For 50 years, the sisters and staff of Maryfield, together with our friends in the community, have provided top quality nursing care in a Christian environment to over 1,850 residents," added Sister Lucy Hennessy, administrator of the nursing home.

Photo By Kathy Schmugge

Driver Bill Schneider assists Elizabeth Gloster into a 1940 Rolls Royce during Maryfield Nursing Home's recent 50th Anniversary Celebration. Immaculate Heart of Mary Church hosted a Mass to celebrate the establishment of Maryfield.

The High Point community has watched the continual building expansions and growth of the sisters' facilities. Maryfield now has a 125-resident capacity with a full retirement community located on the 66-acre property, which is quite a change from its original home which accommodated only 22 residents on 14 acres.

The facility, a fully accredited nonprofit organization, does not just offer medical service. It also serves the community through educational programs, support groups and perpetual eucharistic adoration. More than 300 people in the community participate in adoration.

To start the nursing home, the sisters from Ireland did not bring money, prestige or power but instead carried their strong faith and love. With their special gifts and the gifts of others, Maryfield continues to fulfill the dreams of the first nuns who came to share their love for Christ and his church through caring for others.

Father Zuschmidt concluded the celebration with a quote from St. Frances de Sales: "Whatever you do, do it passionately well; put your whole heart into it." Today, High Point celebrates the passion of those first five nuns, and all the people who through the years have followed their example, by giving their hearts to the residents at Maryfield.

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If you were a member, or know someone who was a member, please complete the form below and return it to our diocesan office as soon as possible. We have additional information we want to send. We look forward to hearing from you.

Patricia Novak, Youth Ministry Coordinator

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What is Room At The Inn?

Our mission of helping single, pregnant women is not an easy one. Many of the mothers who find *Room At The Inn* arrive broken in heart and in spirit – often rejected by their families and the fathers of their babies.

Room At The Inn is a unique, comprehensive program helping single, pregnant women with or without previous children to have a safe and healthy pregnancy and delivery and to return to school or work after the birth of their child.

We provide housing, food, clothing, counseling and love in a structured environment. Transportation to the hospital, medical and social service appointments, and to work and school is provided. Training in parenting, nutrition, budgeting, chastity and job skills is offered in our home as well.

Child care is provided to allow our moms to finish their education or to return to work.

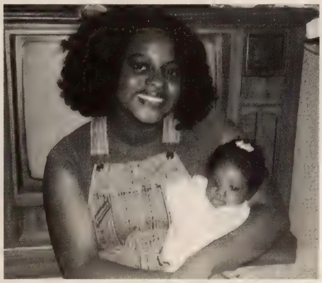
All medical appointments, medications and immunizations are tracked and supervised.

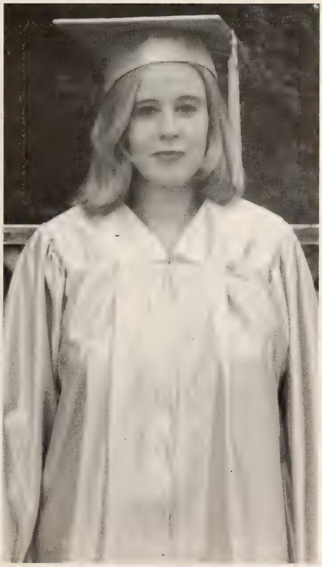
Case management and counseling are provided on-site by our social worker.

Room At The Inn is a place where young mothers learn to become responsible for themselves and their children. All of our mothers do the cooking and cleaning in the home. Each resident contributes to the upkeep of the home to the extent that she is able.

While at *Room At The Inn*, all residents work to pay back past creditors and to restore their credit rating and good name. Our moms explore careers in fields that will enable them to support themselves without welfare. We provide the support and love that they need to make the transition to a life filled with hope and opportunities.

Offering homeless, single women facing crisis pregnancies and their children a new start is what *Room At The Inn* is all about.





Sally's Story

(used with permission)

My boyfriend and I had been living together for a while as members of the Rainbow family. Although we both worked, our incomes went to support our drug habit. Imagine my surprise after I told him I was pregnant, when he left me and our unborn son and never looked back.

Being pregnant forced me to look at my situation differently. I was making decisions for two now and I wanted better for my child. After I quit using drugs, I found out about *Room At The Inn* and decided to give it a chance.

Room At The Inn was everything I hoped and feared it would be. The food was good, the house was cozy and a happy place, and the staff and volunteers were loving and supportive. Yet, the rules were tough and sometimes I thought I would have to leave or go crazy. However, after a lot of tears and frustrations, I was able to complete the program and move out on my own.

Tricia Lavoie, the house manager, was my labor coach and gave me all the support I needed throughout my stay. In-house child care provided me the opportunity to complete job training and to take some college level courses. I also was able to work and save enough money to buy a cheap car and car insurance. *Room At The Inn* helped me stay off drugs and get my life together.

Today, my son and I are on our own and I am working in a law firm. My relationship with God continues and I enjoy attending the Methodist Church I found while at *Room At The Inn*. Whenever I need baby supplies or just a friend, they continue to be there for me. Thank God for *Room At The Inn*.

Room At The Inn . . . Giving Life a Chance!

Tony's, Patricia's and John's Stories

(used with permission) (Story written by one of the birth moms)

Even though we never knew each other, we all share a common bond....*Room At The Inn* was our first home. Our moms, very different from each other in temperament and backgrounds, all came to the same conclusion that the most loving choice they could make was to place us for adoption.

Room At The Inn gave our moms, and other mothers like ours, the counseling and support they needed to get through their pregnancies and our births. Our mothers made courageous sacrifices to allow us to be loved and raised by other families who are more able to handle the pressures of parenthood.

We may never see our birth mothers or *Room At The Inn* again, but we all are looking forward to growing up with our new moms and new dads. We always will thank God for allowing us to be born and for providing for us in such a special way.

Room At The Inn . . . Offering Women Life Affirming Choices!

Elizabeth's Story

(used with permission)

When I found out that I was pregnant again, I was devastated. My son, Nicholas, was already one year old and we had just been evicted from our home. My baby's father was long gone. I was afraid for our future.

We spent a while moving about from friend to friend, even staying at a homeless shelter. There were no homes anywhere in the Carolinas for single, pregnant women who already had a child. Just when I had nowhere to turn, God led me to *Room At The Inn*.

Room At The Inn not only gave me a warm house to live in, good food to eat, and clothing for my kids and me, I also found true friends and the love of Christ. They picked me up and caressed my heart whenever I needed it and made me face reality whenever I needed that, too.

Today, thanks to *Room At The Inn,* I am a working brick mason and am supporting my family off welfare. I love my job! I am excited about my life and what it has in store for me and my children.

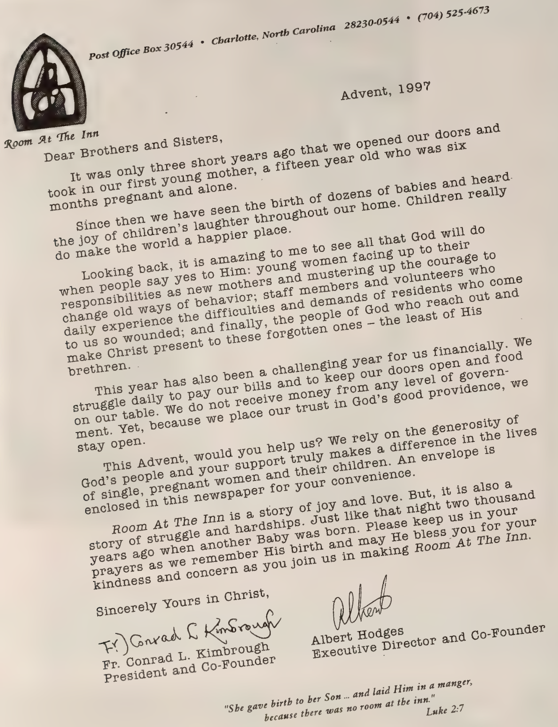
Most importantly, *Room At The Inn* encouraged my relationship with Jesus. Today, I am an active member of my church and enjoy the peace that comes from knowing Christ. I'm also committed to wait to have sex until after I'm married.

Things are so different for Nick, Anni and me, thanks to *Room At The Inn*. We have been shown God's mercy through this ministry. What would have happened to us without them?

Room At The Inn . . . Offering Women and Children Futures Full of Hope!

Room At The Inn comes to Greensboro!

After several years of prayers and with the help of community leaders, *Room At The Inn* is coming to Greensboro. We have acquired the Sternberger mansion, an eight bedroom, four bathroom home located at 734 Park Avenue. The facility, which needs extensive renovations, will house 6 mothers and their infants. This will be the first licensed maternity home in the Triad and is anticipated to open next fall.



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Room At The Inn

Advent, 1997

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It was only three short years ago that we opened our doors and took in our first young mother, a fifteen year old who was six months pregnant and alone.

Since then we have seen the birth of dozens of babies and heard the joy of children's laughter throughout our home. Children really do make the world a happier place.

Looking back, it is amazing to me to see all that God will do when people say yes to Him: young women facing up to their responsibilities as new mothers and mustering up the courage to change old ways of behavior; staff members and volunteers who daily experience the difficulties and demands of residents who come to us so wounded; and finally, the people of God who reach out and make Christ present to these forgotten ones – the least of His brethren.

This year has also been a challenging year for us financially. We struggle daily to pay our bills and to keep our doors open and food on our table. We do not receive money from any level of government. Yet, because we place our trust in God's good providence, we stay open.

This Advent, would you help us? We rely on the generosity of God's people and your support truly makes a difference in the lives of single, pregnant women and their children. An envelope is enclosed in this newspaper for your convenience.

Room At The Inn is a story of joy and love. But, it is also a story of struggle and hardships. Just like that night two thousand years ago when another Baby was born. Please keep us in your prayers as we remember His birth and may He bless you for your kindness and concern as you join us in making *Room At The Inn*.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr.) Conrad L Kimbrough
Fr. Conrad L. Kimbrough
President and Co-Founder

Albert
Albert Hodges
Executive Director and Co-Founder

"She gave birth to her Son ... and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room at the inn."
Luke 2:7

Fr. Conrad L. Kimbrough

Who we are

Room At The Inn is a pro-life ministry of the Catholic Church and is listed in the Official Catholic Directory (P.J. Kenedy and Sons). *Room At The Inn* is a non-profit agency with a 501(c)3 status with the Internal Revenue Service. Contributions to *Room At The Inn* are fully deductible from taxable income.

Mission Statement

Responding to the call of Jesus Christ to respect and affirm life from the moment of conception, Room At The Inn is a safe haven for single, homeless, pregnant women and their children, born and unborn. Invoking the patronage of Saint Joseph, and guided by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, Room At The Inn seeks to help these young families move toward a new life of hopeful, independent and healthy living.

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Room At The Inn......Making Christ Present to Single, Pregnant Mothers and Children in Need.

Entertainment

Lansbury Handily Steals The Show in 'Anastasia'

NEW YORK (CNS) — Disney animation is no longer in a class by itself with the arrival of 20th Century Fox's grandly animated musical, "Anastasia."

Make no mistake: This is a highly romanticized version of history, purporting that the Romanov princess Anastasia survived the 1918 execution of Czar Nicholas II and the rest of her family.

In the opening minutes we see 8-year-old Anastasia (voice of Kirsten Dunst) bonding with her beloved grandmother, the Dowager Empress Marie (voice of Angela Lansbury), who is returning to Paris.

Enter the evil sorcerer Rasputin (voice of Christopher Lloyd), who supposedly provokes the Bolshevik Revolution in order to doom Anastasia's family, although she escapes.

Traumatized, the child forgets her true identity, growing up in an orphanage as Anya, with only a slender memory of a kindly relative in far-off Paris.

And so at age 18, Anya (voice of Meg Ryan) meets up with con artist Dimitri (voice of John Cusack), who will get her to Paris if she pretends she is Anastasia, so he can collect a hefty reward from the empress.

Complicating matters is the now dead and comically decomposing Rasputin, still determined to reach out from his nether world to destroy Anastasia. Dimitri ends up saving her more than once on the danger-laden trip to the French capital, and an attraction grows.

After the bleakness of communist Russia, the glamour of Paris in the Roaring Twenties is fabulous, but the empress refuses to meet someone she considers just the latest in a long line of Anastasia pretenders.

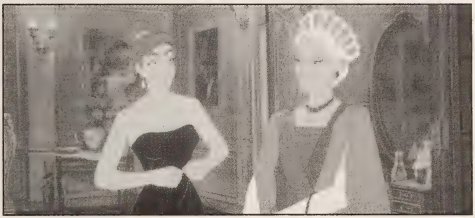
With Dimitri sadly returning to Russia, Anastasia is more vulnerable to Rasputin's wiles just as she hopes to finally discover the truth about her identity.

As directed by Don Bluth and Gary Goldman, "Anastasia" is a sheer delight, lush, lovely and a pleasure to watch.

While not at the level of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" or "The Lion King," its overall artistry surpasses "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Pocahontas."

There are some show-stopping scenes, the grandest of which is an opulent musical production number, "Paris Holds the Key," which takes the audience on a breathtaking nighttime tour of the City of Light, as fireworks burst above Anastasia and Dimitri.

Action scenes also come into play as the young couple narrowly escape an explosive train wreck only to face down a near-tidal wave during a sea voyage, all courtesy of Rasputin.



CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

Anastasia and her grandmother are reunited in Paris in the 20th Century Fox animation "Anastasia." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

The raging character of Rasputin, however, is overdone, his fury and ferocity exaggerated to diminishing results. Tempering his outsize outbursts are the humorous wisecracks of his chatty sidekick, Bartok, the albino bat (voice of Hank Azaria).

As she did in "Beauty and the Beast," Lansbury handily steals the show with her richly textured vocal characterization of the empress, giving the movie its heart.

The animation is sumptuous, very dimensional and fairy tale-like; in fact, that is the essence of this "Anastasia": history rewritten as a visually enchanting rags-to-riches fairy tale.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Bitter Sugar" (1996)

The pro-Castro beliefs of a young Cuban student (Rene Lavan) are shaken to the core when he discovers his fiancee (Mayte Vilan) has taken to prostitution to survive and his rebellious brother (Larry Villanueva) has deliberately injected himself with AIDS-tainted blood in protest against the repressive regime. Director Leon Ichaso's melodramatic political tract blends doomed romance and family crises into a scathing portrait of a beleaguered island whose economy caters to tourists at the expense of its own people. Subtitles. Brief spurts of violence, a discreet sexual encounter and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"A Chef in Love" (1997)

Engaging romantic fantasy set on the eve of the Russian Revolution as a French chef (Pierre Richard) opens a restaurant in Tbilisi where he lives happily with a Georgian princess (Nino Kirtadze) until their loving relationship is tragically shattered by the arrival of the Bolsheviks. Directed by Nana Djordjadze, the French-Georgian co-production uses an impressionistic stream of anecdotes filled with strange, almost surreal images of Georgian life to tell the story of an irrepressible adventurer whose zest for life is certainly refreshing, sometimes amusing and occasionally exhilarating. Subtitles. Implied sexual relationship, a restrained bedroom scene and flashes of nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Kid from Spain" (1932)

After being expelled from college for a prank in the women's dorm, an over-aged zany (Eddie Cantor) winds up in Mexico helping a friend (Robert Young) by masquerading as the son of a famous bullfighter. Director Leo McCarey wrings some laughs from predictable situations, aided by a good cast and inventive Busby Berkeley production numbers. Some sexual innuendo and comic menace. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Kid Millions" (1934)

Vintage Eddie Cantor musical follows him to Egypt to claim a fortune left by his archeologist father, but along the way he has to fend off an assortment of other claimants (Ethel Merman, Warren Hymer, Ann Sothern and George Murphy). Directed by Roy Del Ruth, the plot is sappy and the songs forgettable but it's a lot of silly fun, including the final reel with Eddie's ice cream factory in Technicolor. Some stylized violence and mild sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Men in Black" (1997)

Zany sci-fi comedy in which a brassy New York cop (Will Smith) is recruited by a taciturn government agent (Tommy Lee Jones) monitoring extraterrestrial activity in order to save Earth from being destroyed by aliens disguised as humans. Directed by Barry Sonnenfeld, the two leads are aptly paired in a story mixing understated hip humor with witty puppet creatures and amusing special effects. Broad comic violence and a few instances of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Operation Condor" (1997)

Comedy-action tale of a secret agent (Jackie Chan) who is assisted by three bickering women in searching for Nazi gold buried in the Sahara as various villains track the quartet's every move. Also directed by Chan, the dubbed 1991 production uses the nonsensical plot as a vehicle for tongue-in-cheek displays of bold stunts and martial-arts feats. Much comic-book violence, sexual references and brief nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Pippi Longstocking" (1997)

In this animated adventure, the spunky 9-year-old girl of the title (voice of Melissa Altro) awaits her father's return from being lost at sea while engaging in amusing encounters with neighboring children, an interfering busybody and a pair of bumbling burglars. Directed by Clive Smith, the production has colorful but unexceptional cartooning, though Pippi's carefree high jinks should delight young viewers and lead some to Astrid Lindgren's books recounting other of her adventures. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

People In The News

Belmont Abbey Hosts Marian Conference and Retreat

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

BELMONT — Capacity was well exceeded at Belmont Abbey Chapel when over 400 people gathered for Mass, a vespers service and rosary on Nov. 7 which created a prayerful atmosphere sustained throughout Charlotte's Third Marian Conference, titled "A Call to Love."

With hymns lead by Schola Cantorum Carolinae Borealis, North Carolina School of Chant, the participants joined the Benedictine monks for their evening vespers service followed by the rosary recited by Wayne Weible, a former Protestant journalist who converted to Catholicism.

In the crowded chapel, Weible was reminiscent of his first visit to St. James in Medjugorje. Author of "Medjugorie the Message," Weible shared how the Blessed Mother was instrumental in his conversion which led him to experience Christ's presence more fully in his life. He sees her loving relationship with Jesus worthy of emulation and suggests that "prayer can remind us everyday that love is there for us."

The next day the retreat took place in the college gymnasium, where more than 1,200 participants listened intently to the line-up of speakers. Songwriter Jerry Morin spoke about his conversion experience at Medjugorje and how he expresses his faith through music.

Another speaker, Father Giordano Belanich, vicar of the Croatian Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Newark, was a favorite with the youth attending the conference. Known throughout the country for the many centers he has established for relief efforts in Croatia and Bosnia, he shared his mission of love and compassion. "Father Giordano really appeals to young people because he has a good sense of humor and knows how to make religion relevant," said Ashley Preston, a junior at Charlotte Catholic High School present for the two-day retreat.

Other speakers included Jack Sacco, lecturer, musician and film producer, who is working on a production about the Shroud of Turin, and Benedictine Father Jacques Daley, who shared his devotion to the Blessed Mother and her role in his conversion to Catholicism. Father Daley is currently doing a series on St. Therese of Lisieux on EWTN (Eternal Work Television Network).

Music was supplied by Al Barbarino, who performed some of his recent recordings from "The Essence of Being a Catholic in the 90s." Barbarino, a lay-apostolate Franciscan of the Padre Pio Shelter in New York, raises money to feed the poor and care for the homeless.

The final speaker, Father Jozo Zovko of Medjugorje, founder of both the Renewal Center located in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Godparent Program for Bosnian Children, discussed living during communistic rule in Yugoslavia. Thrown in jail for his religious convictions, Father Zovko spoke from his heart about the faith he would die defending. Focusing on the call to love and serve the children of the world, the priest challenged the people to be fertile soil for faith to grow. "Seek the person in darkness, go in the world and do good works and be the hands of the Lord," he said. Relating to the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Father Zovko asked the people to be like Christ and feed the people.

Photo By Kathy Schmugge

Father Jozo Zovko stresses the need of having a blessed crucifix in every home. Also shown, at left, is Nancy Latta. Father Zovko was one of the featured speakers at the annual Marian conference and retreat.

"If you call yourself a Christian, you should not be afraid to be different than others. You should not be afraid to say Mary is the Mother of God, and the Eucharist is the Body of Christ," he said, adding that "your fears will accomplish nothing, only trouble others." He pleaded for greater Christian witness in America because "the young no longer know God." Father Zovko stated his concern about the U.S. becoming a country without God and asked everyone to refocus their priorities to doing God's will.

The message throughout the conference was one of love, which Father Zovko said must begin at home. "The family altar should be the school of faith, love, hope, prayer and peace," said the priest, who added the Blessed Mother provides a good example of Christian witness. "Her life demonstrates what it means to accept a life according to faith and love," he said.

Archdiocese Calls Report of Suicide in Church Just A Rumor

DETROIT (CNS) — A church spokesman in Detroit dismissed as an unsubstantiated rumor a report that the latest suicide assisted by retired pathologist Jack Kevorkian took place in a Catholic church. Ned McGrath, director of communications for the Detroit Archdiocese, said in a Nov. 14 statement that "Unless and until some credible information is brought forward, there appears to be no reason why the Archdiocese of Detroit and, for that matter, any religious institution, should dignify or investigate such claims," McGrath added. Fieger said Kevorkian had helped 74-year-old Nadia Foldes of Forest Lawn, N.Y., inhale carbon monoxide at a church in the Detroit Archdiocese where "there is a sympathetic priest." After the death of Foldes, who had liver cancer, Kevorkian took her body to Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital, Fieger said.

Judge Grants Bail To Indian Priest Who Was Paraded Naked

DUMKA, India (CNS) — A Catholic priest charged with sodomy and paraded naked through the streets has been granted bail after more than 10 weeks of protests by groups throughout the country. Father Swaminathan Christudas had been in custody since Sept. 2 after a student accused the priest of sexual assault. Father Christudas is vice principal at St. Joseph School in Dumka, in India's eastern Bihar state. High Court Judge B.P. Sharma granted bail Nov. 12, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Father Christudas' attorney said the allegations against the priest were "baseless and concocted by some selfish people."

Bishop Pilla Undergoes Quadruple Bypass Surgery

CLEVELAND (CNS) — Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland "is awake and alert, and has excellent vital signs," a doctor said after the bishop underwent quadruple bypass surgery Nov. 18. "Everything went as planned," said Dr. Mehdi Razavi, staff cardiologist with the Cleveland Clinic, at a 4 p.m. press conference. Originally, Bishop Pilla was to undergo three arterial bypasses, but after a fourth blockage was confirmed, an additional vein graft was performed by Dr. Bruce Lytle, his surgeon. "Bishop Pilla is resting quietly and is expected to leave the intensive care unit by mid-afternoon Nov. 19," said Father Michael Dimengo, director of communications for the Cleveland Diocese.

N.J. Lottery Winner's Generosity Will Benefit Many in Parish

SOMERVILLE, N.J. (CNS) — The Bible is full of bits of wisdom concerning wealth, such as happy the rich man "who turns not aside after gain." That seems to fit 73-year-old Eleanor Boyer, whose decision to share the wealth from a winning lottery ticket with her Somerville Catholic parish has thrust her into the limelight. She pulled the winning New Jersey Pick-6 lottery ticket that garnered her a lump sum payment of $11.8 million before taxes. Almost immediately after her Nov. 3 windfall she decided to give the money away. Immaculate Conception Parish in Somerville will receive $4.2 million. That is nearly half of Boyer's $8.5 million after-tax winnings. Boyer's gift will be of service to many, with the principle prudently invested and the interest going to several projects. Boyer planned to give most of her remaining winnings to local Somerville service organizations.

Manchester Bishop Announces He Has Untreatable Cancer

MANCHESTER, N.H. (CNS) — Bishop Leo E. O'Neil of Manchester announced Nov. 18 that he has an untreatable form of cancer and has asked Auxiliary Bishop Francis J. Christian to handle the day-to-day affairs of the diocese. The 69-year-old bishop made the announcement at a press conference at his home. Bishop O'Neil was first diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a form of bone marrow cancer, in 1993, when a tumor was removed from his sternum. In January 1995 he underwent eight days of radiation and chemotherapy for a cancerous tumor on his leg. During a recent hospital stay to treat pneumonia, doctors discovered another form of cancer, acute leukemia. Bishop O'Neil said his doctors have not given him a time frame for the illness to run its course.

Pope Names Former Lansing Chancellor Bishop of Kalamazoo

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has appointed Msgr. James A. Murray, former chancellor of the Diocese of Lansing, Mich., as bishop of the neighboring Diocese of Kalamazoo. He succeeds Bishop Alfred J. Markiewicz, who died Jan. 9 from brain cancer. Born in 1932, in Jackson, Mich., Bishop-designate Murray attended St. Mary grade and high schools in Jackson, Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and St. John Provincial Seminary in the Detroit suburb of Plymouth. He was ordained a priest of the Lansing Diocese in 1958. He was appointed diocesan chancellor in 1968 — a post he held until this spring. He has been rector of St. Mary Cathedral since 1973, and moderator of the curia since 1991. He was named a monsignor in 1993.

The Septuplet Babies: Raising Multiple Questions

By CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hidden behind all the hoopla and excitement surrounding the recent births of the Iowa septuplets is an issue that many don't see as black and white — much less pink and blue.

Beyond the sheer amazement of the birth of these seven children is the talk that some of these children might not have been, if the couple had followed their doctor's advice.

The record-making births have been hailed as a miracle by some. They have rallied community and national support and turned the small town of Carlisle, Iowa, into an overnight media circus.

And in nearly every report that talks about Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey and their instantly large family, there has been the mention that the couple, because of their Baptist religious convictions, chose not to "selectively reduce" the number of fetuses.

Stop right there, say Catholic medical ethicists who are concerned with the health care community's casual usage of this euphemism for abortion.

The McCaugheys were told early in the pregnancy that aborting some of the fetuses would increase the chance of survival for the others.

Bobbi McCaughey, in her first public interview Nov. 21, said she and her husband decided not to abort any of the children because "these are babies. How can you decide that you're going to have this one and you're not going to have that one?"

The advice to the McCaugheys wasn't new. Doctors have long said that the more fetuses a woman carries, the greater health risk to each one. Multiple babies are likely to be born prematurely and run the risk of having cerebral palsy, brain damage, blindness, retardation or developmental problems.

CNS photo from Reuters

Kenny McCaughey, father of septuplets born in Iowa, shows the media seven hospital ID bracelets, one for each of his newborns, during a press conference Nov. 21. McCaughey and his wife, Bobbi, had been told early in her pregnancy that some of the babies had a better chance for survival if the number of fetuses were selectively reduced.

But today, with the increased use of fertility drugs and aggressive fertility treatments, the procedure of "selective reduction" is becoming more commonplace. It's also portrayed as the compassionate thing to do.

"The notion of using technology to help create life and then to use surgery to reduce it, is madness," said Franciscan Father Germain Kopaczynski, director of education at the Pope John Center for the Study of Ethics in Health Care in Boston.

He said the whole idea "shows the schizophrenia our age has that wants children, but not too many, and needs to kill to bring to life."

Dominican Father Patrick Norris, associate director for the Center of Health Care Ethics at St. Louis University, said this procedure "sets up a terrific irony. Parents who have been desperate for children have to make a decision to destroy a healthy child."

The decision is an arbitrary one and one that no parent should have to make, both priests pointed out.

"Choosing some humans to die so others might live is putting at human hands a decision that shouldn't be made," said Father Kopaczynski. "It means you're playing God, but unfortunately, we don't play God as God plays God."

Countering the medical advice, Father Norris said, "Logically, you might think you must try to save some (of the children). But the church takes the counter-intuitive approach and says not to do something morally evil. The church says you can never directly kill an innocent person."

Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, pointed out the terrible juxtaposition of "terminating a pregnancy within a pregnancy."

She said a single abortion "denies the humanity and reality of the fetus, but a 'reduction' is affirming the wanting of one life while denying the other."

"Killing something you want because it's in the 'best interest' provides a complete paradigm for our confusion over abortion," she said. "The culture of death and the culture of life are side by side here."

And the fact that so many couples have to come to this dilemma in the first place, raises questions of the ethical use of fertility treatments.

Fathers Norris and Kopaczynski both referred to the 1987 Vatican document, "Donum Vitae" ("The Gift of Life"), which points out that there is nothing intrinsically wrong with the use of fertility drugs to help couples conceive as long as they do not go against the unitive and procreative aspects of marriage. But the document calls in vitro fertilization, where conception takes place in a laboratory dish, immoral.

"The document mentions that a child is not an object to which one has a right. And one doesn't therefore have the right to achieve a child at any means," Father Norris told CNS.

Father Kopaczynski said the 10-year-old document foresaw a lot of today's problems caused by fertility treatments, such as the treatment of spare embryos.

"The church was trying to show great love for couples experiencing fertility problems," he said, "but it also wanted to keep the dignity of the child and marriage first and foremost."

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CP

Diocesan News Briefs

Basilica Christmas Fair

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence presents a Christmas fair Dec. 5 from 12-3 p.m.; Dec. 6 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Dec. 7 from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the St. Justin Center, 92 Haywood St. Items available include religious articles, unique crafts and baked goods. For more information, call (704) 252-6042.

Abbey Chorus Performs

BELMONT — The Belmont Abbey College Chorus performs Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. in the Abbey Church. The concert is free and open to the public. The 20-voice chorus, comprising Belmont Abbey college students, faculty and staff, will perform a program of sacred and secular music. The director is Jocelyn Thompson, choral director of West Charlotte High School. Accompanist is Jackie Gallagher. For more information, call (704) 825-6890.

Ultreya

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya takes place each first Sunday at St. Elizabeth Church in Pat Jones Hall at 12:30 p.m. A covered dish brunch follows. Call the church office, (704) 284-8338, for more information.

Widow, Widower Support

CHARLOTTE — A support group for widowed persons meets at St. Mathew Church in Room 106 of the parish center each first Monday at 11:30 a.m. Call (704) 543-7677 for more information.

Advent Reflection

CHARLOTTE — An Advent reflection called "Listening to the Wind of the Spirit: Spiritual Growth that Hinges on Awareness" is presented at St. John Neumann Church on Dec. 7 from 8:45-9:45 a.m. Admission is free, and babysitting is provided. Call (704) 535-4197 for more information.

Contemplative Prayer Group

CHARLOTTE — A prayer group open to all people regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation or HIV/AIDS status meets every second and fourth Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. at St. Peter Church. Gather at the rear entrance. Call David Brown, (704) 535-3684, for more information.

Italian American Club

GREENSBORO — The Italian American Social Club presents its 22nd annual Christmas dinner-dance Dec. 6 at the Cardinal Country Club from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Cost is $33 per person. Call Guy Cerrito, (910) 852-0714, for details.

Advent Program

NORTH WILKESBORO — St. John the Baptist de la Salle Church presents an Advent program from 10-11 a.m. each Sunday from Nov. 30-Dec. 21. The movie "Jesus of Nazareth" will be shown in four segments and will be discussed with the use of a Biblical study guide. Refreshments will be served.

Scriptural Series

TRYON — A scriptural series focusing on "Breaking Open the Gospel of Luke" continues at St. John the Baptist Church Mondays at 7 p.m. in the church hall. Call (704) 859-9574 for more information.

Thanksgiving Mass Closes Fund-Raisers

WINSTON-SALEM — A Mass of Thanksgiving at Bishop McGuinness High School on Nov. 25 marked a culmination of a month-long fund-raising effort for three charities: Room at the Inn, Because We Care, and Winston-Salem's Adopt-A-Family For the Holidays program. Several food drives — sponsored by the AIDS Awareness Club, the Spanish Club, and the BMHS Athletic Department — also came to a close.

The Mass, celebrated by the Very Rev. Joseph Kelleher, school chaplain, also included an educational element incorporating discussion of the Festival of Tents, also known as Sukkot, speculated to be the basis of the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving.

Christmas Cantata

CONCORD — The St. James Choir performs its annual Christmas Cantata, conducted and accompanied by Malek Jandali, Dec. 21 in the St. James Parish Center at 7:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Seniors' Luncheon

MONROE — The Men's Club of Our Lady of Lourdes Church sponsors a Christmas luncheon for seniors on Dec. 11 at 12 p.m. Door prizes will be given. Reservations will be accepted through Dec. 8. For details, call Jim Goss, (704) 233-5104.

Youth Dance

MONROE — A semi-formal youth dance for students in grades nine-12 is at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall on Dec. 6 from 7-11 p.m. Donation is $3 per person. For more information, call Therese, (704) 283-0644, or Mary Ellen, (704) 289-2278.

Adult Bible Study

WINSTON-SALEM — An adult Bible study series continues in the Joseph House at Our Lady of Mercy Parish with a discussion on "Discovering Our Jewish Roots" 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays. The topic of the Christmas story begins Nov. 30. Call (910) 722-7001 for more information.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

CDA
HELP
ALZHEIMER'S
SAFE RETURN

Nine courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in North Carolina have taken part this year in the new Safe Return program that serves Alzheimer patients. The courts raised funds that will provide scholarships for patients who cannot afford the cost of registering in the database maintained by Safe Return. The four North Carolina Alzheimer's Association chapters were each presented a check for $2,320.64 to assist in their work. Pictured are Catholic Daughters officers Marilyn Dunphy and Rosemary Carney; David Sharrits, executive director of the western chapter of the Alzheimer's Association; and Catholic Daughters officers Bernice Fowler, Marge Thomas, and Marjorie Maxwell.

Around The Diocese

World AIDS Day Services

ASHEVILLE — The Fifth Annual World AIDS Day Interfaith Healing Service is Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. in Central United Methodist Church.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin co-presides at Charlotte's annual World AIDS Day ecumenical healing service on Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. in St. Peter Episcopal Church at 7th and North Tryon Streets.

Natural Family Planning

ASHEVILLE — A Natural Family Planning meeting, sponsored by Nazareth Parenting Center of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, is Dec. 8 at a 8:15 p.m. in St. Justin's Center. Adults, single or married, are invited for brief overview of NFP. For more information, call (704) 252-6042.

CHARLOTTE — The introductory session of Natural Family Planning each third Thursday at the Catholic Center is suspended until further notice. For details, call Cathy, (704) 364-3348, or Carmen, (704) 663-6411.

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is in the chapel area of St. Joan of Arc Church every first Saturday from 2-4 p.m. Call the church office, (704) 252-3151, for more information.

DENVER — Nocturnal adoration begins each first Friday at Holy Spirit Church at 7 p.m. and concludes Saturday at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by rosary and Mass. Call Jim Kennedy, (704) 732-2673, for more information.

HICKORY — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is each first Friday through the first Saturday at St. Aloysius Church. For details, call Sonja Bjerg, (704) 328-5047, or Jean Marie Hirsch, (704) 495-4339.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church hosts eucharistic adoration from 9:30 a.m. each first Friday until 9 a.m. each first Saturday. Call (910) 294-4696 for more information.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts first Friday adoration following the 12:10 p.m. Mass until 10 p.m.

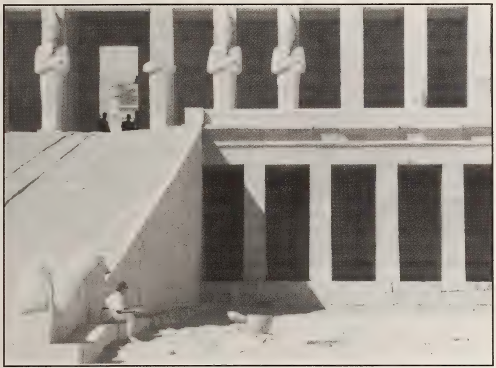
Group Rosary

CHARLOTTE — A group rosary is prayed each first and third Wednesday at St. Thomas Aquinas Church at 9:30 a.m. immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for more information.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts a group rosary each first Sunday following the 10 a.m. Mass. For details, call (704) 464-9207 weekday mornings.

A group rosary is prayed in Spanish each Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. Call (704) 464-9204 weekday mornings for more information.

World And National News Briefs



CNS photo from Reuters

A lone tourist sits at the entrance of the temple of Queen Hatshepsut in Luxor, Egypt, Nov. 18. Pope John Paul II sent a message of condolence and a call for peace and dialog following a terrorist attack there Nov. 17 in which 68 people were killed.

Failed Foreign Aid Deal Said To Show 'Obsession' With Abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Clinton administration's failure to give up $385 million in abortion aid overseas in exchange for billions of dollars in other foreign aid funding shows its "obsession with promoting abortion" around the world, according to a pro-life congressman. Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus, told Catholic News Service that it seemed the Clinton administration would go to any lengths to protect 1998 funding for family planning programs that promote abortion overseas, such as Planned Parenthood International.

Bishops Committed To Working Together, Say Synod Officers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The bishops of the Western Hemisphere are committed to working together to strengthen the Catholic Church, uphold Christian morality and promote justice and solidarity, said leaders of the Synod of Bishops for America. While acknowledging that the Caribbean, North, South and Central America have marked differences, the bishops praised Pope John Paul II's decision to hold one synod for the entire region. "I think that sense of seeing us as a unified group of pilgrims, as church with that wonderful exchange — North, Central and South — is a great vision and a great hope," Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, one of the synod presidents, said Nov. 17. Mexican Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara, the synod's recording secretary, said the gathering would focus on the new evangelization of the region, promoting solidarity and working for justice, including in the area of international economic relations.

Milwaukee Restucturing To Result in 40 Fewer Parishes

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, responding to declining numbers of priests and demographic shifts, has announced a parish restructuring plan resulting in 40 fewer parishes in the 10-county Milwaukee Archdiocese. Announced parish mergers will be put into motion over the next four years. The archdiocese currently has 273 parishes. "We will be asking every parish to make sacrifices," Archbishop Weakland told a Nov. 6 press conference. "It's time for us to move ahead, and implement the plans we have made. We can't have priests doing everything, like we used to. We have to make sure we accept deacons and lay people in ministries they're qualified for." The archbishop accepted a revised version of recommendations from a 14-member archdiocesan Planning Commission, which will mean parish mergers in 13 of the archdiocese's 16 districts.

ABC Orders Nine More 'Sacred' Episodes; Show Gets New Backing

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The ABC network has decided to pick up nine more episodes from the creators of "Nothing Sacred," giving the controversial show a full-season slate of 22 episodes. The show, which has struggled against low ratings and an advertiser boycott spearheaded by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, also gained the backing of Viewers for Quality Television, a media organization, and an unofficial Catholic group called Catholics Speak Out. Viewers for Quality Television gave "Nothing Sacred" five separate awards in early November, including a full endorsement. Catholics Speak Out placed a full-page ad in the Nov. 17 issue of Advertising Age, an industry journal, asking advertisers to support "Nothing Sacred."

601 Arrested in School of the Americas Demonstration

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an event one participant described as "sacred and historic," a protest aimed at building public pressure to shut down the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga., resulted in 601 people being arrested inside the Army base on trespass charges. More than 2,000 took part in the demonstration Nov. 16, the eighth anniversary of the slayings of six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter at the University of Central America in San Salvador, El Salvador. A majority of those implicated in the killings were SOA graduates. Of those arrested in the protest, all but 28 were given "ban and bar" orders preventing them from entering Fort Benning for one year. The other 28 were scheduled to appear in U.S. District Court because they violated a previous ban and bar order.

Jesuits Urge OAS To Help Open Investigation of 1989 Murders

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (CNS) — The Jesuits are urging the Organization of American States to help reopen investigations into the 1989 murder of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter. "The OAS could make a series of recommendations to the government to (help) obtain the full truth about this case," Father Jose Maria Tojeira, rector of Jesuit-run Central American University, said Nov. 17 in San Salvador. The point would be to "analyze and review the gray areas of the judicial process," he said in an interview broadcast on national TV. "We are not happy with the judicial investigations, nor with the amnesty law ... (which) truncated the whole process," Father Tojeira added. On Nov. 15, some 3,000 people commemorated the eighth anniversary of the killings with a traditional candlelit procession around the university campus, the scene of the murders the morning of Nov. 16, 1989.

Vatican Predicts Sixth Straight Annual Budget Surplus

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican predicted its sixth consecutive budget surplus in 1998 and said rising contributions from the world's faithful were providing a thin but consistent margin of financial security. The Vatican said its income next year would be about $560,000 more than expenses, which are expected to total about $183 million, U.S. Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka told a press conference Nov. 18. Of the projected 1998 income, about $69 million — more than one-third the total — will arrive in various forms of contributions from dioceses, religious orders and foundations, he said. Cardinal Szoka, former president of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, said the United States, Germany and Italy were the top donor countries.

Suicide Foes Welcome DEA Ruling On Doctors' Participation

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Oregon opponents of physician-assisted suicide have welcomed the federal Drug Enforcement Agency's announcement it could suspend the prescription-writing power of any doctor who helps patients die. Though the 50 states control licensing of doctors, the DEA registers physicians to prescribe controlled substances such as common painkillers and the barbiturates that would be used in assisted suicides. For some doctors, losing the federal license could mean going out of practice altogether. DEA administrator Thomas A. Constantine said that despite the Oregon vote to keep assisted suicide legal, the drugs used to assist in a suicide would have no "legitimate medical purpose."

N.J. Bishops Condemn Actions That Trample Immigrants' Rights

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — The 17 Catholic bishops of New Jersey spoke out Nov. 18 against "any action which tramples on the individual rights of people simply because of their immigrant status." They cited roundups of illegal workers and efforts to exclude even legal immigrants from federal assistance programs. The letter reminded New Jersey residents that most of them were once immigrants to the United States or had parents or grandparents who arrived as immigrants. "We exhort the Catholic community and all New Jerseyans to remember that when you look into the mirror each morning, you see the face of an immigrant or the descendant of an immigrant," the bishops said.

Man Who Shot Pope Meets With Investigators To Clear Up Case

ROME (CNS) — The man who tried to kill Pope John Paul II in 1981 met with Italian investigators for five hours after saying he wanted to put an end to lingering mysteries about the case. Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk serving a life sentence for the shooting, was interrogated Nov. 17 at a prison in Ancona, Italy, by investigating magistrate Antonio Marini. Marini did not immediately comment on their meeting. But Agca's lawyer, Marina Magistrelli, said afterward that her client had "cleared up the entire question of the papal shooting." She said Agca had also spoken about the alleged "Bulgarian connection" to the assassination attempt.

Dietzen,

from page 5

The final goal, then, of every individual person, of everything people do, is the same: to share in God's own eternal happiness

(Catechism, Nos. 1718-1719).

The story of our salvation and the way it happens is filled with mysteries and wonders. According to Catholic faith, however, we will need to negotiate those mysteries, including the eternal life of unbaptized children, without resorting to something called limbo.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self- addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704, N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Holy Redeemer Church

Parish Profile

Holy Redeemer Church
32 Aquone Rd.
Mail: P.O. Box 698
Andrews, N.C. 28901
(704) 321-4463

Vicariate: Smoky Mountain

Pastor: Father James J. Wilmes

Mass Schedule: Sunday, 11 a.m.

Number of parishioners: 80

Number of households: 50

ANDREWS — While the Catholic church in Andrews called Holy Redeemer wasn't built until 1962 and the community declared a parish until 1976, Catholic presence in the area dates back decades earlier.

In 1937, a priest from the Raleigh Diocese named Father Lane was appointed pastor of St. John Parish, based in Waynesville and comprising all of North Carolina west of town. Father Lane led a weekly lecture series at the Murphy courthouse for a couple of months, feeding the spiritual hunger of the few Catholics there and satisfying, perhaps, the curiosity of those local residents viewing Catholicism as an anomaly.

Following Father Lane's brief string of talks, there wasn't another regular pastoral presence in the region until Glenmary Father Joseph Dean arrived in Murphy in December of 1954. The Glenmary Home Missioners of America came to Murphy at the invitation of the Raleigh Diocese — encompassing all of North Carolina at the time — to assume their pastorate at St. Murphy Church as well as responsibility for North Carolina's three westernmost counties: Cherokee, Clay and Graham.

There were eight Catholic families who lived in Murphy during the time of Father Lane's talks. Just two Catholic families lived in the entirety of Clay County, with one Maronite Catholic family living in Andrews. It was in the home of those Maronite Catholics, the ElKhouris, who had no Eastern-rite priest to celebrate Mass for them, that a new Catholic community was born.

With Glenmary presence — tent revival services, thrift shops for the poor, missionary activity — taking root in western North Carolina in the late 1950s, Father Lane continued to concentrate his outreach on Murphy and Andrews while his assistant, who arrived in 1956, turned his attention to nearby Robbinsville and Hayesville.

Father Lane celebrated Mass for the first time in Andrews on Christmas Day in 1955 in the ElKhouri home. Within a few years, Andrews had officially become a mission of Murphy, although regularly celebrated Masses didn't occur in Andrews until 1958. It was in November of that year that a storefront chapel was set up on Main Street and named Holy Redeemer.

The present church property was acquired in 1959. Masses were celebrated in the basement of the town's library until construction of the church-rectory building was completed in 1962.

In June of 1962, the Catholic community of Andrews gathered for the first time in their new church. Also called Holy Redeemer, the building was the first large project completed by the Glenmary Brothers' Building Crew.

Bishop Michael J. Begley granted Holy Redeemer Church parish status in June of 1976, and installed Father August Guppenberger as its first resident pastor.

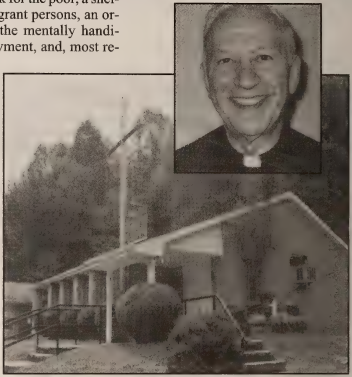
While the year-round Catholic population in the Andrews area has grown slowly over the past quarter-century, visitors to the Tar Heel mountains fill Holy Redeemer Church to capacity during the tourist seasons.

The clergy and parishioners of Holy Redeemer Church have been active in community and ecumenical events and projects, playing leadership roles in founding a food bank for the poor, a shelter for local and migrant persons, an organization to help the mentally handicapped gain employment, and, most recently, a chapter of Birthright to help pregnant women in crises.

The parish celebrated its silver jubilee in June of 1987. Taking part in a diocesan evangelization project occurring at the time, the Legion of Mary came to Andrews to help celebrate by leading a community educational program focusing on ecumenism. The parish hosted an open house for the community, giving guided tours of the recently refurbished sanctuary and reconciliation room and explaining tenets of the faith, Catholic customs and the Mass.

A parish hall was converted from a car garage as part of the jubilee festivities as well.

The pastor at the time was Father James J. Wilmes, who continues to serve Holy Redeemer Church and its mission, Prince of Peace Church in Robbinsville. Father Wilmes, who served in the area in the late '50s and early '60s, returned in August of 1986 to continue the Glenmary tradition in Andrews. He ministers to a flock of some 80 parishioners at Holy Redeemer Church and another 30 in the mission community in Robbinsville.



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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD has an opening for a part-time production associate, 25 hrs. / week. Candidate will be proficient with Pagemaker 6.5 (a PC environment preferred) and Photoshop 4.0. Position involves layout and prepress of weekly newspaper. Graphic design experience helpful. Please forward layout / design samples and resume by Dec. 3 to: THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD, P.O. 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237, or e-mail CNHNEWS @ AOL.COM.

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THE CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 14 • December 5, 1997

CNS photo by Michael Hoyt

Joan and Greg Obi and their 2-year-old daughter Stephanie, immigrants from Nigeria, light a candle at their home in Silver Spring, Md., to mark the start of Advent. A new candle is lit for each week of Advent in anticipation of the Christmas feast.

Synod's Small Groups Emphasize Faith in Christ

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While members of the Synod of Bishops for America have dozens of religious and social concerns, they agreed the final outcome of the synod must emphasize faith in Jesus Christ.

After hours of discussion in small groups, participants shared their initial reflections with the general assembly Dec. 2.

The group reports unanimously called for a focus on the importance of a personal encounter with Jesus Christ as the starting point for strengthening the church and for motivating its work in the world.

All agreed on the need to improve religious education programs to lead people to Christ, to strengthen their bonds with the universal church and to make them aware of their responsibilities to care for the poor and to work for justice in the world.

They also agreed that the synod's mid-term report did not pay enough attention to indigenous and African-American communities and to the church's obligation to work with them for justice and equality.

Several groups specifically rejected calls by individual synod members for a Pan-American bishops' council or other new structure promoting cooperation among the bishops of the Caribbean, North, South and Central America.

Most of the groups also noticed that few of the synod speakers had mentioned the Holy Spirit; they called for special attention to the Spirit's continuing pres-

See **Synod,** page 2

Aquinas-Luther Conference Brings Christians Together

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — Four of the country's leading Catholic and Lutheran theologians and authors convened at Lenoir-Rhyne College Nov. 16-18 to share a mutual passion for Holy Scripture at the Fifth Annual Aquinas-Luther Conference. Titled "On the Authority of the Bible," the event was sponsored by the college's Center of Theology.

The conference began with worship at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Rev. Dr. James R. Crumley Jr., retired bishop of the Lutheran Church in America and a pioneer in the ecumenical dialogue with Roman Catholics, delivered the keynote address.

Addressing the misunderstanding between Catholics and Lutherans regarding the Bible's authority, Bishop Crumley showed how often Martin Luther and Thomas Aquinas — icons of their prospective faiths — actually agreed on the topic. He also cautioned about the "widespread ignorance of the Scriptures" and how its authority has been undermined by the false assumption that "an individual can choose both passages and their interpretation." These problems and others have had catastrophic effects on all faiths, Bishop Crumley said.

"Among Lutherans, we are aware of the difficulties caused by our inability to teach authoritatively as a church," he added, hoping in the future for a way that Catholics and Lutherans could form a relationship that "would express magisterial mutuality."

See **Conference,** page 2

Love is Key To Spreading Gospel, Pope Tells 'Citizen Missionaries' in Rome

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sending more than 13,000 priests, religious and lay people to knock on doors throughout Rome and invite people to church, Pope John Paul II said love is the key to spreading the Gospel.

"Have a strong love for the people and families you meet," the pope told the "citizen missionaries" who officially received their commissions Nov. 30, the first Sunday of Advent.

"People need love, understanding and forgiveness," he said during the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

The door-to-door campaign of explaining who Jesus is and inviting people to Mass at their local parish is the second stage of the Diocese of Rome's preparation for the year 2000. Earlier, volunteers delivered copies of the Gospel of Mark to homes throughout the city.

The Nov. 30 Mass was celebrated at the midpoint of the Synod of Bishops for America, which included calls for similar evangelization efforts in the Caribbean, North, South and Central America.

The pope told the missionaries to approach their task like St. Paul did, telling people they come with personal weaknesses and fear to announce salvation in Jesus Christ.

"This simplicity in proclamation, accompanied by love for the persons you encounter, is the true strength of your missionary service," he said.

When people are exposed to so many "persuasive and captivating human messages" like they are today, he said, "the Gospel, with just a superficial glance, perhaps can appear weak and poor."

However, he said, "in reality it is the most powerful and effective word that one can pronounce because it penetrates hearts and, thanks to the mysterious action of the Holy Spirit, it opens the way to conversion and an encounter with God."

Pope John Paul told the youth and young adult missionaries that their outreach to their peers was an absolutely essential part of the missionary project.

"Become actors in the most beautiful and exciting adventure worth spending one's life for: that of announcing Christ and his Gospel. With your gifts and talents, placed at the disposition of the Lord, you can and must contribute to the work of salvation in your beloved city," the pope said.

The pope told Roman priests that they, too, have a special role in the missionary outreach.

"With the love and concern of the Good Shepherd, go out in search of those who have distanced themselves and are awaiting a gesture or a word from you so they can rediscover the love of God and his forgiveness," Pope John Paul said.

Aquinas-Luther Conference, from page 1

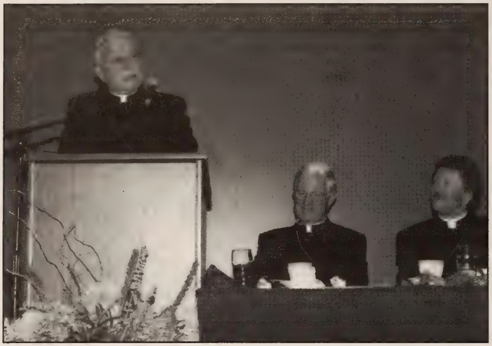

Photo By Kathy Schmugge

Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta delivers the banquet address at the recent Luther-Aquinas Conference. Also shown are Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte and Bishop Leonard Bolick of the N.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Another pioneer in the ecumenical dialogue, the Most Reverend John F. Donoghue, Archbishop of Atlanta, former bishop of Charlotte, delivered the banquet address.

Focusing on grace and mercy, Archbishop Donoghue walked through the lives of Luther and Aquinas and showed how they both were powerfully influenced by God's Word. He further stated the same Word binds all Christians. "I believe the Truth will only impel us into one another's company, if for no other reason than a common defense against the tides of evil that hold sway in the world," he said.

The two days of lectures pointed to a pair of recurring themes: the relationship between sacred Scripture, sacred tradition and the magisterium; and the need for a central teaching authority for Christians.

In his presentation, Father Francis Martin challenged and stimulated those searching for the way God communicates through doctrine and Scripture. "Scripture is not only divinely guaranteed, it is divinely true. The Spirit did not only dictate it; he is, as it were, contained in it," said the professor of Sacred Scripture in the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. "His breath perpetually animates it. The Scripture is 'made fruitful by a miracle of the Holy Spirit' … thus, Scripture can serve as a norm as well as a light."

Father Joseph Augustine Di Noia, executive director of the Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), editor of The Thomist, and a professor at the John Paul II Institute, showed how the authority of the Bible and its proper interpretations are critical for understanding the sacraments.

In the past, sacramental theology has been a source of contention for some Lutherans and Catholics, but Father Di Noia's approach defines how the sacraments were instituted by Christ. He addressed how the Scriptures must be read with a "God's-eye view," taking in account God's intent and plan for all people to be in union with the Trinity.

In his talk, Dr. Karl P. Donfried, chairman of the Department of Religion and Biblical Literature at Smith College in Massachusetts, who also serves on the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue Committee of New England, offered the opinion that contemporary Lutheranism is in "crisis with regards to the moral life of the Christian," partly because of "self-authority that argues that the only meaning of a text is what it says to me.... "

Without central authority to discount erroneous claims often influenced by public opinion instead of Scripture and apostolic tradition, the Lutheran Church will not have "sufficient stability to navigate the shark-infested waters ahead," Donfried said. During the panel discussion, he added, "I would accept the bishop of Rome as the shepherd of Christians…. There is an enormous logic in having a center in the Catholic Church."

The executive director of the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology and professor of Systematic Theology at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Dr. Carl E. Braaten, gave his historical account of how sacred Scripture and tradition have been viewed by Catholics and Lutherans throughout the centuries. In recent years, he has seen a broadening of views from Lutherans on "Sola Scriptura" and growing mutual desire for Christian unity.

According to Braaten, unity will be necessary in overcoming the present crisis with authority as a whole, be it the magisterium or the Bible.

The summary, presented by Dr. Larry Yoder, professor of religion and director of the Lineberger Center for Cultural and Educational Renewal at Lenoir Rhyne College, highlighted the conference's critical points.

Comparing this conference to the one he attended in 1995, Father Di Noia saw a greater convergence and was struck by the courage demonstrated by the panel while addressing "the tough issues." In unison the speakers proclaimed the importance of the Bible and how its proper interpretation is a key to the realization of the goal of Christian unity as Jesus prescribed.

Synod,

from page 1

ence and work in the church and in individuals.

Each of the 12 working groups took a different approach to their initial discussions. Some offered a critique of the synod's mid-term report; others began rough drafts of propositions they would like the synod to adopt; and one group offered tips to Pope John Paul II on the tone he should use in his post-synodal apostolic exhortation.

The mixed Italian-Spanish group asked the pope for, among other things, "a document which is more lively and practical than theoretical or doctrinal."

Like several other groups, the combined Italian-Spanish group said the synod's general discussion and its mid-term report did not put enough emphasis on the liturgy and the Eucharist as privileged opportunities for meeting Christ.

Groups identified only as Spanish-C and English-A called for clear guidance on how the Christian message should be presented in the modern world.

"This proclamation must be festive, attractive and convincing," especially when addressed to young people, the Spanish group said.

"The pastoral challenge we face across our hemisphere is the sharing of our faith in a way that captures the interest and attention of this generation, living as we do in an increasingly secular and materialistic world," the English speakers said.

All the groups agreed on the need to underline the importance of the family, both for the church and for society.

One of the English-language groups asked that the discussion explain the specific vocations of fatherhood and motherhood.

Another group said modern threats against human life — especially abortion and euthanasia — are so serious that they should be treated separately from a final document's discussion of family life.

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

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St. Patrick Cathedral

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Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
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Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

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The planning team for Fire in the Mountains '97 shares a moment during the annual catechetical event sponsored by the diocesan Office of Faith Formation. The spiritual and educational gathering featured presentations on church teachings, small group discussion and time for reflection. Mercy Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin, director of the McAuley Center and a catechetical veteran, was the principal facilitator. Pictured from left are Chuck Taft, Bea Lamb, Richard Wolf, Sister Mary Hugh, Diane Welter, Muriel Grable, Rosie Spencer-Pacmisano, Mary Ann Wharton and Barbara Carter.

Bishop Curlin Offers Advent Reflections On Eternal Word Television Network

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Among the variety of holiday fare on television this Christmas season, parishioners of the Charlotte Diocese can tune in to a familiar face.

Bishop William G. Curlin is featured on the Eternal Word Television Network in a four-part series on spirituality and prayer during the Sundays of Advent. Taped at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the sessions offer ways to spiritually prepare for Christmas.

Part one aired on EWTN Dec. 1. Subsequent sessions will air Dec. 7, 14 and 21 at 3 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7 p.m. eastern time.

EWTN is the largest religious cable network transmitting Catholic programming 24 hours a day to more than 55 million homes in 38 countries and territories on approximately 1,500 cable systems. Founded in August of 1981, EWTN has expanded to include shortwave, FM and AM radio, Internet services and a daily news service.

Basketball Tournament to Benefit Holy Angels

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Okay, basketball fans. March Madness is a long way off, but you can take in holiday hoops and benefit some angels at a high school tournament later this month.

The Seventh Annual Holy Angels Basketball Tournament is Dec. 29 and 30 at Charlotte Catholic High School and pits boys and girls teams from CCHS against teams from Providence Day, Sun Valley and Piedmont high schools.

Games begin at 2 p.m. both days. Ticket prices are $4 per day or $6 for both days for adults; $3 per day or $5 for both days for high school students; and $2 per day for middle and elementary school students.

All proceeds benefit Holy Angels, Inc., a residential center in Belmont providing services and programs for children and adults with mental retardation and other disabilities. The institution is a sponsored ministry of the North Carolina regional community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Readings for the week of December 7 - 13, 1997

Sunday	Baruch 5:1-9 Philippians 1:4-6,8-11 Luke 3:1-6
Monday	Genesis 3:9-15,20 Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12 Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday	Isaiah 40:1-11 Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:25-31 Matthew 11:28-30
Thursday	Isaiah 41:13-20 Matthew 11:11-15
Friday	Zechariah 2:14-17 Luke 2:27-35
Saturday	Sirach 48:1-4,9-11 Matthew 17:10-13

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November 26, 1997

Dear Friends in Christ:

This year, the appeal for the 1997 Retirement Fund for Religious will be on the weekend of December 13-14 in all parishes of the Diocese, and once again, we need your generous support.

The Retirement Fund for Religious is the most successful appeal in the history of the Catholic Church in the U.S. It provides tremendous support to religious institutes as they care for their elderly and infirm members — brothers, sisters and priests who have given us a lifetime of service in our schools, hospitals, churches, and in countless other ministries within our communities. Many of those who benefited from the years of service given by our retired religious are unaware that most religious congregations in our country today face a financial crisis — a crisis brought about by the decline of wage-earning members of religious communities and the increase in the cost of living and in health care.

Together, we can take pride in the success of this appeal for religious; it shows our appreciation for their lifetime of service to us.

With appreciation for your generosity and wishing you and yours the blessings of Advent, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Rev. Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

1123 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE, NC 28203

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

DECEMBER 8th
National Night of Prayer for Life
Eucharistic Adoration Asking God's Help and Forgiveness For the Unborn Lost To Abortion:

Participating Parishes
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St. Mary, Greensboro
Our Lady of the Annunciation, Albemarle
St. Pius X, Greensboro
St. William, Murphy
St. Therese, Mooresville
Sacred Heart, Salisbury
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville
St. Joseph, Asheboro
St. Gabriel, Charlotte
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte
St. Margaret Mary, Swannanoa
St. Stephen, Elkin
St. John Baptist de LaSalle, N. Wilkesboro
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 7
11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

Catholic Heritage Society Mass & Reception
Charlotte

December 14
11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

THE CATHOLIC
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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Calls Christians to Contemplate Incarnation of Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Nov. 26.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the great jubilee of the year 2000, we meditate today on the opening words of St. John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word." St. John is speaking of the divine pre-existence of Jesus. It is because of this pre-existence that Jesus can use the divine name "I am": "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am" (Jn 8:58). This name indicates the fullness of being, not subject to any kind of becoming. When Jesus uses the name "I am," he is saying that eternity has entered time, and therefore his words and actions have a value that will never pass away.

As we approach the jubilee, we are called to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Word made flesh. Through the Incarnation, the Word has brought about a new creation, for he has communicated divine life to human existence. Because of this mystery, history has a direction and a meaning. As we move through time we find our greatest reassurance in Christ's words: "Behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age." Thus the jubilee is a celebration of the divine presence of Jesus among us today, just as he was present among his disciples 2,000 years ago.

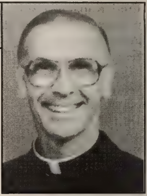
I warmly greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially the young people of the American All-Star Dance and Drill Team, the students from Australia and Sweden, the group representing the Catholic schools of Denmark, and the pilgrims from Malaysia and the Philippines. Upon all of you I cordially invoke the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Vatican Confirms Saddam Hussein Thanked Pope for Speaking Out

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Vatican confirmed that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein wrote to Pope John Paul II to thank him for speaking out on behalf of the country's civilian population. The Iraqi president's letter came during a recent flare-up of tensions in the region, after Iraq ordered U.S. weapons inspectors out of the country and then allowed them back, under certain conditions. The pope, speaking as the United States beefed up its forces in the region in mid-November, warned against new fighting and urged leaders to solve the problem through dialogue. He made a particular appeal on behalf of Iraqi civilians, who have suffered under a seven-year trade embargo imposed by the U.N. Security Council. The embargo is opposed by the Vatican on humanitarian grounds. In his letter to the pontiff, Saddam Hussein thanked the pope for his 'constant interest in the sufferings of the Iraqi people,' a Vatican source said.

Second Sunday of Advent: A New Exodus

Rev. Francis T. Gignac, S.J.



The first reading is taken from the little-known book of Baruch (5:1-9) that now constitutes part of the Catholic Old Testament but was actually written about A.D. 70. It deals with the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians six centuries earlier. The Babylonian kings Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar are used as symbols of the Roman emperors Vespasian and Titus, who once again conquered Jerusalem.

Reflecting on scenes from the Babylonian exile, the author promises an ultimate restoration of Jerusalem to the Jews of his day dispersed through the Roman Empire. But the Jerusalem he promises is a proverbial one, the City of God. In today's selection, the author asks and responds to a series of rhetorical questions addressed to them. Do they, he says, exiles all, want to live in peace? Then let them practice justice. Do they want to be crowned with glory? Then let them be faithful to God. For God alone can reconcile all humanity and gather his people into the new city, where light and joy will shine brilliantly.

The second reading is from the first chapter of the Letter to the Philippians (1:4-6, 8-11), a relatively early letter of Paul that centers markedly on the theme of Christ's second coming. Today's section is Paul's introductory prayer for the Philippian Christians. His prayer is joyful because of their partnership in the Gospel and their growth in love, knowledge, and discernment, all ordered to moral wholesomeness for the day of judgment, when Christ was expected to come again.

The Gospel reading comes from the very beginning of the story of Jesus' public life in the Gospel according to Luke (3:1-6). The author adopts the story of the preaching of John the Baptist found in Mark, expands it, and changes it to situate the story of Jesus amid events of Palestinian and Roman history, to cast the call of John the Baptist in the form of an Old Testament prophetic call, and to present his particular theme of the universality of salvation.

The quotation from chapter 40 of the Book of Isaiah, familiar to us from the opening tenor recitative of Handel's "Messiah", "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God," is used to express the Christian conviction that in Jesus God brought about a new exodus for his people Israel.

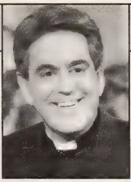
An unidentified speaker cries out in the heavenly council, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God!" God himself is pictured leading the people across the desert in this new exodus and the speaker imagines that every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill made low. Early Christians saw in this lyrical description a deeper meaning: that in the person of Jesus all peoples, not just Israel, have a new exodus and liberation, not from a hostile political power but from slavery to sin; and so they repunctuated this verse to have the voice cry out in the desert in order to apply the voice to John the Baptist.

These last two weeks of Advent give us some time to prepare our hearts and minds in a suitable way for the coming of Christ at Christmas. May we all be motivated to seek to experience in our personal encounter with Christ that liberation, that freedom from selfishness and sin, that peace and joy which has been promised to all who believe in him and commit themselves to values that he taught.

Jesuit Father Francis T. Gignac is a professor and chairperson of the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



In The Nick Of Time

Every Orthodox Christian family immediately recognizes the icon of Saint Nicholas. In his richly adorned stole of black and white crosses, and with his left hand extended in blessing and the other holding a book of the Gospels, Nicholas proclaims his ministry and his message: Christ.

But how did this bishop of Myra in Lycia (the present day Turkey) who died around 350 AD become the prototype for the jolly, fat, apple-cheeked, red-suited character millions of children know instantly as Santa Claus?

The question is more than just idle curiosity. I believe our children need to know the fuller and deeper sources of our legends if they are ever to understand the richness of our traditions. The same holds true for grown-ups.

So even though the trip from Turkey to America has several stops and detours, it is important to have an answer for the inevitable question every Susie and Billy asks: "Is there really a Santa Claus?" The answer is a resounding "Yes!" because there really was a St. Nicholas, a.k.a. St. Nick.

Bishop Nicholas became known for his unstinting generosity, even though he tried to keep his actions secret. For example, he once stopped a father from selling his three daughters into prostitution by providing dowries so that each of them could marry. He did this in the night by tossing a sack full of coins through a window or, in some versions, down the chimney. Start to see the picture? It was this kind of selflessness and secrecy in giving that inspired the idea of Santa leaving gifts for children.

The earliest gingerbread men were baked in the shape of a bishop. In northern European countries, on the sixth of December, St. Nick still appears as a chocolate figurine wrapped in aluminum foil imprinted with miter, stole and alb. In Austria, local marketplaces teem with children and adults buying these chocolate versions of St. Nicholas for those who have been good during the year, or the villainous "Krampus" (a little red devil) for those who have not been so nice.

And what about those candy canes which hang on our Christmas trees and wreaths, and peek out of stockings hanging on the fireplace? The original was St. Nicholas' staff or crosier, the symbol of a bishop who is the shepherd of his flock or diocese.

During the Reformation in the 16th century, poor St. Nick's popularity waned. The celebrations of Christmas had become raucous and distracting in some places, and several countries banished such "frivolous" customs. Eventually different versions of the saintly Nicholas —.0 Father Christmas, Pere Noel, Papa Noel and Santa Claus (which comes from our early Dutch settlers as "Sinter Klaas") — made their appearance.

So when you see the merry white-bearded fellow on his throne in North Pole scenes in your local mall and department stores, it would be terrific if you shared a bit of the original Saint Nick with your little ones. Tell them about the saint who had compassion for people in trouble and gave in secret lest anyone be embarrassed. And, maybe, the true spirit of Christmas might spark the imagination and generosity of the child in each of us, in just the Nick of time.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Faith in your Family" write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

A Priest Who Is a Hero

I have just received a new book that remarkably had its origins in a column I wrote back in 1991. It is "A Shepherd in Combat Boots,'' the story of Chaplain Emil Kapaun, a brave and Christlike priest who died May 21, 1951, at age 35 as a prisoner of war in the Korean conflict.

A series of coincidences led to the writing of this book. It began with a phone call I received in May 1991 from Doris Kalinowski, a retired nurse from Torrington, Conn. She told me that 37 years earlier she had read an account of this great priest and had longingly looked over the years for stories about him. They were almost non-existent.

She said she personally had researched his story of heroism on the battlefield and in the prison camp and wanted to know if I would write a column about Father Kapaun for the 40th anniversary of his death.

I had in my younger years read about Father Kapaun, who literally gave up his life to attend the wounded in a horrible, freezing, lice-filled camp in North Korea.

By coincidence, William L. Maher, a lawyer from Brookville, N.Y., happened to read my column in his diocesan paper. As he explains, "In January of that year I had a bypass operation. I thought I'd have to slow down my work, but I still wanted to do something fulfilling. I had experience as a newspaper reporter and I felt I wanted to write about a 20th-century person who could be a hero-figure to others. I wanted to interview contemporaries who had known someone who could maybe be a saint.''

Maher was intrigued by Father Kapaun's story. He contacted me, and I put him in touch with Kalinowski. From there he went on his own, doing incredibly detailed research about this man, a farm boy from Pilsen, Kan., who became a legend for giving hope and strength to so many imprisoned soldiers, ignoring the price he would pay in his own body in order to save others.

Maher proceeded to write a carefully documented biography of Father Kapaun. Just released, "A Shepherd in Combat Boots," (Burd Street Press) tells the inspiring story of this man's journey to death as he selflessly put the needs of others before his own.

Maher told me, "Father Kapaun probably could have escaped being a prisoner of war, but he felt needed. He elected to allow himself to be used by God for the others. He is a marvelous example of what a human being should be, particularly in difficult circumstances.

"I've written his story to inspire others — young people like my grandchildren. We need heroes, and he really is one — also a very human one. He smoked, had a drink now and then, and was rough in his language, like the men he served with. But he was a tremendous leader, trying to do what Christ would do.''

Before he died, knowing his time had

See **Bosco,** page 9

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Keeping a family on track, according to Stephen Covey in his book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families" (Golden Books, 1997), is like flying an airplane. It requires a clear vision of your destination, a flight plan and a compass. Never will the plane be exactly on course. There will always be need for adjustments to go in the right direction.

Our experiences as a married couple are more like paddling a canoe on a winding river. Though a clear vision is important, we actually can't see our ultimate destination. Our immediate goals are to get to the next bend in the river. Never are we going in a straight line; we're always adjusting; and we work in tandem, otherwise we'll wind up going in circles or drifting into the bank.

We bring different talents to the task of canoeing. Though one may be physically stronger, he cannot over power the other. We must stay in tune and stroke with synchronicity. One may have a better view of the river. It may be their job to keep us from crashing into a rock. The person in the rear has a different function than the person in the front. One may have to call out directions to the other. If we disagree about a particular strategy, one must defer to the other's wisdom. If it doesn't work out, we quickly try the other's idea. Competitiveness works against us. Working together, even when one doubts the strategy to be the best, is key. We need to trust that both are doing our best.

After a while it seems easy. Then a shift in the wind takes us slightly off-course. We then adjust (sometimes clumsily) to get back on course. Sometimes we need to act very quickly to avoid a major problem. It's not always easy to get back to our rhythm.

It's also important that we not get so focused on getting to the next bend that we don't enjoy the river, the sky and sun, the topography, and each other. Sometimes it's good to allow the river current to do the work and just drift.

Staying on track in a marriage as in a family is not a lone effort. We both take responsibility for apologizing, celebrating, encouraging, challenging, and rejuvenating each other.

We get to one bend; we go to another; then another. After a while we have developed a confidence that no matter what happens, as long as we work together, we'll get to our destination.

Marriage and family life is the most difficult, the most rewarding, and the most life-giving endeavor for us. Sometimes the wind is in our faces and sky is stormy. All the more reason to savor the times when the river is calm and the sun is shining. Our destination is to grow into a full relationship with God. We do it with and through each other. It's not always a picnic. But it's always an adventure!

Family Reflections is a biweekly journal on the theology of family life as seen by Andrew and Terri Lyke. It is a regular feature in Catholic diocesan newspapers nation wide. Your comments and personal reflections are appreciated.

See our web site: http://members.aol.com/lyke2lyke@aol.com/fmrflctn.html.

Send email to lyke2lyke@aol.com

Diocese Hosts Dialogue Of Catechetical Leaders

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — On Nov.19, parish catechetical leaders from the Diocese of Charlotte met with Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation, Father James Hawker, vicar of education, and Bishop William G. Curlin at the Catholic Conference Center for the "Annual Dialogue of Parish Catechetical Leaders" gathering to pray, talk and share with one another. Part of the agenda was also exploring innovative ways to minister to the religious educational needs of the growing number of families within the diocese.

Bishop Curlin encouraged catechetical leaders, offering them direction in their task of passing on the faith. "Don't rely just on your skill, but in your trust that Jesus is in your life," he said.

The bishop recalled his own instruction as a child. "I did not go to formal classes — such a thing did not exist — but when my mother came back from the communion rail during Mass, I saw a transformation," he said. "That was my catechism."

Dr. Villapando said it was of prime importance that the chief catechist of the diocese shares ideas and concerns on a regular basis with parish catechetical leaders.

In addition to conversing with Bishop Curlin, the catechetical leaders listened to presentations on possible alternatives to the conventional faith formation classroom model. Sister of St. Joseph Jeanne Morgan, director of faith formation at St. Leo Church in Winston-Salem, discussed "New Paradigms for Ministry to Families" as outlined from a catechetical conference she attended.

Sister Jeanne offered suggestions on how to shift the existing "paradigm" for education to implement this type of family-based program, such as moving from a parish-centered faith formation to a household-centered one, and changing from a school-year program to one that follows the liturgical calendar.

Janet Garbison of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte highlighted a program used in Los Angeles called "Family Centered Intergenerational Religious Education." She became interested in this concept when, as a catechist in her California parish, she noticed a growing apathy from students in her faith formation classes. She became discouraged that their parents offered little support as well. "I felt I was spinning my wheels for other people's kids, and my own children were being shortchanged," she said.

Photo by Kathy Schmugge
Father Joseph Kelleher of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington chats with Sister Jeanne Morgan.

The intergenerational program worked well for her family, but Garbison admitted that it may not be for everyone. She said that it took great commitment from the families involved, but the outcome was worth the effort.

Seeking new ways to accommodate their varying needs, several parishes in the diocese are also currently using alternative models of education somewhat similar to those discussed. Fran Hehn of St. Mark Parish in Huntersville has already begun a type of family approach to faith formation called Family Religious Educational Development (FRED). It differs from the intergenerational program described by Garbison because it allows for a break to give separate instruction to children, youth and adults, using age-appropriate material. Presently, they have approximately eight families per group, and the parents must attend monthly organizational meetings to plan for the following three weeks' activities/lessons.

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The Foundation Of
The Roman Catholic
Diocese Of Charlotte

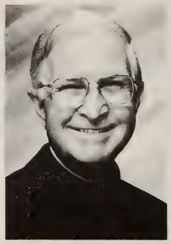
1996-97 Annual Report

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is a nonprofit corporation, established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations. The Foundation encourages Catholics to be good stewards through gifts of assets, provides for the investment of those assets, and distributes the income to recipients. The principal remains untouched. Endowments through the Foundation are a means to greater financial stability and growth for our diocese and its entities.

A Message from the Bishop

It is very gratifying to see the accomplishments of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte since its beginning three years ago. Through the Foundation, our community of faith has a tremendous opportunity to provide for the future of our church for generations to come.

I want to express my gratitude to all those who have helped make the Foundation so successful. I am particularly grateful to the individuals, living and deceased, who have established endowments in the Foundation to support the work of the Church. These individuals have shown great foresight and confidence in what the Foundation can become and have set a legacy for others to follow. I am also grateful to the pastors, principals and agency directors who established endowments for their respective parishes, schools, and agencies. I encourage more of our individuals and Catholic entities to establish endowments in this Foundation. If you would like to add to an existing endowment or explore ways to create a new endowment, please call Jim Kelley, our executive director.



I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the board who serve our Catholic Community by sharing their time, talent and treasure with the Foundation. Through their commitment and the stewardship of our generous contributors, we can offer financial support to Catholic entities that will help us achieve our mission of proclaiming the Good News and teaching the faith to succeeding generations.

As your Bishop, I know that what we do today with the Foundation will better prepare the Church to face the future. Begging God's blessings on you and your loved ones, I am as always,

Devotedly yours in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Bishop of Charlotte

A Message from the President

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I am proud to present the Foundation's 1996-97 Annual Report to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte. As the report reflects, our third year has been one of significant growth.

During the past year, nine new endowments were added to the Foundation to support the following: Mission of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus (through St. Luke Catholic Church); Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church; Our Lady of the Highways Catholic Church; Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church; St. Benedict Catholic Church; St. Gabriel Catholic Church; St. Michael Catholic Church; St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church; and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Those additions increase our number of endowments 38%, from 24 to 33 endowments.

Our total assets at the end of the fiscal year were $3,752,792, an increase of 47% over the previous year's amount of $2,556,242. Invested assets generated a return of 19.7% for the year ending June 30, 1997, after generating a return of 16.5% and 15.6% the previous two years. We believe those numbers represent a significant accomplishment for our first three years.

As of June 30, 1997, $147,260 in income was available for distribution to the various endowments. Some of the recipients have elected to have their income reinvested. Their decision will present greater benefits to them in future years. Their principle amount will continue growing, giving them more income when they elect to receive it.

In this year's report, we have included a story of an individual who established an endowment for his parish in Salisbury and a story of one of our ministries who established an endowment. We hope these stories will encourage other individuals, pastors, pastoral councils and ministries to do the same.

Our first three years have been good ones. Everyone on the board is committed to expanding our current endowments and building new endowments to ensure the future of our diocese, parishes, schools and ministries.

Sincerely yours,

V.M. Nussbaum, Jr., President

Statements of Financial Position

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc.

A copy of the independent audit by Arthur Andersen and Co. is available upon request.

Statements of Financial Position, June 30, 1997 and 1996

Assets:	1997	1996
Cash	$ 448,603	$ 206,565
Receivables -		
Support and other receivables	2,323	0
Interest and dividends receivable	9,561	7,797
Total receivables	11,884	7,797
Assets held in trust	35,166	0
Investments	3,257,139	2,341,880
Total assets	$ 3,752,792	$ 2,556,242
Liabilities and net assets:		
Accounts payable	$ 4,353	$ 0
Custodial and annuity obligations	1,924,170	1,303,470
Total liabilities	1,928,523	1,303,470
Unrestricted net assets	570,387	263,269
Temporarily restricted net assets	356,908	177,695
Permanently restricted net assets	896,974	811,808
Total net assets	1,824,269	1,252,772
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 3,752,792	$ 2,556,242

Board of Directors

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors composed of clergy and lay people. The Board's objective is to pursue an investment policy consistent with reasonable growth while prudently safeguarding the principal. The directors are leaders in their parishes and communities, and are accountable to both donors and recipients. This accountability includes the professional investment of the Foundation's assets while ensuring that the funds are disbursed according to the donor's wishes.

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Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration,
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Very Reverend Mauricio West
Vicar General, Diocese of Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

Endowments as of June 30, 1997

The African American and Native American Endowment Fund

This fund benefits the needs of minorities across the diocese.

The Alma Cornely Memorial Endowment Fund

Established through St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, this fund provides support to the Missions of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

The American Schlafhorst Scholarship Endowment Fund

Established to provide scholarship assistance for students at Charlotte Catholic High School.

The Asheville Catholic School Foundation Endowment Fund

This fund was established to enable the school to retain quality teachers, to offer scholarship assistance, to offer continuing education for teachers and to enhance the school's curriculum.

The Basilica of St. Lawrence Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this endowment assists in meeting the needs of the historic Basilica in Asheville.

The Bishop McGuinness High School Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of the students at Bishop McGuinness.

The Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund established by the CCHS Alumni Association provides scholarships for graduating seniors for a college of their choice.

The Conklin Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this endowment provides financial assistance for ministries supported by the DSA.

The Eleanor C.Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provides scholarships for the benefit of students from Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. This endowment fund is part of the Edward M. Murphy Educational Trust Endowment.

The Faucette Endowment Fund

This fund was established to benefit the educational ministry of our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Immaculate Conception Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this endowment provides for the needs of this parish in Forest City.

The Jack Driscoll Endowment Fund

This fund was established to help meet the needs of Sacred Heart parish in Brevard.

The Megan Healy Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provides scholarship assistance for students at St. Patrick School in Charlotte.

The Joseph M. Bryan, Sr. Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the maintenance and enhancement of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

The Kim Piccolo Scholarship Endowment Fund

Established through the Catholic Campus Ministry Office at UNC Charlotte as a memorial to Kim Piccolo, this fund provides scholarship assistance for Catholic students at UNC Charlotte.

The Lee Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the program needs of this retreat center in Maggie Valley.

The Maffitt Endowment Fund

This fund provides assistance to Catholic missions in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) Education Foundation Endowment Fund

This fund was established to meet the future needs of the students in the seven MACS schools in Charlotte.

The Our Lady of the Assumption Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The Our Lady of the Highways Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Thomasville.

The Our Lady of Mercy Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Winston-Salem.

The St. Benedict Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Greensboro.

The St. Gabriel Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The St. James Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Concord.

The St. Jude Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this mission in Sapphire Valley.

The St. Philip the Apostle Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Statesville.

The St. Vincent de Paul Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The Olga and George Testa Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the faith formation needs of this parish in Gastonia.

The Seminarians Education Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Unrestricted Endowment Fund

Income from this fund is used to assist in the work of the Foundation and to meet special needs not addressed by other restricted funds.

The Yates-Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provides scholarships for the benefit of students from Holy Name Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts. This endowment fund is part of the Edward M. Murphy Educational Trust Endowment.

Sacred Heart Parishioner Creates Church Endowment

By Mike Krokos

Ed Murphy hopes the legacy of the newly created endowment that bears his name serves the faithful for generations to come. Further, he offers his efforts as a challenge for others in the diocese to replicate.

Murphy has spent the better part of 50 years as an active member of Sacred Heart Church. From serving on the original parish council to singing in the choir, Murphy and his late wife Eleanor "were involved in all sorts of ways."

"We taught Sunday School for 20-something odd years, and I took up the collection," Murphy said. "In those days, we were a little church and you did everything."

Now, he is giving back to the Salisbury parish and his home church in New England as well. Murphy has established the Edward M. Murphy Education Trust Endowment Fund to benefit both Sacred Heart and Holy Name Church, his childhood parish in New Bedford, Mass. The current Murphy endowment totals more than $496,000.

Grants to Sacred Heart will be known as the Eleanor C. Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship, and grants to Holy Name will be known as the Yates-Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship.

"The reason for the endowment was my desire to help people I couldn't assist directly," Murphy said. The Church was the vehicle I could use to do the things I wanted."

"It is hoped that this little bit will help people such as single parents of this world whose spouses run away. They are the people who need it," he added. "They don't come to the pastor and say I haven't got enough to send a child to school or what have you. This type of person that we're talking about doesn't do that. They just quietly suffer or walk away and go to some other place. That's who we hope to reach."

The purpose of the endowment – both at Sacred Heart and the New England church – is to provide scholarships for the benefit of students from each parish. Those include scholarships for pupils attending the parish schools, scholarships for parishioners in need of vocational training at a local community college, or cost of tuition for students in a Catholic seminary.

"My grandfather, Thomas Yates, and mother, Isabel Murphy, were people that realized it takes an education to bring people up from a common laborer, increase their ability to learn, and improve the product they're making, specifically in the textile business," Murphy explained.

His grandfather left an active business career to establish a school teaching the textile trades, and his mother was one of the first teachers at the school. His late wife, Eleanor, was also a teacher for many years; hence the names of the two trust scholarships.

Once he decided to create an endowment, Murphy said the next question was how to set it up. "I couldn't possibly do it because I'm not going to be here too many more years. And I didn't have the organization to do it. The bank could do it. Or a private trust or legal firm could do it." he explained. "But the

(Continued on next page)

Scholarship A Testimonial Of Student's Faith, Leadership

Catholic Campus Ministry and the Foundation make a presentation honoring the life of UNCC student Kim Piccolo.

By [illegible]

More than eight years have passed since Barbara Neff Hutchison's first effort to establish an Endowed Catholic Scholarship Fund for Catholic students attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Some $10,000 later, the UNCC Catholic Campus Ministry chaplain, along with the Diocese of Charlotte Foundation Executive Director Jim Kelley, presented Cynthia Soderholm the first Kim Piccolo Endowed Scholarship last year.

"I am honored and touched to have been chosen," said Soderholm, a parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. "It makes me feel very humble."

The scholarship honors the life of Kim Piccolo, a UNCC business major and a member of the Catholic Campus Ministry who in January 1989 was murdered in her apartment. Her parents, Bonnie and John Piccolo, are former parishioners of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

The endowment has been in place within the diocese since July, 1994. It was one of the first four endowments and the first scholarship set up by the Foundation. Since then it has grown by 74 percent thanks to both income earned as well as contributions of individuals and organizations.

The scholarship is directed at the tuition costs for students like Soderholm. With it, she and future recipients will receive funds to ease their financial burden during college years. Both Kelley and Neff-Hutchison hope to see the endowment—and thereby, the scholarships—continue to grow over time.

"The purpose of the endowment is not only to provide the money, but to provide a means of changing lives," said Kelley. "This particular endowment marks the first grant made from the Foundation to help an individual, rather than a parish, a school or other entity. As the Foundation continues to grow, we hope to continue providing such distributions throughout the diocese.

"The important thing," added Neff-Hutchison, "is that we've reached our goal—we've been able to give honor to Kim's life."

Neff-Hutchison said Soderholm was the obvious choice. The determined 21-year old has worked her way through school as a member of Catholic Campus Ministry, better know as Chi Rho. Soderholm took on leadership responsibilities which further identified her as a caring person of faith—much like Kim Piccolo herself. "We wanted a financial need, we wanted scholarship, and we wanted Catholic loyalty to campus ministry," she said. "Cynthia met a criteria, and she also is someone with the same personality traits as Kim—that same goodness and faith. Presenting the scholarship to her just felt as if it was in the spirit of the entire project."

In that endowed scholarships rely on consistent contributions to grow, Neff-Hutchison and Kelley remind people that the scholarship fund is always open to expansion. To make tax-deductible contributions to this memorial celebrating the life of a faithful Catholic and student, make checks payable to The Kim Piccolo Endowed Scholarship Fund and send them to Jim Kelley, Executive Director of the Foundation, 1524 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28207.

Reprinted from The Catholic News & Herald

Continued from previous page

diocese has the Foundation, an organization already set up with endowments, and has the machinery for distributing the income and maximizing the yield of these funds."

"It was my thinking that the Diocesan Foundation was in as good a position if not better than anyone to be able to handle the endowment," he added.

Attorney Don Hodgens, who helped Murphy with the endowment process, said one of his responsibilities is to outline different avenues for clients who have charitable interests. As a Catholic, Hodgens was familiar with the Foundation's work. "I think the Catholic community is becoming more and more aware of the Foundation because of various articles in the Catholic newspaper," he said.

The endowment is administered by Foundation staff, a board, and is professionally managed, Hodgens noted. "For Mr. Murphy and what he wanted to accomplish, the Foundation was a perfect vehicle."

Foundation officials worked closely with Hodgens and Murphy to make the endowment process as easy as possible. "Jim Kelley (executive director of the Foundation) was very helpful, knowledgable and cooperative in explaining how the Foundation is set up and used," Hodgens said.

"Through his gift, Mr. Murphy is leaving a legacy that will help meet the needs of individuals at both Sacred Heart and Holy Name parishes for generations to come," Kelley said. "More and more parishioners across the diocese are following Mr. Murphy's example by remembering the church in their current and future estate plans."

Kelley said individuals establishing endowments take another step in living out the life of stewardship. "Just as we make gifts from our monthly income, we also have an opportunity to give from our accumulated assets to endow the Church of the Diocese of Charlotte," he said.

Reprinted from The Catholic News & Herald

Catholic Heritage Society

The Catholic Heritage Society is the diocese's way of honoring the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the Church. Membership in the Catholic Heritage Society is open to anyone who agrees to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or any of its parishes, schools, agencies or organizations. Consider the following planned gifts:

n A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL is perhaps the simplest way to give. You can name the Foundation to receive a gift of cash or other property from your estate. You can stipulate that the Foundation receives a specified amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after all the other bequests are fulfilled.

n GIFTS OF CASH, SECURITIES, REAL ESTATE or other TANGIBLE ASSETS to establish an endowment are an ideal way of giving to the Foundation, particularly when the donated assets are highly appreciated.

n GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE allow you to make a gift that might be larger than if you were to give an asset outright. You can give the Foundation a paid up policy that you already own, or you can purchase a policy to donate.

n LIFE INCOME ARRANGEMENTS allow you to make gifts to the Foundation during your lifetime while retaining and even increasing your income from those assets for the remainder of your life. These include trusts and annuities.

These and other opportunities for giving to the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte can be explored with you. The Foundation staff will be happy to work with you and your advisors to help determine which gift is right for you.

For further information contact Jim Kelley at the Office of Development, 704-331-1709 or 704-377-6871, fax 704-358-1208.

For more information contact
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Charlotte, NC 28203
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or 704-370-6299
Fax 704-370-3378

Entertainment

Film's Real Star is Flying Rubber, Not Robin Williams

CNS photo from Disney

Robin Williams, as absent-minded professor Phillip Brainard, is the brains behind the new energy source "Flubber." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of American rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

NEW YORK (CNS) — Robin Williams stars in Disney's remake of 1961's "The Absent-Minded Professor," but the real star is the flying rubber he discovers and calls "Flubber."

The belabored opening reveals Professor Brainard (Williams) is so consumed with creating this revolutionary material he has unwittingly left his incredibly understanding bride, Sara (Marcia Gay Harden), at the altar — twice.

She is also president of their bankrupt college so her woes are many when once again she is stood up while, back in his cellar, Brainard has succeeded beyond his wildest imagination. Little green blobs, some looking like clones of the Pillsbury Doughboy, burst forth, zooming around town creating merry mayhem before returning home.

Although the professor apologizes to Sara a day later, excitedly exclaiming his flubber discovery will save the college, this time she won't listen and accepts a basketball game date with crafty Croft (Christopher McDonald), a rival academic intent on stealing Brainard's new discovery — and his sweetheart.

Just as nefarious is the thieving magnate Hoenicker (Raymond Barry) who sends his two lackeys (Ted Levine and Clancy Brown) to raid the professor's home, but they are first rewarded with big bruises and bumps courtesy of some flubber-laced golf and bowling balls.

The professor, meanwhile, has decided to help the college basketball team by coating their sneakers with flubber, enabling them to leap to the gym ceiling and dive right though the hoop, ball and all!

But a showdown is building at the Hoenicker mansion where the professor must harness his freaked-out flubber against those who would steal his secret formula, close his college and swipe his sweetheart.

Director Les Mayfield flubs it by stressing all the special effects, leaving both the plot and characters looking anemic. The human cast is pretty much immaterial in this remake as the flubber's flying feats monopolize center stage.

As such, Williams has little need to inject his madcap comic genius into proceedings where zooming green gobs of goo can and do incapacitate their puny human prey on a regular basis.

This may delight young children, but there are a couple of reasons "Flubber" is not so wonderful for small fry.

The level of mindless mayhem and havoc the flubber creates is so exaggerated it is no wonder the movie received a PG as opposed to a G rating. People are battered about to such an extent it isn't really funny; it becomes a bruising comedy.

Then there are two gratuitous scenes that may bother parents.

In the first, the professor stumbles into the wrong class — of art students — and is oblivious of the nude male and female models in front of him. Although there is no actual on-screen nudity, the scene still looks too suggestive for young children. More puzzling is another scene in which the professor's talking, flying robot uses a computer to create a virtual-reality female garbed in a negligee that goes to awaken the sleeping professor. The only thing this accomplishes in the movie is to raise eyebrows.

At one point, the movie's story stops dead in its tracks to accommodate a full-scale musical production number of scores of flubbettes wriggle and chorus-line dance as if they were animated fugitives from a Busby Berkley musical. It's the movie's most joyful scene, but shows how the rest of the movie lacks the charm and visual wit this scene displays.

Due to frequent slapstick violence and fleeting sexual innuendo, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II —adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Charlie Chan at the Opera" (1936)

Elaborate mystery with Chinese-American detective Chan (Warner Oland) aiding the Los Angeles police after an opera diva (Margaret Irving) is murdered during the opening night's performance, with the lead suspect being an escaped mental case (Boris Karloff). Directed by H. Bruce Humberstone, the twisting plot is paced by scenes from the opera (composed by Oscar Levant) and the backstage activities of the performers, with comic relief from Chan's "No. 1 son" (Keye Luke) and a dim flatfoot (William Demarest). Menacing situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum" (1940)

Eerie mystery directed by Lynn Shores in which the title Honolulu detective (Sidney Toler) and his "No. 2 son" (Sen Yung) spend an evening in a New York crime museum owned by a plastic surgeon (C. Henry Gordon) whose criminal clientele includes an escaped murderer (Marc Lawrence) and his former partner (Ted Osborn). Menacing situations and shadowy frights. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Chinese Ring" (1947)

Formula Charlie Chan mystery directed by William Beaudine follows the Chinese-American detective (Roland Winters) on the case of a murdered Chinese princess involved in a scheme to smuggle U.S. fighter planes to her compatriots, with token comic relief from Chan's chauffeur (Mantan Moreland) and "No. 2 son" (Victor Sen Yung). Some menace and period racial stereotyping. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

MOVIE
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REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

"George of the Jungle" (1997)

Engagingly silly live-action comedy based on a 1960s animated TV series about a jungle-raised primitive (Brendan Fraser) smitten with a beauty (Leslie Mann) on safari to escape her overbearing fiance. Director Sam Weisman's good-natured spoof of Tarzan movies is amusingly self-mocking and drags only when the action moves from the jungle to the big city. Some mild sexual references, toilet humor and occasional slapstick violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"My Best Friend's Wedding" (1997)

Dismayed that her longtime pal and former lover (Dermot Mulroney) is about to marry someone (Cameron Diaz) he just met, a restaurant critic (Julia Roberts) decides she wants him back and connives to stop the wedding. Director P.J. Hogan's muddled romantic triangle offers little more than a gooey confection of bogus emotions on beautiful faces. Some sexual references and a risque sight gag, a crude expression and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III —adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Speed 2: Cruise Control" (1997)

On a Caribbean cruise, a Los Angeles cop (Jason Patric) gets sidetracked from proposing to his girlfriend (Sandra Bullock) when a passenger (Willem Dafoe), who happens to be a psychotic computer whiz, programs the ship to collide with an oil tanker. Director Jan De Bont's hectic action sequel focuses on constant shipboard perils and giant special effects, but fails to work up much empathy for its colorless characters. Intermittent violence and an implied affair. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

People In The News

Cuban Exile Leader Called True Christian, True Patriot

MIAMI (CNS) — Cuban exile leader Jorge Mas Canosa was eulogized as a "Christian and a patriot" by Miami Auxiliary Bishop Agustin Roman at his funeral Mass Nov. 25. The bishop recalled chatting with the powerful founder of the Cuban American National Foundation decades before, when he would bring his three young sons to pray at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity, patroness of Cuba. "All separations hurt. This one more, because it is the pain of a whole people subjected to slavery at home and to the wrenching pain of absence in exile," the Cuban-born bishop told a standing-room-only crowd that overflowed onto the grounds of St. Michael's Catholic Church in the heart of Miami's Little Havana. Thousands of people from all walks of life, Cubans and Hispanics in general, lined up for hours in the streets outside the church to pay their last respects to the 58-year-old exile leader.

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Priest Named Auxiliary Bishop For Sacramento

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II Nov. 25 named Father Richard J. Garcia, vicar for clergy in the Diocese of San Jose, Calif., as an auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Sacramento, Calif. Bishop-designate Garcia, 50, will be the first priest of the 16-year-old San Jose Diocese to become a bishop. He also will become the 22nd Hispanic Catholic bishop in the United States. A native of San Francisco and a priest since 1973, Bishop-designate Garcia had been named vicar for clergy in San Jose in August. He said in a statement that he is sad to be leaving the San Jose Valley, his home for more than 30 years, but that he was thrilled and humbled by his appointment as a bishop.

Three Catholic Canadian Quintuplets Offer McCaugheys Advice

OTTAWA (CNS) — Amid all the advice they're receiving on how to raise their septuplets, Iowa parents Kenny and Bobbi McCaughey are likely to heed what Yvonne, Annette and Cecile Dionne have to tell them. In a letter published in the Dec. 1 issue of Time magazine, the three surviving Catholic quintuplets, now age 63, tell the McCaugheys the lives of their seven newborns "should be no different from that of other children. Multiple births should not be confused with entertainment, nor should they be an opportunity to sell products." The Dionne sisters add, "We hope your children receive more respect than we did."

CNS photo from Reuters

The flag of Cuba drapes the casket of Cuban exile leader Jorge Mas Canosa as it is carried from St. Michael's Church in Miami Nov. 25. The anti-communist businessman and chairman of the Cuban American National Foundation died Nov.

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Triangle Area Group To Build Life Tree

APEX — A group of Triangle-area residents have come up with a display idea in connection with North Carolina's annual March for Life held each January in Raleigh.

The group, calling itself LifeTree, wants to "grow" a tree in front of the legislative building for the march, to be held on Jan. 17, 1998. Its members invite all who attend the pro-life rally to hang pairs of baby's booties to memorialize preborn babies who have been aborted.

Organizers say the display will present a "positive, visual symbol." Their goal is to hang 4,400 pairs of booties "to represent the lives that will be lost on that day in the United States."

Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of the Raleigh Diocese is an honorary member of the group's steering committee. Several other area religious leaders have asked to be included as sponsors as well.

About 1,000 pairs of booties have been collected, but LifeTree needs many more to meet its goal. The booties can be new or used baby's socks, or traditional booties. Pink or blue are preferred, but all colors are welcome.

Participating churches are using several methods to collect the booties. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Raleigh sponsored a spiritual adoption program through which parishioners agreed to pray for an aborted child for one year. In a symbolic gesture, 100 participants donated booties with their adopted children's names attached. Several parish respect life committees have used collection baskets and bulletin announcements asking parishioners to donate booties.

Led by architect Fernando Gaviara, Knights of Columbus from Apex and Cary designed and built the tree.

LifeTree's deadline for the booty collection is Dec. 31. If there is a special attention you'd like to offer with a pair, let LifeTree know.

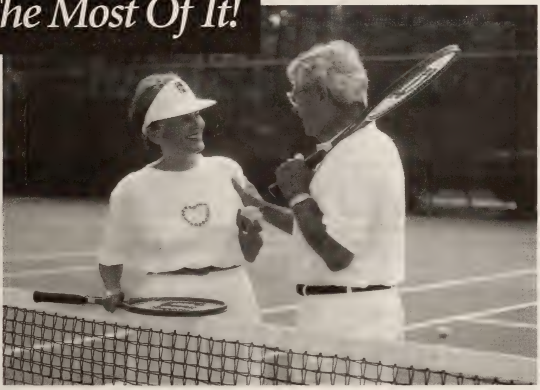
Send booties and all correspondence to LifeTree, P.O. Box 1047, Apex, NC 27502. For more information, call Nancy Lischwe, (919) 362-1555.

Bosco, from page 5

come, Father Kapaun asked his closest friends to continue his work of prayer with the soldiers, leading Catholic prisoners in the rosary and readings from the Bible. He asked a further favor of one of them, Lt. Walter Mayo Jr.

"Walt," said this priest, who had been beaten, starved, frozen, wounded, unable to walk from painfully swollen legs and isolated in the building they called the death house, "tell my bishop that I died a happy death.''

Maher is right. That is heroism.



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Diocesan News Briefs

World AIDS Day Service

ASHEVILLE — The Fifth Annual World AIDS Day Interfaith Healing Service is Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. in Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville.

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence provide free tours of the historic church following every weekend Mass. Mass schedule is as follows: Saturday, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. Spanish Mass is Sunday at 7 p.m.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A healing Mass sponsored by Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry is celebrated every Thursday at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. Refreshments follow in the meeting room.

Alzheimer Support

CHARLOTTE — The Alzheimer Support Group meets at St. Gabriel Church the second Monday of each month. For details call Suzanne Bach, (704) 370-3230.

Advent Reflection

CHARLOTTE — An Advent reflection called "Listening to the Wind of the Spirit: Spiritual Growth that Hinges on Awareness" is presented at St. John Neumann Church on Dec. 7 from 8:45-9:45 a.m. Admission is free, and babysitting is provided. Call (704) 535-4197 for more information.

Men's Bible Study

CHARLOTTE — Men's Bible study takes place each Friday from 6:30-7:15 a.m. in the St. Matthew parish center's family room. Contact Bob Zoeller, (704) 542-8939, for more information.

Knights Bingo

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus of St. Ann Parish host Bingo Mondays at 7 p.m. in the activity center. Call the parish office, (704) 523-4641, for more information.

Separated, Divorced, Remarried Support

CHARLOTTE — A support group for separated, divorced, and those persons remarried "outside the church" meets every second and fourth Wednesday at St. Ann Church. Call Kathy Wooley, (704) 376-1503, for details.

Singles' Christmas, New Year's Parties

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte hosts its annual Christmas party Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. at Cameron Woods Clubhouse. Please bring a baby item to be donated to Room at the Inn. The group's New Year's Eve party is Dec. 31 at the home of Marisa Belmonte. For more information on either event, call Marisa at (704) 541-8796.

Christmas Cantata

CONCORD — The St. James Choir performs its annual Christmas Cantata, conducted and accompanied by Malek Jandali, Dec. 21 in the St. James Parish Center at 7:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Journey for Youth

GASTONIA — Journey is an experience of church and Christ in the warm context of a Christian community. The weekend experience, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, is for youth in grades 10-12. It is peer ministered, involving a team of young people and adults who present talks, lead discussions, and plan prayer experiences and interaction with other participants.

The next Journey is scheduled for Feb. 20-22, 1998, at St. Michael Church. The cost is $47, which includes lodging, food, supplies and program expenses. A non-refundable deposit of $20 is required with each application, and the deadline is two weeks before the retreat weekend. Each retreat is limited to the first 37 applicants.

For more information, call Carolyn Bergman, (704) 865-5537, or Chrissy Glisson, (704) 853-3620.

Advent Reconciliation Service

GREENSBORO — A communal reconciliation service for adults and youth is at St. Paul the Apostle Church on Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. The service for adults will take place in the church, while the youth service for middle- and high-schoolers will be in the fellowship hall.

For Advent penance services in your parish, check your church bulletin or call the parish office.

Seniors' Luncheon

MONROE — The Men's Club of Our Lady of Lourdes Church sponsors a Christmas luncheon for seniors on Dec. 11 at 12 p.m. Door prizes will be given. Reservations will be accepted through Dec. 8. For details, call Jim Goss, (704) 233-5104.

Advent Program

NORTH WILKESBORO — St. John the Baptist de la Salle Church presents an Advent program from 10-11 a.m. each Sunday through Dec. 21. The movie "Jesus of Nazareth" will be shown in segments and will be discussed with the use of a Biblical study guide. Refreshments will be served.

Scriptural Series

TRYON — A scriptural series focusing on "Breaking Open the Gospel of Luke" continues at St. John the Baptist Church Mondays at 7 p.m. in the church hall. Call (704) 859-9574 for more information.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

In observance of Children's Book Week Nov. 17-21, storyteller Barbara Freeman shares literature-based stories with a young audience at Asheville Catholic School. Other activities during the week included students dressing up as their favorite book characters, donations of used books to Buncombe County's Book Discovery program, parents sharing their favorite books, and book "commercials" written and read by students.

Around The Diocese

Bereavement Support

ARDEN — The Bereavement Support Group meets Mondays at 1:30 p.m. in the St. Francis Room at St. Barnabas Church for those with significant losses in their lives, no matter how recent or remote.

CHARLOTTE — The Grief Group meets at St. Gabriel Church Mondays from 7-8 p.m. in the Family Room for anyone who has lost a loved one in death. For more information, call B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047, ext. 212.

The Widow/Widowers Bereavement Group meets at St. Gabriel Church each Monday from 6-7 p.m. in the Family Room. Call B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047, ext. 212, for more information.

The Men's Bereavement Support Group meets the second Tuesday of each month. For details, call B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047, ext. 212.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Grief Support Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at St. Leo the Great Church for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close to them. Contact Joanne Parcell, (910) 924-9478, for more information.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

BELMONT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Belmont Abbey Chapel, located behind the abbey church and monastery. For more information, call (704) 399-2701.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at St. Gabriel Church. Contact Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for more information.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Joe and Mary Lanham, (910) 454-4551.

Natural Family Planning

ASHEVILLE — A Natural Family Planning meeting, sponsored by Nazareth Parenting Center of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, is Dec. 8 at 8:15 p.m. in St. Justin's Center. Adults, single or married, are invited for brief overview of NFP. For more information, call (704) 252-6042.

CHARLOTTE — The introductory session of Natural Family Planning each third Thursday at the Catholic Center is suspended until further notice. For details, call Cathy, (704) 364-3348, or Carmen, (704) 663-6411.

Secular Franciscans

ASHEVILLE — The Order of Secular Franciscans meets to share in commitment to the apostolic life of the Gospel each second Saturday at the Basilica of St. Lawrence's St. Justin Center. For information, call Helen Turek, (704) 684-1533.

HICKORY — The Fraternity of Brother Francis meets each second Saturday from 2-4 p.m. Inquirers are welcome. Call Bill Brockhoff, (704) 464-5113, or Herman Thoni, (704) 294-0347, to confirm the day and location of the next meeting.

World And National News Briefs

Maine High School Tuition Law Challenged in Federal Court

PORTLAND, Maine (CNS) — A Maine law that permits state-funded tuition for high school students in private schools but excludes a Catholic school is unconstitutional, according to a lawsuit filed Nov. 21. The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Portland against the State of Maine Department of Education on behalf of several parents of high school students in Minot, Maine, where there is no public high school. Maine law requires the state to pay tuition for high-school-age residents of Minot and West Minot to attend "a private school approved for tuition purposes, a public school in an adjoining unit ..., or a school approved for tuition purposes in another state or country." The only restriction is that the school cannot be sectarian.

Students Hoist Shoes, Protest Land-Mines At Notre Dame Game

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — The single shoes hoisted during the national anthem in Notre Dame Stadium Nov. 22 were a salute to victims of land mines and a message for President Clinton. Students at the University of Notre Dame, energized by a visit from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines earlier in November, organized the high-profile protest at the Notre Dame-West Virginia football game to kick off the campus campaign. "It's a matter of educating the students as much as possible," said junior Susie Grandin, one of nine students who had met almost every night since the campaign's Ban Bus visit to Notre Dame Nov. 12. Bus rider Paul Piatti, who works in Los Angeles for the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, challenged the students to enact the single-shoe symbol with one hand over the heart. Many who step on land mines and survive lose a foot or leg to the explosion, and stores in some land-mine-infested areas sell single shoes.

In Honduras, U.S. Catholics Continue Fast, Await Response

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — Saying they are still waiting for a "serious response" from U.S. officials, two U.S. Catholics continued their fast outside the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa. Jesuit Father Joseph Mulligan and Matthew Eisen began their liquids-only fast Oct. 29 to pressure the U.S. government to release uncensored copies of secret documents about the 1983 disappearance of U.S. Jesuit Father James Carney. The priest was reportedly captured and murdered by U.S.-trained Honduran troops. At the time of his disappearance, Father Carney was serving as chaplain to a column of leftist guerrillas.

Russian Bishops Say Limits on Priests' Visas Hinder Church

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The Russian Catholic Church faces serious pastoral problems because of Foreign Ministry regulations on foreign priests' visas, said Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, apostolic administrator of European Russia. "A priest from Western Europe working in Russia faces administrative costs of $500 to obtain visas for a year," the archbishop said in an interview with KAI, Poland's church-owned Catholic Information Agency. "Such restrictions have caused a problem by making it impossible to plan any pastoral work." Meanwhile, Bishop Joseph Werth of Novosibirsk told Britain's Keston News Service that half his 100 priests had experienced visa-related "difficulties" under a Foreign Ministry regulation that limits foreign priests' visas to three months. Archbishop Kondrusiewicz stressed the problem was not directly connected with the country's new religion law, which is expected to tighten restrictions further when applied by executive decree in early 1998.

Family and friends of those who have died from AIDS light candles in San Jose, Costa Rica, Dec. 1 on World AIDS Day. The United Nations reported recently that 30 million adults have the disease with about 16,000 new cases per day worldwide.

Bishop Says Church Should Improve Ministry To Gays

DETROIT (CNS) — Despite calls for withdrawing or changing a statement by a committee of U.S. bishops that parents shouldn't withhold love from homosexual children, the bishops are not about to back away from it, according to the bishop who first asked for the statement. Even though the October statement "Always Our Children" came up for discussion at the bishops' fall general meeting, "it is fully accepted — there's no question that it's ever going to be withdrawn or repudiated or changed in a dramatic way," said Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton. The statement is an important step forward, but the church needs to do more to improve ministry to gays and lesbians, he said at the recent Call to Action national conference in Detroit. "We have not in the past worked very well with people of homosexual orientation. We have not ministered to them in a way that has been helpful; it has been far more hurtful," he said.

Catholic Heritage Society

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For information on the Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone (704) 370-3301.

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Parish Profile

St. John Neumann Church

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(704) 536-6520

Vicariate: Charlotte

Administrator: Father Anthony J. Marcaccio

Permanent Deacons: Rev. Mr. Joseph Mack, Rev. Mr. Neil Chirico

Mass Schedule: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 7:30, 10 a.m., 12, 6 p.m.

Number of parishioners: 4,919

Number of households: 1,100

CHARLOTTE — Three decades ago, seven parishes existed in Charlotte, the town that in 1972 had been designated the see city of a newly formed diocese. Catholicism was becoming more firmly rooted in western North Carolina by that time, and Bishop Michael J. Begley was faced with the task of building more parishes to accommodate the growing numbers of Catholics settling in the region.

It was from that need in the southeast Charlotte-Mint Hill area that St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte's eighth parish, was created in 1977.

Msgr. Lawrence C. Newman, pastor of Charlotte's Our Lady of the Assumption Church, assumed the first pastorate of St. John Neumann Church. About 250 families, many from Assumption, formed the registry of the new parish.

The parish began plans to build a church while Msgr. Newman celebrated Saturday vigil Masses at a Methodist church and Sunday liturgies at the Idlewild Country Club. Weekday Masses were celebrated at the rectory, a house that already existed on parish property.

A church was built, and Bishop Begley dedicated the new structure located on Idlewild Road on June 17, 1979.

Msgr. Newman died in January of 1981 and was succeeded by Father Frank O'Rourke, currently pastor of Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

Rapid parish growth prompted the need for a larger church in the mid-'80s. Bishop John F. Donoghue, Charlotte's second bishop and now archbishop of the Atlanta Archdiocese, dedicated the new building on June 23, 1985.

In 1987, Father O'Rourke was appointed the rector of St. Patrick Cathedral across town, and the Conventual Franciscan Friars arrived at St. John Neumann Church. Conventual Franciscan Father Richard Bellow became pastor.

Since its beginning phases, the parish has incorporated the theme "Building Together a Community of Faith" into its daily life. Through that theme, the St. John Neumann parish community has established a variety of commissions dedicated to evangelization, liturgy, respect life activities, communications, and family and community life. Adult education programs and Scripture study sessions offer other opportunities for adults, while younger parishioners take part in educational, sporting and social programs. The faith formation program is very active, and the parish also hosts the successful "Open Arms" day care for young children. The Women's Club, 50+ Club, Secular Franciscans order, RCIA program, and Knights of Columbus council and its Ladies Auxiliary are also among the parish groups active in social and spiritual activity on a regular basis. The Knights council is the state's second largest.

For the past three years, the parish has also hosted the diocese's annual silver and golden wedding anniversary celebration presided over by Bishop William G. Curlin. The popular event honors couples married for 25 and 50 years.

St. John Neumann Parish continues to experience growth and change. In June of this year, Bishop Curlin celebrated a Mass at the church marking the retirement of the parish debt. In October, Father Bellow became parochial vicar of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, and Father Anthony Marcaccio, Bishop Curlin's priest secretary, was appointed as parochial administrator of St. John Neumann Church.

In addition to his duties as the Bishop's priest secretary, Father Marcaccio serves in spiritual and sacramental ministry to the more than 4,900 parishioners of St. John Neumann Church. He is assisted by the Very Rev. Peter Jugis, diocesan judicial vicar.

IRELAND 98
WITH FATHER MAURICIO WEST
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Send name, address
and phone number to:
Joann Keane
Director of Communications
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
or E-mail: JSK330@aol.com
Information mailed January 1998

Italy
March 23 - April 1, 1998
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Florence
Venice
The Most
Reverend
William G. Curlin
will celebrate Mass
for our pilgrims in
Rome. The tour continues
through the Italian villages
accompanied by
Father Anthony Marcaccio
For more information,
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NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 15 • December 12, 1997

Photo by Mike Krokos

This statue of the Virgin Mary seems to be welcoming the wintry conditions that greeted students at the Catholic Campus Ministry Center at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee on Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The western North Carolina mountains received a dusting of snow, while other parts of the state battled sleet, rain or snow.

Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards Bestowed

Mother Benignus Honored For Lifetime of Commitment

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

BELMONT — She's been compared to Mother Teresa. It's said she put the "angel" in Holy Angels. And on Nov. 22, Mother Mary Benignus Hoban was recognized for a life of service, faith and commitment at the 1997 Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards ceremony.

During a video presentation at the ceremony in New Bern, Mother Benignus was honored as a woman with a quiet voice and a big heart. The co-founder and president emeritus of Holy Angels, Inc., a residential center serving children and adults with mental retardation and physical handicaps, Mother Benignus was affectionately called a tough administrator, a caring caregiver, and a person who through faith and perseverance has always found ways to get things done.

Mother Benignus' personal service award — carrying with it $25,000 — was one of three awards bestowed at the ceremony. Receiving honors for strides in race relations was the Rev. Harrison T. Simons, rector of two Episcopal churches in Oxford, N.C., who has devoted himself to causes bringing about racial harmony. The recipient for the advocacy award is Chenay Costen of Sunbury, founder of several educational and social service programs in northeastern North Carolina.

The awards were bestowed by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem, founded in 1936 in memory of tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds' youngest son. The awards were established in 1985 to memorialize the philanthropist Nancy Susan Reynolds, Smith's sister, a longtime trustee and one of the original foundation members. Up to three awards are presented each year.

More than 400 people from across the state attended the ceremony.

At age 20, Mother Benignus came to America in the mid-1920s from her native County Mayo in Ireland. Arriving in North Carolina shortly thereafter, the Sister of Mercy began making a name for herself as an educator, administrator and caregiver in rural locales surrounding Charlotte.

When a young mother brought her infant with disabilities and medical frailties to a day care operated by the Mercy Sisters in Belmont in 1956, Mother Benignus helped lay the cornerstone for what would become an outreach to children and adults with severe mental retardation and physical handicaps.

With Mercy Sister Marie Patrice Manley, director of the day care center, Mother Benignus and the Mercy Sisters took little Maria in, nursed her with the medical care that was available, and de-

See **Mother Benignus,** page 3

Bethlehem Letter: Christian Minority in Jesus' Birthplace

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — When Muslim worshipers fill Manger Square as they spill out from the mosque on Friday afternoons, it is hard to imagine that at one time this was a town with a Christian majority.

A little more than 50 years ago, however, Christians made up 90 percent of the population of Bethlehem, said Bernard Sabella, Bethlehem University sociology professor and population expert.

Sabella, a Catholic, told Catholic News Service that today Christians account for about 35 percent of the 17,000 inhabitants of Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. If the outlying villages are included in the statistics, he said, Christians are only about 25 percent of the population.

Toward the end of the last century, Christians constituted some 13 percent of the overall population in the Holy Land, while today they are just slightly over 2 percent, added Sabella.

The transformation in the population in Bethlehem has taken place over the years for three main reasons: the influx of the mostly Muslim refugees after the 1948 war; the traditionally lower Christian birthrate; and the Christian waves of emigration that began early in the century and which, Sabella said, were exacerbated by the 1948 war.

Christians have always been more likely to emigrate because they were in more contact with the foreign community, which came to the Holy Land to set up Christian schools and hospitals, Sabella said.

The Palestinian Christians have traditionally been white-collar workers who have been concerned about their children's future, said Sabella. Their connection with the foreign community acted as an incentive to seek their fortunes abroad, especially in South and Central America.

The strong Christian character of countries in those regions meshed with the ties the Palestinian Christians felt for their faith, said Sabella. Many expatriate Christian Palestinians live in countries such as Honduras and Chile, he said.

Even today, said Sabella, Christian Palestinian families are more apt to emigrate than their Muslim counterparts, mainly because they already have family members living abroad. Yearly some 20 Christian families of the 1,500 families living in Bethlehem emigrate because of the lack of economic stability here, he noted.

Without the Christian community, he said, "the religious events themselves lose their significance."

Sabella said that although Christians in general will not disappear from the Holy Land, he was concerned that some of the smaller Christian communities such as the Armenian and Assyrian churches might reach a point where their membership would dwindle to almost nothing.

CNS photo by Debbie Hill

Muslim men fill Manager Square in Bethlehem for Friday prayers.

He said if the Christian communities dwindle significantly, the important Christian element would be missing in the transformation process of the region from conflict to peace, and Christian contribution to society would be minimal.

"It would be nice if we could continuously preserve the Christian dimen-

See **Letter,** page 3

Timely Tips For Year's End

Christmas season and the birth of Christ, I am once again inspired by the Christian work accomplished by so many Catholics in the Charlotte Diocese area during 1997. The prayers, hard work and financial support you have provided have helped make this work possible.

A Special Time of the Year

So much goes on during this blessed season of giving that everyone seems to be "making a list and checking it twice."

Regardless of the length of your list, you almost certainly have included a gift to your parish, Catholic school, a favorite Catholic charity, the Foundation, or the Diocese of Charlotte. In this space I want to share a few ideas about the form and timing of gifts, which may help maximize the benefits of your gifts.

1. Remember the tax year deadline. In order to qualify for this year's taxes, action must be taken by Dec. 31.

This is also the deadline for charitable gifts. As long as you file an itemized tax return, gifts completed by Dec. 31, 1997, will be deductible.

2. You can give property other than cash. Although cash (usually in the form of a check) is the most familiar gift, it is not the only form.

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 and the stock market at unprecedented levels add appeal to giving certain marketable securities this year. Many individuals review their holdings (including stocks, some bonds, and selected mutual funds) and decide what to do in order to improve their tax picture.

Giving stocks that have increased in value and been held longer than one year increase your savings, thereby enabling you to make a larger gift at a lower cost. Such gifts can also be used to reduce or eliminate capital gains tax due from the sale of other assets.

3. Not able to itemize? The extra tax benefits from charitable giving comes from being able to claim the charitable deduction on an itemized income itemize, charitable gifts are, in effect, included in the standard deduction.

If you do not have enough deductions to itemize this year, timing your special gifts may still help improve your tax benefits.

Could an extra gift to your parish, Catholic school, a favorite Catholic charity, the Foundation, or the Diocese of Charlotte boost your total deductions above the standard deduction amount and allow you to itemize? Some people find it beneficial to "bunch" gifts those years in which they need additional deductions.

4. Keep all acknowledgments for gifts. They can help you determine how much you can deduct. This is especially true for gifts of $250 or more.

5. Start a gift of appreciated property early. It may take extra time to complete, and you want it to count on this year's tax return.

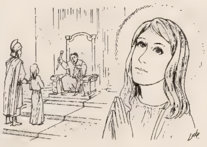
Seek Prompt Advice

A little planning now can make for a "happy ending" to another year. Not only will you enjoy the blessing of giving during the Christmas season, but you'll enjoy knowing you've done the best possible planning to make the most of your resources.

If you would like to take advantage of the special tax advantages associated with giving a stock gift, you may transfer share of stock electronically to the diocesan broker by completing the form at right.

For more information, talk with your professional advisor. Or contact me, without cost or obligation, at the Diocesan Development Office, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC, 28203, (704) 370-3301.

Lucy



St. Lucy is celebrated by the church as a virgin and martyr. Her story is of a young woman who offered her virginity to God. She was killed at the height of the Diocletian persecution around 300 A.D. A suitor, who she turned away, took vengeance by proclaiming her a Christian. She would not deny the charge and was murdered. She is patron of those with eye disorders. Her feast is Dec. 13.

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

Readings for the week of
December 14-20, 1997

Sunday	Zephaniah 3:14-18
	Philippians 4:4-7
	Luke 3:10-18
Monday	Numbers 24:2-7,15-17
	Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday	Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13
	Matthew 21:28-32
Wednesday	Genesis 49:2,8-10
	Matthew 1:1-17
Thursday	Jeremiah 23:5-8
	Matthew 1:18-24
Friday	Judges 13:2-7,24-25
	Luke 1:5-25
Saturday	Isaiah 7:10-14
	Luke 1:26-38

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Stock Transfer Instructions

Stock gifts may be made by electronic transfer. The Diocese of Charlotte maintains a brokerage account with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. for the purpose of processing stock transfers to the Diocese for the benefit of the Diocese of Charlotte or any of its parishes, schools or agencies. To transfer stock:

1. Provide your broker with the information shown in Part I. Your broker will inform you of their requirements to execute the transfer to the diocesan account.

2. Complete Part II and mail or fax it to the Pastoral Center at the following address:

Diocese of Charlotte
Attn: Finance Office-Stock Processing
P.O. Box 36776
Charlotte, NC 28236 or
Fax # (704)370-3378

Within 30 days of receipt of the stock into our account, we will sell the stock and mail a check to the diocesan entity you identify in Part II. We will also send you an acknowledgment which complies with IRS regulations.

PART I: NOTICE OF STOCK GIFT TO BROKER

Please transfer________ shares of _____________ stock from account # ____________to:

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.
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Charlotte, NC 28202
Telephone: (704)339-2016 or (800)937-0864
Fax: (704)339-2110

for the account of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Account # 728-04417

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DTC for ACATS Securities: #0161

Refer questions to Betsey Mauk at Merrill Lynch at (704) 339-2016

PART II: NOTICE OF STOCK GIFT TO THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Name of individual or entity making the gift: ____________________

Address: ____________________

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Phone: ____________________

Parish: ____________________

Quantity & stock being transferred: ____________________

Donor's broker/agent: ____________________

Broker/Agent's telephone: ____________________

Date of transfer: ____________________

For the benefit of:

Name of parish, school, etc. # of shares Restrictions

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Mother Benignus, *from page 1*

Mother Mary Benignus Hoban

spite doctors' odds watched her flourish. More than four decades later, Maria Morrow lives and works at Holy Angels, the institution that, in her own special way, she helped found, too.

Through the years, the day care center has transformed into a specialized residential facility, with group homes, a summer camp, and an adult activity club among the various provider's of educational, spiritual, medical, therapeutic, vocational and social programs and services for children and adults.

Mother Benignus dedicated herself to the center, and actively served as president from 1972 until recently.

Recipients can choose the charity of their choice to receive $20,000 of the award money while keeping $5,000 for personal use. Mother Benignus gave the $20,000 to Holy Angels. The money will be used in part for Holy Angels' endowment to assist in long-term needs; the remainder will be utilized to help fund current programs.

And what of that $5,000? Mother Benignus gave it away, too. With it, the construction of Maria Morrow's new home will be completed later this month.

Mother Benignus recently defined the key ingredient in her lifetime of work. "Love is everything," she said. She feels she's never encountered obstacles, and although a stroke earlier this year has somewhat limited her mobility and softened that voice of hers a bit more, she still makes every effort to spend time with the children of Holy Angels.

"There is never a child born that is not a splendid gift from God," she once said. "Regardless of the condition into which they are born, children are God's innocents."

Like another, more famous Catholic nun who ministered on the streets of a poverty-stricken town in India, Mother Benignus is regarded for her leadership in compassion. "She's so sincere, and she has that deep faith that truly has helped her to do what she's done in this life," said Regina Moody, Holy Angels president and C.E.O.

"She may not have received the same level of recognition that Mother Teresa had, but Mother Benignus has probably done as many good works," she added.

At the ceremony, Stephen L. Neal, president of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and former congressman, said, "We do not have to search for saints or heroes in distant lands, in the slums of Calcutta, mine fields of Bosnia and Africa, or hospitals for incurables in England," he said. "Look and we will find them in North Carolina."

He called this year's recipients "extraordinary examples of how individuals — a Catholic nun, an Episcopal priest and a dynamic young African-American woman — saw needs crying to be met, and said simply, 'If not me, then who?'"

Bishop William G. Curlin was among the celebrants taking part in a "Time for Healing," an ecumenical gathering Nov. 30 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Charlotte to pray for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. In his homily, Bishop J. Gary Gloster, suffragan bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, said the healing service was a time to come together as a community of God to pray, listen, cry and touch. "We cannot love God without one another, and we cannot love one another without God," he said. Shown, from left are Bishop Charlene Kammerer, bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church; Bishop Leonard Bolick, bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; Bishop Curlin; Bishop Gloster.

Bishop, St. Patrick Cathedral to Celebrate New Year's, Christmas Midnight Vigil Masses

CHARLOTTE — Continuing a practice begun in 1996, Bishop William G. Curlin will bring in the new year by serving as principal celebrant and homilist at midnight Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral on Thursday, Dec. 31.

The Mass will serve as a vigil for the Jan. 1 feast day of Mary, the Mother of God, a holy day of obligation.

All are invited to attend.

Bishop Curlin will also serve as principal celebrant and homilist at three Christmas Masses: the Dec. 24 midnight Mass and 11 a.m. Christmas Day Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, and a 1 p.m. Christmas Day Mass at Holy Angels in Belmont.

Bethlehem Letter: Christians Now in Minority, *from page 1*

sion of Bethlehem, because this is unique and significant to the whole Christian world," he said.

The challenge for the Christians, he said, was to find a formula where the Christian character of the city is kept while maintaining the current "excellent" relations with the Muslim neighbors.

One example of such a formula was the agreement between Muslims and Christians that the mayor of Bethlehem will always be Christian, said Sabella.

He contended that sometimes there were tensions between Muslims and Christians, but said they were generally individual conflicts that were twisted and unfairly put into a religious context.

But though the statistics may look dismal, Sabella said he was not worried about the Christian community losing its position in society. It is not necessarily the numbers that indicate the viability of a community, he said, but the spirit it embodies, and Christians are still an important part of the Palestinian community. He said some 75 percent of local Christians attend church services on a regular basis.

Sabella's main concern regarding the Christian community is into what type of community it will evolve. The main goal now needs to be to find a way keep the Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land so they can continue to invigorate and empower the whole community, he said.

"The question is whether we can go into the 21st century without a breakdown in our community," he said. "If more and more of us leave, then we at least as Palestinian Christians will have a breakdown of our community, and our contribution to society will become minimal."

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM, Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East · Charlotte, NC 28203 · (704)334-2283

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

The family is truly a gift and a commitment for the individual and for life, as well as the hope of humanity.

John Paul II, October 4
Address in Rio de Janeiro

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will
take part in the following events:

December 14 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

7 p.m.
Clergy vicariate Christmas dinner
Charlotte

December 15 — 7 p.m.
Penance Service
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte

December 16 — 7:30 p.m.
Penance Service
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

December 17 — 7 p.m.
Seminarian dinner
Charlotte

December 18 — 8 p.m.
Speaker
Knights of Columbus gathering
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

December 21 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

December 24
Celebrant and homilist
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Discusses Jesus in Relation to Ancient Hebrew Messiah Predictions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Dec. 3.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis in preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, today we meditate on the presence of Christ in the history which preceded him, particularly in the history of Israel. Israel awaited a Messiah who would fulfill God's promises. Certain individuals in the Old Testament, such as Abraham, Moses and King David, prefigure the Messiah. While many people expected a political liberator, the prophets gradually revealed the true face of the Messiah as the suffering servant, who, although innocent, would meet a violent death. The greatness of the promised Messiah would lie in his offering himself in sacrifice to free humanity from sin.

In the Gospels, Jesus often speaks of himself as the fulfillment of the Old Testament, and he applies to himself the prophecies and symbols in which the hope of Israel was expressed. In Christ, the son of God made man, this humble self-giving reaches its summit in the mystery of the cross.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors. In particular, I thank the Harlem Gospel Singers for their praise of God in song. May your visit to Rome, with its memorials of the Apostles Peter and Paul, strengthen your faith and trust in the Lord. Upon all present, I gladly invoke the joy and peace of Jesus Christ.

Pope Sends Message To Families After Siberian Plane Crash

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II sent his condolences to the families of the victims killed after an air force cargo plane crashed into an apartment building Dec. 6 in Irkutsk, Russia.

On Dec. 8, Siberian officials said 41 bodies had been recovered but 43 people remained missing.

"The Holy Father expresses his deep condolences to the families plunged into mourning because of this drama and assures the injured and the population touched by this catastrophe of his deep sympathy," said a Dec. 8 telegram signed by the Vatican secretary of state.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano sent the condolences in the pope's name to Archbishop John Bukovsky, the Vatican's nuncio to Russia.

In addition to praying that the deceased would be welcomed into God's presence, the pope prayed for courage and comfort for the survivors. He asked that the region's inhabitants reach out with solidarity and charity to those injured or left homeless by the crash and the fire that followed it.

The air force cargo jet had been carrying two Russian fighter jets; it crashed just 20 seconds after take-off. The plane crashed into an apartment building, but also set an adjacent orphanage on fire.

Nearly 400 people in the area were evacuated.

Third Sunday of Advent: Come Lord Jesus!

The Rev. Francis T. Gignac, S.J.

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for "rejoice," the first word of the entrance antiphon, taken from today's second reading. Joy is the theme of the liturgy today. In fact, joy is an integral aspect of the whole Advent season.

Advent is also a time for discipline and preparation, and these aspects are emphasized on the other Sundays. But we are not just preparing to receive Christ into our hearts at Christmas; we are not just preparing to meet him when he comes to welcome us into God's presence; we are also preparing ourselves to celebrate his birth a little more than 2,000 years ago. And since Christ has already come and saved us, no one can take this joy away.

The first reading is found in the book of Zephaniah (3:14-18) but is not an oracle of that fifth-century prophet. It is a psalm added by the latest editor, a joyful song in honor of Zion. The writer calls upon the people of Israel to shout and sing for joy, to be glad with all their heart, because salvation has come to them. With him as their leader, their true King, what have they to fear?

The writer goes on to an even more daring metaphor. Not only will God be the leader of Israel's armies; he will feel toward his own city, Jerusalem, as a bridegroom feels for his bride! In words reminiscent of the prophet Hosea, who first portrayed God's love for his people through the metaphor of a marriage covenant and the love of husband and wife, he pictures God rejoicing over the city with gladness and renewing her through his love.

The second reading is from Paul's letter to the early Christian community at Philippi (4:4-7), a thank-you note for gifts this community sent to him in prison in Ephesus. The section begins, "Rejoice! The Lord is near." By this Paul once again expresses the hope of early Christians that Jesus would come back again in their lifetime and then become the Messiah and inaugurate the kingdom of God. "The Lord is near" echoes the common prayer of the early church, "Come, Lord Jesus." This is a prayer that could very well be on our lips and in our hearts as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

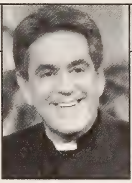
The Gospel reading (Luke 3:10-18) presents something found only in the Gospel according to Luke: John the Baptist's social teaching. In the story, people of various employments ask John the Baptist what to do to prepare for the coming of the kingdom of God. He tells them to share their material possessions with one another. If they had two coats and there were people who had none, they should give one to someone who did not. And food likewise. He told tax collectors not to make excessive profits.

John's preaching concludes with the image of a winnowing fan, a wooden shovel used to separate the wheat from the chaff. This image calls us to purification and preparation; may we be the wheat and not the chaff when the judgment comes. Yet it is not a call to fear, for Jesus had already come and saved us. It is a call to joyful and peaceful preparation for the coming of Christ and his spirit into our hearts in a special way at Christmas, so that we may have a fuller share in his liberating salvation.

Jesuit Father Francis T. Gignac is a professor and chairperson of the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Give 'til It Helps

The Christmas and Hanukkah holidays are happy times for most people. Yet for many others they are the saddest, the hardest times to bear. For whatever reason — depression, loneliness, the recent death of a beloved, the absence of a child — holidays are apt to bring more tears than cheer.

But it doesn't have to be like that.

Those who might otherwise shun social gatherings can find in you a light more brilliant than those we hang on our trees or put in our windows. You don't have to be a reformed Ebenezer Scrooge to make somebody happy. You need only be yourself to make a difference.

Who is waiting for your words of welcome? Pick up your address book, phone, then set an extra plate. Or find out what your church, synagogue or community group are doing for your forgotten, hungry and lonely neighbors. You might help serve a holiday dinner or deliver meals on wheels.

Rita and Bill started by handing out coffee, but made themselves available to help with rides for the elderly who needed to be at medical appointments. "We saw that we had the time and the resources and so we said yes to our parish's Advent 'Being There' program."

Scott, an eighth-grader from Oklahoma, is a member of a Boy Scout troop that decided to do more than raise money by selling Christmas trees. They planned acts of kindness and service for people who could use some help. He said, "I felt happy because I was able to make someone's Christmas real."

Natalie, a 22-year-old mother of twins, decided that she would volunteer for her synagogue's drive to distribute blankets and scarves to her city's homeless people. "I never realized first of all that I could make such a difference," she admitted, "but then we worked together and found that a few hands (and hearts) really can give hope to someone in trouble or despair."

What about those who are poor, sick, lonely? Is there no choice but to wait for the others' goodness?

Walter didn't think so. He invited 10 other homeless men to pool their resources and share a holiday meal. "I thought it would be a good day to be with others that aren't as well off," he said. They roasted their turkey in the shelter of a railroad tunnel.

Neither did one man dying of cancer. "Ever since I got sick, everyone's been bringing me things. I'm grateful for all this. But when Christmas came I got more fruit and candy than I could possibly eat. I went around my building and left little packages outside everybody's door. Now that felt good. That's what's missing in my life. I wish I had more I could give to people."

Giving and receiving. Every human being makes a difference not in grand gestures but in the simple, priceless exchange of generosity and gratitude. The ordinary becomes extraordinary when we realize the value of our gifts, of our acts of kindness — and appreciate it in others as well.

You may be healthy in body and mind, happy in spirit, surrounded by family and friends, and financially secure. Or none of these. But you can still do something. Extend your hand to the world which thousands of years ago heard a message of peace and a promise of hope. Whether out of pain or out of plenty — you can give until it helps.

For a free copy of The Christopher News Note "Live the Golden Rule" write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

The Naming of Jesus

Q. *As my children and I were discussing Christmas, one of them asked why Mary and Joseph named their baby Jesus.*

I told them that was the name God wanted the baby to have, but they weren't satisfied. Nothing more came to my mind, so we decided to ask.

Was there any special meaning to that name? If so, what was it?

A. As you say, according to the Gospels the name "Jesus" did come from God through an angel to Mary (Lk. 1:31) and in a dream to Joseph (Mt. 1:21).

The name in other forms, Joshua in particular, has a long history in Hebrew culture. Two particular facts seem to stand out in Christian tradition, however, as it applies to our Lord.

First, Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, a name which in Hebrew means "God (Yahweh) helps," or more popularly "God saves.''

It is this second meaning that Matthew picks up on, reporting that the name was bestowed on Jesus "because he will save his people from their sins.''

For Matthew it also carried the connotation, always a central theme in that Gospel, that the salvation Jesus brings is not individualistic, but a community, a "church" event. Jesus would save "his people."

Second, the name was not unique. People often called their children Jesus in those days. Paul refers to a Jewish Christian of that name (Col. 4:11), and it appears in other literature of the same period.

The same remains true today in some places. One may recall the child, obviously a baseball fan, who asked, "If Jesus was a Jew, why does he have a Puerto Rican name?''

The implication is that Jesus received a very common name, one that did not immediately separate him from the human family, but helped to identify him with it.

You don't mention how old your children are. If some of this is a little over their heads, perhaps you can translate it for them.

Postscript

Dear Father Dietzen: In your recent column about references to Jesus Christ in early nonbiblical literature, you do not name the Roman historian Tacitus, last heard of about 114 A.D.

He speaks of the Christians, whose "founder, one Christus, was put to death by the procurator Pontius Pilate when Tiberius was emperor'' (Annals XV.44).

Tacitus was about one generation earlier than Suetonius, whom you do mention.

A. I'm grateful to the priest, a professor of Latin literature, for the information. It's nice to have smart classmates.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Coming of Age

Amy Welborn

The Challenge Presented by Zoe and Oliver

Zoe and Olivier were a part of my senior theology seminar for only about a month, but in the short time they were there the two French exchange students made a profound impact and opened some eyes.

It wasn't that they were nice (which they were) or exotically different (which they really weren't), but rather something much simpler and a little scary.

They were just so — smart!

We're not speaking of natural intelligence here. Every one of the students in this honors class would probably match up to the French kids on an intelligence test.

No, it was in the area of general knowledge and even skills that the Europeans ran circles around their American classmates.

At the beginning of the semester we were studying various theories concerning the origins of religion — the perspectives of various thinkers like Freud, Marx, Fuerbach, Jung and others. The names were almost totally unfamiliar to my own students, and what they knew about those they'd heard of was nothing more than a word association: "Oh yeah, Freud: psychology." "Marx: communism, right?''

But the French students could give explanations of each figure's basic thought, even in regard to the specific area of religion.

Hearing them speak, sure in their knowledge even as they stumbled over the English words they had to use to explain their points, my own students responded by either staring, rather rudely I might add, in amazement, or looking down at their notebooks and fiddling with their pens.

"How come," one asked in frustration after Zoe and Olivier had gone home, "we're so stupid?"

The answers, in one respect, are easy. You're not innately stupid, of course, you're just the product of a vastly inferior educational system and a hideously superficial popular culture.

In a way, it's not your fault. But in a way it is.

Most of my honors students never read a book they're not assigned in school, and even with those, they spend more time studying Cliff's notes than reading the actual text.

Last year, I spoke to another group of honors students who were frantically reading over the Cliff's notes to one of Shakespeare's plays in order to study for a quiz. None of them had read a word of the actual text up to that point.

"Hey guys," I ventured to the group huddled outside in the hall, "Don't you 'want' to read the play?"

They looked at me as if I were crazy.

I tried again. "Don't you want to be educated? Wouldn't it make you feel pleased and proud, like you'd accomplished something, to have read the whole thing yourself?''

"Ms. Welborn's off her rocker" is the thought evident from the looks on their faces.

"Can't you imagine that there might be something interesting and engaging in it? Don't you want to grapple with it

See **Welborn,** page 6

Where Will We Find Shelter?

By **JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER**
Director of the Diocesan Office of Justice & Peace

The Madonna with Child is my enduring Christmas image.

Not the scene depicted in the celestially illuminated Christmas card creche, with angels singing on high. I'm thinking of the stable-bound, teen-age woman, birthing her baby on a dimly lit bed of straw, surrounded by the smells and noises of the animals.

The woman, Mary, is aided only by her husband, Joseph, a man who would soon be forced to flee from those who would harm the Baby Jesus. He took his family to refuge in a foreign land.

It's sometimes easy to get distracted by society's consumer-oriented pursuits of the season. We can forget that the life story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is played out today by countless families the world over — the homeless, refugees, children of war.

For me at this time of the year, the questions asked by the holy family echo across the landscape of modern times for people among us who are still in need....

Where will we find shelter?

How can we protect our children in the face of cultural violence?

What country will take us in, away from a war we didn't choose?

Why must we slide across borders to find safety and work in order to provide food and homes for our families?

Each year as the birth of love nears, I am inexplicably filled anew with the conviction that humankind *is* capable of cherishing and protecting all children, each one of whom is made in the image of God.

We really are ingenious enough to change our world so that each person will have access to the resources they need to live life with the dignity they deserve.

My perennial prayer is that one Christmas season very soon, our hearts and minds will embrace this extraordinary gift of God; that in blending mercy, compassion and ingenuity, we can begin to build a world that lives up to the promise of the holiday season.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer is director of the Diocesan Office of Justice & Peace. The above article is reprinted with permission from The Charlotte Observer.

Welborn, from page 5

yourselves?"

No way. I should have known better.

"You've got time over Christmas break. While you're off from school, take a minute and think about the world, and then think about your world.

"Wouldn't it be exciting to take a deep breath, turn off the television, open your eyes and bring a little bit more of that big world into your own?"

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

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Charlotte Catholic High School will have an opening beginning second semester in January, 1998. Call 543-1127 for an application.

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St. Peter's Parish, Columbia, SC, a dynamic multi-cultural community of 1,000 families, is accepting applications for a full-time DRE. Qualified, organized candidate must provide leadership, coordination and support for religious education program, K-6th grades, including school and adult education. Salary commensurate with degree and experience. Position becomes effective July 1, 1998. Deadline: March 25, 1998. Submit resume to: Search Committee, St. Peter's Church, 1529 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Suplemento de The Catholic News and Herald **12 de diciembre de 1997**

Con un corazón y un espíritu

Los Obispos de Carolina del Norte publican Carta Pastoral

Por JIMMY ROSTAR
Columnista de
The Catholic News and Herald

CHARLOTTE – Con las fiestas navideñas muy cercanas, los dos obispos católicos de Carolina del Norte se han unido para rogar a todas las personas de buena voluntad del estado que ayuden a aquellas que están en extrema necesidad de asistencia económica.

Los Obispos William G. Curlin de la Diócesis de Charlotte y F. Joseph Gossman de la Diócesis de Raleigh se dirigieron el 24 de noviembre a tres diferentes grupos, en Charlotte, Greensboro y Durham, para explicar los principios de su carta pastoral *"Con un corazón y un espíritu "* (Of One Heart and One Mind) que invita a los católicos de Carolina del Norte y a sus amigos en los negocios, el gobierno y la comunidad a encontrar medios que garanticen justicia económica para todos.

La misiva de los obispos, publicada el 21 de noviembre en *The Catholic News and Herald* y el 23 de noviembre en el *NC Catholic* de la Diócesis de Raleigh, es la primera carta pastoral conjunta de los dos obispos católicos de Carolina del Norte. En consonancia con la tradición católica la carta pastoral expresa preocupación urgente en relación con un tema específico y hace una llamada a la acción rápida y sincera.

Después de la reunión en el nuevo Centro Pastoral de Charlotte, los obispos se trasladaron, para otras conferencias de prensa, al Centro Fransicano de Greensboro y a la Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción de Durham. En los grupos había principalmente miembros del clero, religiosos, religiosas y miembros de grupos de acción social diocesanos y comunitarios.

"Cuando se lastima a uno, nos lastimamos a todos. Cuando uno sufre, todos sufrimos", dijo el obispo Curlin en Charlotte. "Nuestro propósito al dirigirles esta carta pastoral es expresar que como comunidad católica creemos que tenemos una obligación y el amor por Cristo que ha de revelarse por la manera en que tratamos a otros".

Los planes para la carta pastoral empezaron hace poco más de un año cuando Joanne Frazer, directora de la oficina de Justicia y Paz de la Diócesis de Charlotte y la hermana franciscana Joan Jurski, de la oficina de Paz y Justicia de la Diócesis de Raleigh, se reunieron con los obispos con motivo de la discusión nacional de reducir $30 millones de programas económicos y sociales del presupuesto federal.

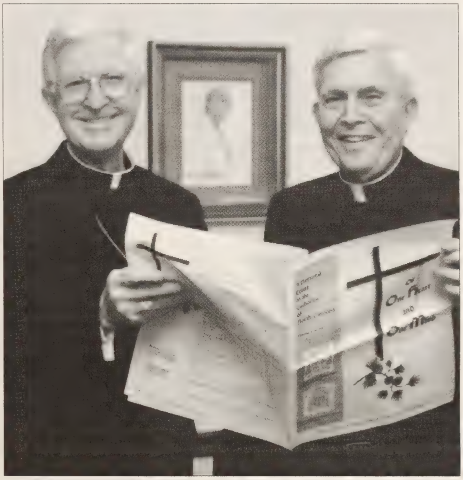


Foto Joann Keane

Los obispos William G. Curlin y F. Joseph Gossman cuando informaban sobre su carta pastoral durante la conferencia de prensa en Charlotte.

El Obispo Gossman dijo que noviembre era el momento apropiado para hacer pública la carta, debido a que la fiesta de Acción de Gracias era para muchos una celebración de la familia, los amigos, la comida y de gratitud.

"Ahora comienzan las fiestas navideñas", dijo él, "pero habrá miles de personas que no podrán celebrar estas fiestas. Estos son los olvidados, los pobres, los empobrecidos, los marginados, los que carecen de un techo....".

El Obispo Gossman urgió al auditorio de Charlotte a ir más allá de los artículos periodísticos y segmentos de noticias televisadas de ayuda a los pobres por medio de cocinas de sopa y albergues durante estas festividades. La situación de la pobreza es para muchos un hecho el año entero "y sería más provechoso si estudiáramos más eficientemente el problema del pobre, del necesitado, de los padres que luchan lo mejor que pueden para sobrevivir", añadió él.

Ambos obispos enfatizaron que llegar a la raíz de la pobreza es la clave para producir cambios.

Este punto se destaca, igualmente, a través de la pastoral. "Debemos continuar combatiendo los efectos de la pobreza sirviendo al pobre en refugios para los que no tienen hogar, en despensas de emergencias, en roperos y en centros de alfabetización", escribieron ellos, pero debemos también incluir acción dirigida a resolver la causa de la pobreza".

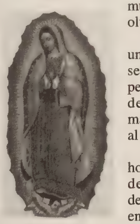
Los obispos continúan diciendo que mientras las necesidades inmediatas de individuos y familias deben resolverse, la Iglesia "tiene que trabajar para cambiar las condiciones sociales y la política pública para que sean más sensibles a las necesidades humanas".

Tanto en su carta pastoral como en las conferencias de prensa, los obispos expresaron cauto optimismo en relación con la validez de los programas destinados a reformar el bienestar social (welfare). Uno de estos programas, el llamado, *"Trabajo Primero, de Carolina del Norte"* (North Carolina Work First) ofrece dudas en cuanto a que pueda realmente producir familias económicamente independientes. Ellos y varios miembros de la audiencia representantes de agencias de servicio social, católicas, comunitarias y no lucrativas, enfatizan que la disponibilidad de trabajos que paguen salarios dignos es esencial para el éxito de cualquier esfuerzo de reforma.

Continúa en la página 3

Fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe

Por HECTOR ANDRADE



El mes de diciembre es considerado por el calendario como un mes de festividades alrededor del mundo. En México la población se da cita el día 12 para rendirle un homenaje a la Virgen de Guadalupe, devoción que nació en el año de 1531, transformándose a través de los siglos en un símbolo de la Américas.

La Basílica de Guadalupe se viste de gala para celebrar a la Virgen del Tepeyac. Miles de peregrinos llegan desde los cuatro puntos del país, entrando por la calzada de Los Misterios o por la calzada de Guadalupe y otras avenidas de la ciudad de México para concentrarse y participar de la fiesta.

El metro, los taxis, autobuses, bicicletas, patines, son tan sólo algunos de los medios de transporte utilizados para llegar hasta donde se encuentra la Basílica dedicada a la Virgen Morena. Una congregación camina solemnemente llena de colorido, dándole vida a este enorme acontecimiento.

No importa la distancia, el 12 de diciembre siempre es un día para recordar, es una tradición de muchos años que no se puede olvidar.

Quizá un año, un mes o unos días antes de la fecha señalada se organizan las peregrinaciones que habrán de llegar a cantar las mañanitas a la Guadalupana al pie de su altar.

En los negocios, en los hogares, en diferentes áreas de trabajo, en sitios deportivos, entre otros, se encuentra la presencia de la Virgen de Guadalupe. En los barrios populares hay quienes le construyen su pequeña capilla para que ella siempre les acompañe y cuide a todos sus habitantes.

La magnitud del evento crece a la medianoche del día 11, cuando todo México se une en una sola voz para cantar y dar un "¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!".

Fotos en la página 3

Octavo Mandamiento
"No mentirás"

I
II
III
IV
V
VI
VII
VIII
IX
X

Continuamos con los mandamientos de la Ley comentando sobre el octavo mandamiento.

Suma y eterna verdad, Dios quiere que también nosotros, como hijos e hijas suyos, estemos en la verdad. La verdad enaltece nuestra vida frente a Dios y frente a los hombres y garantiza esa recíproca confianza, necesaria en la convivencia humana. Sólo guiados por la verdad, los individuos y la sociedad avanzan hacia la conquista de su verdadero bien espiritual y material. Quienes voluntaria y conscientemente actúan con mentiras, imitan a Satanás, padre de todos los engaños y de todas las falsedades. El *Octavo Mandamiento* nos prohibe falsear la verdad, para que siempre y en todas las ocasiones permanezcamos en la verdad: para con Dios, para con nosotros mismos y para con todos nuestros semejantes.

Actitudes equivocadas. De pequeños y grandes mentirosos está lleno el mundo. Hay quienes buscan engañar a Dios llevando una conducta religiosa falsa e hipócrita. Hay quienes se engañan a si mismos amoldando sus pensamientos y su conducta no a la verdad, sino a sus propias conveniencias y prejuicios personales. Hay quienes engañan a los demás divulgando secretos, acusando falsamente, calumniando, murmurando, haciendo juicios temerarios, y los que siempre sospechan y desconfían, que inventan y propagan chismes dañinos al honor de las personas.

Actitud cristiana. Jesucristo vino al mundo para dar testimonio a la verdad. Este mismo testimonio están llamados a dar todos sus fieles discípulos. Así hicieron los Apóstoles, los mártires y todos los santos. Así hacen quienes rechazan en su vida toda malicia, todo engaño, toda envidia, y toda clase de maledicencias. Quienes acatan con fe los principios del Evangelio y las leyes de la Iglesia y las cumplen con perseverancia y fidelidad. Quienes luchan con valentía y prudencia para que la 1uz de la verdad resplandezca en las conciencias y guíe las relaciones entre las personas y entre los pueblos. Quienes buscan una continua conversión a la verdad para que su relación con Dios, consigo mismos y con su prójimo sea día a día más transparente y auténtica.

(Comentario al Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica – Edición Española – con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo)

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Queridos amigos y amigas en Cristo:

En estos días celebramos una fiesta muy querida por nuestros pueblos hispanos, la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, emperatriz de las Américas. Ciertamente es un día especial para el pueblo mexicano pero María de Guadalupe es la patrona, la emperatriz de todas las Américas.

El día de su fiesta, la Iglesia nos presenta para nuestra meditación la parte del evangelio donde María visita a su prima Isabel. En ese relato, escuchamos a María proclamar:

"Mi alma glorifica al Señor y mi espíritu se llena de júbilo en Dios, mi Salvador, porque puso sus ojos en la humildad de su esclava

En este Evangelio de Lucas, escuchamos a María cantar. Ella es la cantadora de la gracia que se ofrece a los pequeños, porque solamente los pequeños saben acoger la gracia, el amor que Dios les ofrece.

Hermanos y hermanas, María no sólo canta, no sólo proclama este amor de Dios para con los pobres, sino que se hace cercana a los pobres. Con su sí al Padre, decidió en su sencillez mantenerse cerca, acogedora de la palabra y voluntad de Dios. Ella, que estuvo cerca de Jesús en los momentos más difíciles de su vida, recibió de su Hijo la misión de estar cerca de nosotros. En esta fiesta, recordarnos su cercanía y acogida a Juan Diego, y en él, a todos los más pobres de América Latina, Y en nuestro continente, los más pobres siguen siendo los pueblos indígenas. Siguen siendo los más oprimidos, los más desnutridos, los más abandonados, los más sufridos, los más crucificados. María estaba al pie de la Cruz y nos invita a que tomemos nuestro lugar ahí junto a ella, junto a su Hijo, junto al más pobre.

En el Evangelio de Lucas, María peregrinó en busca de quien la necesitara; se hizo acogida, ternura, amor para su prima, Isabel. En 1531, se hizo morena para acercarse, para consolar, para fortalecer a todos los pueblos de América Latina. Hermanos y hermanas, como cristianos, esto es nuestra heredad: acoger con ternura y amor el prójimo más necesitado.

Al honrar a María, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, pedimos la gracia de ser siempre fieles a Cristo y a los más pobres, de ser audaces y creativos en peregrinar al encuentro de los más necesitados. Pedimos a María, cantadora del Magnificat, servidora de Isabel, que se quede con nosotros, siempre cercana, con la sencillez y la humildad de su fe; que nos enseñe a peregrinar hacia su Hijo, nuestro hermano Jesús, vivo y encarnado en el pobre, en los que nos rodean.

Termino invitándoles a la novena de la Virgen de Guadalupe que se celebrará todas las noches a las 7:30 PM en el Centro Católico Hispano a partir del día 4 de diciembre. El día 12, a las 8 PM, celebraremos una Misa y cantaremos las mañanitas con mariachis hasta la medianoche. El domingo 14 de diciembre, a las 12 del día, también celebraremos una Misa en honor de la Virgen de Guadalupe.

Natividad del Señor

Alguien ha dicho que en Navidad todos somos niños. Cada año aguardamos con la misma ilusión de la niñez la llegada de la más bella de las noches de la tierra: la nochebuena. Con la Navidad llegan tantas cosas: llegan las cartas de los seres lejanos que amamos, llegan los regalos, llegan los familiares, y es la noche en que hay hogar y hay perdón, y los labios que no nos hablaban nos tornan a hablar, y los brazos que no nos estrechaban nos vuelven a abrazar. Navidad es noche de recuerdos, noche profunda de paz, de amor; noche de Dios, Noche de Dios porque la Navidad no significa otra cosa que Dios en la tierra, la Palabra de Dios omnipotente y creadora que se hace un niño "envuelto en pañales y acostado en un pesebre". La Navidad es el encuentro de Dios con el hombre. Y si la Navidad es la fiesta de la Palabra de Dios hecha carne, si Dios "en esta etapa final nos ha hablado por su Hijo", una sola cosa es necesaria: recibir a Cristo.

Nunca como hoy, en el mundo, asistimos a una sobreproducción de palabras; palabras a millones en libros, revistas, diarios. Cuántas palabras lanzan a la calle los periódicos, cuántas palabras arrojan al aire la radio y la televisión; cuantos millones de palabras se cruzan en los salones de las Naciones Unidas, en los Congresos de las naciones, en los mercados, en las calles. Nos ahogamos en palabras. Y hay algo peor: la inflación de la palabra. Como el dólar cuyo poder de adquisición se reduce, así la palabra ha perdido su poder de verdad, su fuerza de vida, su luz de guía. Hoy día, para muchos, palabra es sinónimo de vacío. Buscamos con ansiedad una palabra que diga todo, que una todo. Buscamos esa única palabra necesaria; y esa palabra es la Palabra de Navidad, Cristo, la Palabra que hemos escuchado en el prólogo del evangelio de San Juan: "En el principio era El Verbo y El Verbo estaba frente a Dios, y Verbo era Dios".

"En su bondad y sabiduría, Dios eligió manifestarse a si mismo", y nada podía revelar mejor el ser de Dios que su Palabra. Jesús es la presencia de Dios entre nosotros. Nuestras palabras humanas sólo alcanzan a describir, imperfectamente, lo que es una persona; pero Jesús, la Palabra de Dios hecha carne, es la imagen exacta de la gloria del Padre. Cuando vemos a ese Niño, vemos realmente a Dios. Solamente Jesucristo podrá decir: "El que me ha visto a mí, ha visto a mi Padre", o "El Padre y yo somos una misma cosa".

"Vengan, naciones, adoren al Señor, porque hoy una gran luz ha bajado a la tierra". Si existe algo que exprese tan bellamente la alegría de la Navidad, es la luz. Las bombillas de mil colores son como las risas de la nochebuena. Los árboles de Navidad, ardiendo de luces como la zarza del Horeb que escondía la Palabra de Dios, nos recuerdan que la Navidad es la fiesta de la luz a medianoche. Como tan poéticamente lo decía el profeta Isaías: "El pueblo que caminaba en la noche ha visto una gran luz... Multiplicaste sus risas, hiciste estallar su regocijo... Porque un Niño nos ha nacido, un hijo se nos ha dado". Ese niño proclamó un día en el templo de Jerusalén: "Yo soy la luz del mundo", igual que dijo: "Yo soy la verdad, yo soy el camino, yo soy la vida, yo soy la resurrección, yo soy el pan". Al comenzar decíamos que los hombres buscamos una palabra que diga todo, que sea todo, que una todo. Cristo es esa palabra, palabra que es luz, camino y verdad; pan, vida y resurrección.

Alguien decía que la palabra para ser comprendida tiene que ser la palabra del hombre común. Pues bien, la Palabra de Dios que nada tiene de común porque es la palabra de sentido infinito, esa palabra se hizo común, o como dice San Juan: "Y el Verbo se hizo carne, y habitó entre nosotros". Sí, Dios buscó una palabra que pudiéramos comprender, sencilla como un niño. ¿Quién no entiende a un niño?

Es bueno recordar lo que Pedro le decía a Cristo: "Señor, a dónde iremos; sólo tú tienes; palabras de vida eterna". ¿A dónde iremos en un mundo lleno de palabras vacías?

Navidad, hermanos, es noche de recuerdos y es también noche de esperanza, esperanza de que la Palabra de Dios, Cristo Jesús, caiga como rocío de la mañana en nuestro corazón y haga florecer muchas alegrías en el nuevo año. Que esta Navidad nos traiga el regalo de alcanzar a entender un poco más de Dios en Jesús Niño, y que también alcancemos a entender mejor en la paz y en el amor.

¡Gloria a Dios en el cielo; paz en la tierra!

El congreso aprueba reparaciones limitadas a la ley de inmigración

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Inmediatamente antes de recesar por el resto del año, el Congreso aprobó dos oportunidades para los inmigrantes cuyas probabilidades de quedarse en los Estados Unidos fueron limitadas por una ley de inmigración de 1996.

Los proyectos de ley citados recibieron revisiones mixtas por parte de los defensores católicos y otros, y del Presidente Clinton, que había procurado inversiones más amplias de la ley de 1996, pero dijeron que estaban complacidos de que el Congreso adoptara las medidas que aprobó.

En la legislación agregada a los proyectos de ley de apropiaciones de fondos de último minuto, el Senado aprobó el 13 de noviembre y la Cámara de Representantes el 12 de noviembre el permitir a los inmigrantes que ingresaron ilegalmente al país, pero que de otro modo sean elegibles para la residencia legal, quedarse en los Estados Unidos mientras estén pendientes sus solicitudes.

La segunda acción congresional de último minuto permitirá que los guatemaltecos, salvadoreños y europeos orientales soliciten la suspensión de sus deportaciones mientras se tramitan sus solicitudes de residencia permanente.

A tenor de la ley de 1996, ellos habrían tenido que salir automáticamente del país, aún cuando sus cónyuges e hijos sean ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos o residentes legales.

Papa elogia servicio de Cardenal Castillo Lara que regresa a su país

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II elogió a un miembro con servicios extensos a la Curia Romana, a medida que éste se preparaba para regresar a su casa de Venezuela.

Al Cardenal Rosalío Castillo Lara, que acababa de cumplir la edad de jubilación, 75 años, le quedaban sólo tres días en Roma cuando se publicó el mensaje del Papa el 25 de noviembre.

El Cardenal estaba prestando servicios como presidente de la Comisión Pontificia para el Estado-Ciudad del Vaticano al jubilarse.

Durante sus 22 años en Roma, el Cardenal Castillo Lara prestó igualmente servicios como presidente de la Administración del Patrimonio de la Santa Sede y trabajó en la Secretaría de Estado del Vaticano, la Congregación para los Obispos y varios institutos y comités del Vaticano. El ayudó también a preparar la revisión del Código de Derecho Canónico.

El Pontífice dio las gracias al Cardenal por el amor que él había puesto en las "diversas y onerosas tareas que se le confiaron al servicio de la Santa Sede".

En una conferencia de prensa no relacionada, el día de la publicación del mensaje, el Cardenal Castillo Lara dijo que estaba esperando con atención "regresar a mi trabajo como sacerdote en Venezuela". El salir de la Curia Romana hacia su patria le hacía sentirse "lleno de gozo y tristeza olvidada".

Obispos sugieren comisiones para solidaridad entre Norte y Sur

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El camino hacia la solidaridad entre las Américas del Norte y del Sur debe pasar a través de una red de comisiones.

En la primera semana del Sínodo de Obispos para las Américas, de un mes de duración, más de una docena de participantes pidieron el establecimiento de comisiones para continuar el trabajo del sínodo.

La atención pastoral a los inmigrantes, la formación sacerdotal, el ministerio juvenil, los proyectos sobre medios informativos, la lucha contra la pobreza y la injusticia, podrían ser todos los temas de comisiones conjuntas formadas por representantes del consejo de obispos de la América Latina (CELAM), y de las conferencias episcopales de los Estados Unidos y del Canadá, dijeron los participantes del sínodo.

"Este es el mensaje de la Iglesia en las Américas: Edificar una América señalada por la solidarida", dijo Monseñor Pedro Rubiano Sáenz, Arzobispo de Bogotá, Colombia.

Como pastores que dirigen a sus rebaños, los obispos deberían ser los primeros en trabajar juntos estrechamente de modo estable, dijo él. Una mejor distribución de los sacerdotes a través de las Américas y la defensa a favor de los marginados son dos terrenos que exigen una gestión común.

Monseñor José María Arancedo, Obispo de Mar del Plata, Argentina, dijo al sínodo: "Hoy nos toca a nosotros, como pastores, el fomentar una cultura de comunión, integración y solidaridad con la libertad del Evangelio y la fuerza del amor, en un continente que tiene desigualdades graves y que lleva a las personas a hablar de un norte rico y un sur pobre".

El continuó diciendo que se necesita de estructuras posteriores al sínodo, "para mantener vivo en las Américas este gran acontecimiento de fe, que ha sido convocado para movilizar y orientar a nuestra comunión eclesial en su respuesta profética a un mundo que cambia sin cesar".

Foto Luis Wolf

Entrada principal de la nueva Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, la cual fue diseñada por el arquitecto Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, y consagrada en 1976, se encuentra situada a unos 6 kilómetros al norte del centro de la ciudad de México.

Foto Luis Wolf

Dos días antes de la fiesta de la Virgen llegan peregrinos para acampar en la plaza frente a la Basílica.

Viene de la página 1

Los obispos dijeron que la carta es solamente el primer paso en una empresa concentrada y organizada para avivar la conciencia de las gentes e impulsarlas a cooperar en la lucha contra la pobreza. El documento ofrece obligaciones prácticas y espirituales de los mismos obispos, así como sugerencias para los negocios y las parroquias que quieran ayudar.

Las oficinas diocesanas de Justicia y Paz dirigirán el próximo paso de defensa de estos objetivos a los vicariatos, decanatos y parroquias por todo el estado. La Hermana Joan aplaudió "la unidad de ambos obispos así como también la de las diócesis" en un esfuerzo por hallar "una voz para los que carecen de ella".

Asimismo señaló la necesidad de volver a las "enseñanzas de Jesús, la tradición de la Iglesia y la enseñanza de la doctrina social católica" y "recordemos que no todo está bien" en lo referente al verdadero estado económico de Carolina del Norte.

Frazer estuvo de acuerdo, diciendo que la carta pastoral era un documento de mucho significado para ambas diócesis. "Al publicar esta carta, el Obispo Curlin y el Obispo Gossman están elevando sus voces, juntamente con el Papa Juan Pablo II y los obispos estadounidenses, al elevar las dimensiones humanas y éticas de la vida económica, dos aspectos que se omiten frecuentemente en las discusiones públicas".

A pesar de que el número de católicos en Carolina del Norte es relativamente bajo "tenemos en nuestras parroquias y negocios personas que quieren saber cómo confrontar las estructuras y los problemas que envuelven nuestras desigualdades económicas", añadió ella.

Para efectuar los cambios, los obispos saben que tanto ellos como los católicos de Carolina del Norte, que constituyen menos del 5 por ciento de la población del estado, tienen que apelar a miembros de las comunidades de negocios, del gobierno, ecuménicas y cívicas. Añadieron que su esperanza para el futuro descansa en los feligreses, gente de negocio, los funcionarios cívicos, los reporteros de televisión, los ciudadanos interesados, los expertos locales en justicia y defensa social.

"Nosotros como católicos somos la minoría, pero tenemos un gran corazón", añadió el obispo Curlin. "Ayudar a otros es lo que hacemos mejor".

Y con la ayuda amorosa de la comunidad las mejoras se pueden llevar a cabo, dijo el obispo Gossman. "Este debe ser nuestro lema: 'Sí, podemos'", siguió diciendo. "Sí, podemos hacer mucho si tratamos".

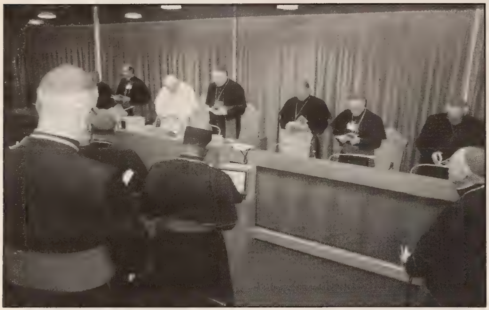


Foto CNS por Arturo Mari

El Papa Juan Pablo II se reúne con obispos de las Américas del Norte y del Sur en el Sínodo para las Américas en el Vaticano. La deuda exterior de la América Latina, el secularismo cada vez mayor de la América del Norte, la pobreza, la injusticia y la escasez de sacerdotes fueron algunos de los asuntos debatidos durante la primera semana de actividades.

Posadas del Niño Jesús

CHARLOTTE — El Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte celebrará las tradicionales posadas navideñas a partir del 16 de diciembre a las 7:30 de la noche en su local situado en el 2117 de Shenandoah Avenue. El 24 de diciembre se celebrará la Misa de Noche Buena en el mismo lugar a las 8:00 de la noche. Todos están invitados. Para obtener más información llamen al (704) 335-1281.

Fiesta de la Virgen

CHARLOTTE – Hoy, viernes 12 de diciembre, a las 7:00 de la noche habrá Misa en el Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte y a las 8:00 se le cantarán las mañanitas a la Virgen con un grupo de mariachis. El domingo 14 a las 12 del mediodía se celebrará una Misa solemne con motivo de la festividad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Para obtener más información llamen al (704) 335-1281.

"Programa Hispano" cambia de nombre

CHARLOTTE – En el concurso que se efectuó para buscar un nuevo nombre al "Programa Hispano" del Servicio Social Católico, el nombre de "Programa Esperanza" fue seleccionado por mayoría. El señor Peter McGourty, fue la persona que envió el nombre seleccionado. El "Programa Esperanza" se ha mudado de Shenandoah Avenue para el Centro Pastoral situado en 1123 South Church Street, segundo piso, a una cuadra de Morehead Street. El nuevo teléfono es el (704) 370-6928.

Programa Hispano pierde coordinadora

CHARLOTTE – Cristina Mieses, coordinadora del "Programa Esperanza" del Servicio Social Católico de la Diócesis de Charlotte de ayuda a los hispanos, ha renunciado a su puesto con mucha pena debido al traslado de su esposo a la ciudad de Nueva York. Los miembros de la comunidad van a extrañar a Cristina.

Programa radial

El Padre Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M., Director del Apostolado Hispano de La Diócesis de Charlotte, tiene un programa de radio todos los domingos de 9:30 a 10:30 de la mañana donde habla sobre diferentes temas de la religión y la fe. Este programa puede escucharse sintonizando WCXN en la frecuencia 1170 de la banda AM de su receptor.

Al Padre Vicente también se le puede escuchar los sábados después de las noticias de las 3 de la tarde de "Radio Líder" en su segmento "Un minuto con Dios", por la estación WNOW 1030 AM.

Oportunidades de empleo

El Servicio Social Católico tiene una plaza vacante para supervisor(a) de casos (trabajo social) en su nuevo programa hispano. Debe de tener experiencia. Se requiere un BSW, ser bilingüe en inglés y en español y tener conocimientos de computadoras. Llamar al Catholic Social Services (704) 370-6155.

También hay una plaza para asistente administrativo en el nuevo programa hispano. Se requiere que sea bilingüe en español e inglés, que tenga conocimiento del programa "Microsoft Office" y que pueda trabajar con el público. Llamar al Catholic Social Services (704) 370-6155.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO	
St. Joseph, 326 S. Park St. (910) 629-0221	todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE	
St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. (704) 252-6042	todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE	
Our Lady of the Americas, 105 Hayde Rd. (910) 428-3051	los domingos 11:30 am y 2 pm confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE	
Sacred Heart, Main St. & Summit	3er. domingo del mes 6 pm
CHARLOTTE	
Centro Católico Hispano Shenandoah Ave.y The Plaza (704) 335-1281	todos los sábados 7 pm domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS	
Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. (910) 766-8133	todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON	
Sagrado Corazón, Rt. 601 (910) 632-8009	todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY	
Immaculate Conception, 1024 W. Main St. (704) 245-4017	todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA	
St. Michael, 708 St.Michael's Ln. (704) 867 6212	3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO	
St. Mary, 812 Duke St., (910) 272-8650	todos los domingos 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE	
Immaculate Conception, 208 7th. Ave.W.. (704)693-6901	todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT	
Cristo Rey, 1505 East Kivett Dr. (910) 884-0244	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
JEFFERSON	
San Francisco de Asis, Main y Ivy (910) 246-9151	2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS	
St. Joseph, 108 St.Joseph St.	todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE	
Holy Cross, 616 S.Cherry St. (910) 996-5109	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON	
St. Dorothy, 148 St.Dorothy's Lane (704) 735-5575	todos los domingos 12 pm
MONROE	
Our Lady of Lourdes, Deese y Franklin Streets	todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON	
St. Charles Borromeo, 714 W. Union St. (704) 437-3108	todos los domingos 5 pm
MOUNT AIRY	
Holy Angels, 1208 North Main St. (910) 786-8147	todos los domingos 6 pm
NEWTON	
St. Joseph, 720 West 13th. St., (704) 464-9207	todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO	
St. John Church, 275 C.C. Wright School Rd. (910)838-5562	1er., 3er., 5to. domingo del mes 6 pm
REIDSVILLE	
Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Dr., (910) 342-1448	todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY	
Sacred Heart, 128 N.Fulton St. (704) 633-0591	todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA	
St.Francis of Rome, Hendrix Rd. (910) 372-8846	1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE	
St. Phillip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr (704) 872-2579	1er. domingo del mes 2 pm
TAYLORSVILLE	
Holy Trinity, 665 W. Main Ave. (704) 632-8009	do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE	
Our Lady of the Highways, 943 Ball Park Rd. (910)475-2732	todos los domingos 12 pm
WINSTON-SALEM	
Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St. (704) 722-7001	todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE	
Christ the King, U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd. (910) 463-5533	todos los domingos 12 pm

Entertainment

Welcome to Sarajevo

CNS photo from Miramax

Woody Harrelson (right) and Stephen Dillane star in the drama "Welcome to Sarajevo," which chronicles the lives of two journalists covering the war. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Spielberg's "Amistad" Emotionally Powerful

NEW YORK (CNS) — A massacre aboard a Spanish slave ship in 1839 leads to an American legal battle in the historical dramatization "Amistad" (Dreamworks).

The movie begins with the terrifying massacre during a stormy night off the Cuban coast. Led by Cinque (Djimon Hounsou), the Africans kill all but two of the sailors, who are saved in order to sail the ship back to Africa.

Instead, they steer toward the American coast where they are captured by an American naval vessel, taken to New Haven, Conn., and charged with murder and piracy.

Local abolitionists (Morgan Freeman and Stellen Skarsgard) hire an eager young property lawyer, Roger Baldwin (Matthew McConaughey), to represent the prisoners at their trial.

Baldwin finds documents aboard the Spanish ship which prove the defendants are Africans kidnapped by slave traders and hence not legally slaves.

President Martin Van Buren (Nigel Hawthorne), whose re-election depends upon the Southern vote, intervenes by appointing a new judge to rehear the case without a jury but the evidence persuades him to free the prisoners.

The government appeals the case to the Supreme Court, on which seven of the nine justices are slave owners.

At this point, former president and general gadfly John Quincy Adams (Anthony Hopkins) agrees to represent the defendants and win their freedom.

Director Steven Spielberg has made an ambitious attempt to look back at a little-known historical incident and what it tells us about the ugly question of slavery which divided Americans in the years before the Civil War.

And much of this dramatization is powerful indeed, especially in showing the inhumanity of slavery and the brutal injustices on the enslaved Africans at the core of the story.

The movie is able to detail this in emotionally powerful scenes following Cinque as he is kidnapped from his family by slavers, subjected to callous mistreatment on a Portuguese slave ship on the Middle Passage from Africa to the New World, then sold to Spanish slavers.

The violence in these scenes as well as the slaves' naked condition in the cramped hellholes of the slave ships is the price one pays for historical accuracy.

Though first seen as a vicious killer, Hounsou's performance as Cinque is strong and dignified, winning sympathy if not admiration after seeing what drove him to such a desperate attempt to escape slavery.

More difficult to dramatize, however, is the bulk of the movie which deals with the legal and political issues arising from the trial of these Africans.

Though Spielberg tries a number of ploys to vitalize inert courtroom scenes, such as the problems of language and feel-good emotional demonstrations, the material frequently comes across as stilted historical tableaus.

The result is powerful in its action scenes but dramatically flawed in dealing with the issues involved.

Because of some gory violence, the brutalizing conditions of slavery and brief frontal nudity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

MOVIE REVIEW LINE
1-800 311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Dorothy Day: Blessed Are the Poor" (1995)

Documentary on the life of Catholic convert Day (1897-1980), who joined with Peter Maurin to found the Catholic Worker Movement during the 1930s Depression and how her passion for social justice and commitment to nonviolence has come to be better appreciated today than it was in her own time. Directed by Father George Torok, the 28-minute program features eloquent commentary on Day's work, spirituality and continuing influence from Catholic social activist Eileen Egan and historian David O'Brien, as well as Day's writings in the Catholic Worker newspaper and evocative period visuals. Part of the "Catholic Life in America" series, the program is appropriate for all.

"Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story" (1996)

Compelling dramatization of the early life of Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day (Moira Kelly) as a young journalist whose agonizing over a failed love affair leads her to reflect on her life. In doing so, she discovers God, then meets Peter Maurin (Martin Sheen) and puts his ideas of social justice into practice during the Depression. Directed by Michael Ray Rhodes, the biographical movie depicts a woman's spiritual journey in convincing dramatic fashion, though it is largely interior, deeply religious and specifically Catholic in its sensibilities. Realistic treatment of love affairs, an abortion and a suicide as well as some coarse language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Gifts of Christmas" (1997)

Animated story of Christmas Eve in Assisi, Italy, where the talking animal friends of Friar Francesco give the Christmas presents they have made for him to those who need them more, then share in the gifts brought by the townspeople and the friar's surprise for them by making the first Christmas creche. An episode in the "Francesco's Friendly World" series, the 44-minute video mixes bland new songs with traditional carols. The animated animal characters help make up for the lack of charm in the figure of St. Francis, but the tale is told with sincerity and is simple enough for pre-schoolers to enjoy.

"In the Footsteps of Peter" (1997)

This series of eight one-hour videos explores the art treasures housed in the Vatican Museums as well as those in St. Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel and other Vatican locations. Produced by the Vatican Museums and directed by Luca De Matta, the English version is narrated by Bob Sommer with useful commentary on the spiritual, cultural and historical significance of these artworks, examining each much more closely than one could do in person. The result is a rich resource of art and faith for all members of the family and certainly should be part of any parish or school video library.

"Josh and the Big Wall!" (1997)

Comically told Bible story using computer-animated vegetables to portray Joshua leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, but first they have to get past the walled fortress of Jericho and its army of peas. Another 30-minute episode in the "VeggieTales" series, this one is not quite as fresh and inventive as its predecessors, though its zestful music and lighthearted manner will hold the interest of young viewers while their elders enjoy the tale's whimsical digressions. There is some fun here for all as well as a biblical lesson about following God's direction.

"Larry-Boy and the Fib from Outer Space" (1997)

Computer animated fantasy about a space alien named Fib who gets Junior Asparagus to tell one little lie and then another, growing in size each time until he becomes a monster threatening to destroy all of Bumblyburg unless stopped by its cucumber superhero, Larry-Boy. This 30-minute episode in the "VeggieTales" series has plenty of whimsy and comic visuals but the thin story about the consequences of lying is too didactic to be very convincing. The result is best suited for preschoolers and primary school students.

"Saints' Gallery of Heaven's Heroes, Volume IV: Early Church Leaders" (1997)

This installment of the series opens with St. Peter of the Gospels, then profiles three medieval Italian saints — Clare of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas and Catherine of Siena — before returning to the age of the Apostles for a look at the life of St. Paul. Produced by Oblate Media, the 43-minute program encapsulates the lives and virtues of each saint in succinct headline fashion, bringing them to life through a variety of visuals ranging from classical art to original drawings, as well as maps showing their historical context. The result is as interesting as it is uplifting, making it a video to be shared by all the family.

People In The News

New U.S. Ambassador To Vatican, First Woman in Post, Arrives

ROME (CNS) — The new U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, Corinne "Lindy" Boggs, said she intends to work with the Vatican on a wide range of international issues, including world peace, human rights and scientific advances. The 81-year-old former congresswoman arrived in Rome Dec. 3 to take up her assignment. She is the fifth U.S. ambassador to the Vatican since full diplomatic relations were established in 1984. Boggs said her plane, which landed an hour late in a thunderstorm, had been twice struck by lightning. She joked about it, calling it "a sign that tells me this is a great and glorious adventure on which I'm embarking."

Pope Names U.S. Priests To International Theological Commission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II named 19 new members for the International Theological Commission, including two U.S. priests and one from Canada. Dominican Father Gus DiNoia, a professor of theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington and director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Research and Practices, was one of the new members whose appointments were announced Dec. 1. The other new U.S. member of the commission will be Father Christopher Begg, a professor of Old Testament exegesis at The Catholic University of America, Washington. The new Canadian member, Father Pierre Gaudette, was at the Vatican when the nominations were announced. A professor of moral theology at the University of Laval in Quebec, Father Gaudette was also a papally appointed expert at the Synod of Bishops for America.

Nationally Known College Chaplain To Retire After 54 Years

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (CNS) — Msgr. Edward J. Duncan, one of the most respected and honored campus ministers in the United States, is retiring after 54 years as chaplain at the University of Illinois. The priest is chaplain of St. John's Catholic Chapel and director of the Newman Foundation at the university. In announcing the retirement, effective Dec. 17, Bishop John J. Myers of Peoria lauded Msgr. Duncan, 82, for investing "his life and his heart in formation of the students." Under Msgr. Duncan's leadership, the Newman Foundation at the university grew from being a financially bankrupt chapel he inherited upon arriving in 1943 into one of the largest ministries of its kind in the world. The number of Catholic students it serves has increased from 1,200 five decades ago to nearly 12,000 today.

Italian sculptor Giuseppe Ferrigno works on creche-style figurines of Princess Diana and Mother Teresa for the Christmas season. The craftsman from Naples said he will make 50 statuettes of Mother Teresa with proceeds going to a local branch of the Missionaries of Charity.

CNS photo from Reuters

Vatican Approves Start of Sainthood Cause For Knights Founder

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — The Vatican has notified the Archdiocese of Hartford that the cause for sainthood of Knights of Columbus founder Father Michael J. McGivney may proceed. "Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin has received from Rome the 'nihil obstat,' which indicates that the Holy See has no objections to the formal beginning of the cause and sees no serious obstacles to its movement forward," said Msgr. Thomas M. Ginty, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Hartford. The announcement came several months after the U.S. bishops agreed unanimously to support the initiation of Father McGivney's cause for canonization. Archbishop Cronin had asked for the support in accord with Vatican rules saying a bishop who plans to begin such a process should consult with the bishops' conference on its appropriateness before seeking the go-ahead from Rome. Msgr. Ginty said the archdiocese will now begin looking into the "life, works and virtue" of Father McGivney.

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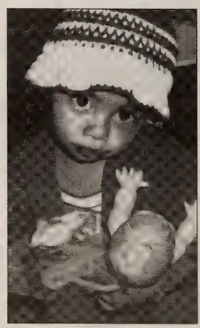

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Disaster Calls Local Catholics, Community to Action

CHARLOTTE — The bodies of some of the 3,000 people missing after Typhoon Linda hit on Nov. 2 washed ashore on southern beaches of Vietnam. Hopes of finding any of the missing still alive ebbed quickly.

Red Cross and U.N. officials spoke of the devastation across the southernmost area of the southeast Asian country, with hundreds of thousands left homeless amidst widespread flooding.

An official tally of casualties in Vietnam listed 464 people dead, 857 injured and 3,218 missing.

The country's Ca Mau province remained unsurpassable by road. Across the region, almost 77,000 homes were completely destroyed by the storm — the area's worst in more than 90 years. More than 139,000 homes were damaged, and many were left roofless.

A catalogue of destruction showed 3,122 boats sunk, 2254 schools destroyed and 4,022 damaged, and huge swathes of rice fields swamped.

For countless residents in southern Vietnam, theirs has been a reality of havoc.

And a world away, in western North Carolina, St. Joseph's Vietnamese Catholic community launched a collection campaign Nov. 22 to benefit the victims of Typhoon Linda.

Members of the Charlotte community have been soliciting cash donations from Vietnamese businesses and individuals in the Queen City region. A second collection was organized at Sunday Mass, adding to the total of $4,400 brought in thus far.

The St. Joseph community, based at St. Ann Church in Charlotte, will send all donations to the Diocese of Can Tho, seated in a major city near the affected area. This method of transfer will ensure that all donations will go the intended beneficiaries.

As the campaign continues, St. Joseph's Vietnamese Catholic community welcomes all contributions from the public. They can mailed to St. Joseph's Vietnamese Catholic Community, 3635 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209. For more information, call Father Peter Tan Le, (704) 529-0553.

Class Discusses Faith During Black Catholic Month

CHARLOTTE — Although a predominately black Catholic parish, Our Lady of Consolation Church is inclusive of various populations. Worship there is unique: Gospel choirs provide the music, for instance, and on each fifth Sunday a Harambe Mass is celebrated with drums being played, parishioners wearing traditional African attire, and spirituals being sung.

In celebration of Black Catholic Month in November, students of Our Lady of Consolation Church's faith formation program submitted narratives to program coordinator Earlene Wilkins. The students expressed their feelings about what it means to be black and Catholic.

Confirmation candidate Charles Gbenyon shared that to be a black Catholic fills him with pride as he learns about and serves God. First communion candidate Whitley Lide said that in celebration of the faith as black Catholics, " ... we have the right to decide who we are" through the love, trust and care that they have for Jesus.

Sixth-grader ChiChi Ibeto conveyed that "everyone in the church unites as we sing as one voice." Post-confirmation student Jacques Dewalt shared that practicing one's faith as a black Catholic means "being a driving force (as a people) unifying all people."

Mary Carter's first-grade class concluded that practicing the Catholic faith has taught them to thank God for his many blessings. Laura Garo's pre-school and kindergarten class said that practicing Catholicism as black individuals means that they are a "part of a larger church family" — the kingdom of God.

"Because of the effect of slavery, religion and religious activities have provided a springboard of resilience for black Americans," said Wilkins. "For those individuals who do gravitate towards Our Lady of Consolation, the realties of life are present and they are addressed in an active and participatory manner, giving glory and honor to our Lord, Jesus Christ."

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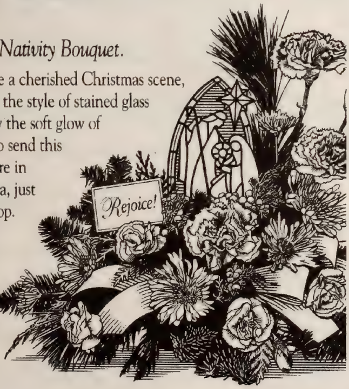

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Diocesan News Briefs

hoto by Bill Green

WINSTON-SALEM — Father James Solari, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church and chaplain of St. Leo School, shares an inaugural ride down a new slide with Georgette Schraeder, St. Leo School principal, in this recent photo. St. Leo students and faculty joined Schraeder and Father Solari during the blessing of new playground equipment for the school. St. Leo's Home/School Association raised the funds to purchase the equipment and gathered volunteers for its installation.

Home Educators Support

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators (CAFE), western North Carolina's Catholic home school support group, meets each third Friday for a family potluck dinner in the Laurentine Hall of the Basilica of St. Lawrence. For more information, call Sheryl Oligny, (704) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (704) 645-6990.

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence provide free tours of the historic church following every weekend Mass. Mass schedule is as follows: Saturday, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. Spanish Mass is Sunday at 7 p.m.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A healing Mass sponsored by Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry is celebrated every Thursday at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. Refreshments follow in the meeting room.

CCHS News

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School's fine arts department presents the Fine Arts Festival, including artwork, dance and choral presentations, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

The CCHS High School Alumni Association presents its annual Alumni Basketball Tournament and Christmas Party Dec. 27. Games begin at 8 a.m. at the school; the championship game is at 5:30 p.m. The party starts at 6 p.m. Call (704) 543-9118 for more information.

50+ Club

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church 50+ Club hosts its Christmas luncheon Dec. 16 at 11:30 a.m. at Idlewild Country Club. For details, call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745.

Holy Angels Basketball Tournament

CHARLOTTE — The Seventh Annual Holy Angels Basketball Tournament is Dec. 29 and 30 at Charlotte Catholic High School and pits boys and girls teams from CCHS against teams from Providence Day, Sun Valley and Piedmont high schools.

Games begin at 2 p.m. both days. Ticket prices are $4 per day or $6 for both days for adults; $3 per day or $5 for both days for high school students; and $2 per day for middle and elementary school students.

All proceeds benefit Holy Angels, Inc., a residential center in Belmont providing services and programs for children and adults with mental retardation and other disabilities. The institution is a sponsored ministry of the North Carolina regional community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Separated, Divorced, Remarried Support

CHARLOTTE — A support group for separated, divorced, and those persons remarried "outside the church" meets every second and fourth Wednesday at St. Ann Church. Call Kathy Wooley, (704) 376-1503, for details.

Catholic Singles New Year's Party

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte hosts its annual New Year's Eve party Dec. 31 at the home of Marisa Belmonte. For more information on either event, call Marisa at (704) 541-8796.

Men's Bible Study

CHARLOTTE — Men's Bible study takes place each Friday from 6:30-7:15 a.m. in the St. Matthew parish center's family room. Contact Bob Zoeller, (704) 542-8939, for more information.

Knights Bingo

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus of St. Ann Parish host Bingo Mondays at 7 p.m. in the activity center. Call the parish office, (704) 523-4641, for more information.

Christmas Cantata

CONCORD — The St. James Choir performs its annual Christmas Cantata, conducted and accompanied by Malek Jandali, Dec. 21 in the St. James Parish Center at 7:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Journey for Youth

GASTONIA — Journey is an experience of church and Christ in the warm context of a Christian community. The weekend experience, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, is for youth in grades 10-12. It is peer ministered, involving a team of young people and adults who present talks, lead discussions, and plan prayer experiences and interaction with other participants.

The next Journey is scheduled for Feb. 27-March 1, 1998, at St. Michael Church. The cost is $47, which includes lodging, food, supplies and program expenses. A non-refundable deposit of $20 is required with each application, and deadline is two weeks before the retreat weekend. Each retreat is limited to the first 37 applicants.

For more information, call Carolyn Bergman, (704) 865-5537, or Chrissy Glisson, (704) 853-3620.

Charismatic Mass

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated in High Point every third Thursday at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel at 7:30 p.m.

Widowed, Separated, Divorced Support

SYLVA — The Catholic churches of the Smoky Mountain area are forming a support group for those who are widowed, separated, divorced, or with new or unresolved grief. The group meets every third Friday in St. Mary Church's Fellowship Hall. For more information, call the parish office, (704) 586-9496.

Scriptural Series

TRYON — A scriptural series focusing on "Breaking Open the Gospel of Luke" continues at St. John the Baptist Church Mondays at 7 p.m. in the church hall. Call (704) 859-9574 for more information.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Advent Programs

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte is featured on the Eternal Word Television Network in a series on spirituality and prayer during the Sundays of Advent. Taped at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the sessions offer ways to spiritually prepare for Christmas.

Remaining sessions air Dec. 14 and 21 at 3 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7 p.m. eastern time.

EWTN is the largest religious cable network transmitting Catholic programming 24 hours a day to more than 55 million homes in 38 countries and territories on approximately 1,500 cable systems. Founded in August of 1981, EWTN has expanded to include short wave, FM and AM radio, Internet services and a daily news service. It is headquartered in Birmingham, Ala.

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church takes part in an ecumenical Advent service Dec. 16 at St. Stephen Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. Call (704) 754-5281 for details.

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church hosts an Advent service featuring Advent-related Scripture and music Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. Refreshments follow. For more information, call the parish office, (704) 664-3992.

NORTH WILKESBORO — St. John the Baptist de la Salle Church presents an Advent program from 10-11 a.m. each Sunday through Dec. 21. The movie "Jesus of Nazareth" will be shown in segments and will be discussed with the use of a Biblical study guide. Refreshments will be served.

Advent Reconciliation Services

CHARLOTTE — The following Charlotte parishes host Advent penance services in the upcoming weeks:

- Our Lady of the Assumption and Our Lady of Consolation churches, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. Call (704) 535-9965 or (704) 375-4339 for more information.
- St. John Neumann Church, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (704) 536-6520.
- St. Peter Church, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Call (704) 332-2901 for more information.
- St. Gabriel Church, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (704) 364-5431.
- St. Ann Church, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. Call (704) 523-4641 for more information.
- St. Luke Church, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.. For more information, call (704) 545-1224.
- St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. Call (704) 549-1607 for more information.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church hosts an Advent reconciliation service Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. For further information, call the parish office, (910) 884-5212.

To find out about other penance services in your area, call your parish office.

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence welcomes all to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m. For information call the parish office, (704) 252-6042.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Joe or Mary Lanham, (910) 454-4551.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts eucharistic adoration from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church each Friday other than the first. First Friday adoration follows the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasts until 8 p.m. Call (704) 464-9207 for information.

World And National News Briefs

Poll: Death Stirs Faith Fears, Yet Few Would Look To Clergy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Only 36 percent of Americans think a member of the clergy would be an important source of comfort as death approaches, yet 57 percent are worried about not being forgiven by God before they die. According to a new Gallup Poll on attitudes about death and dying, 38 percent of those surveyed worry most about spiritual matters when they consider their own deaths, compared to 21 percent who worry most about practical matters, 19 percent who worry about emotional issues, and 14 percent who worry about medical matters. The poll, conducted for the Nathan Cummings Foundation and The Fetzer Institute, reflected strong interest in spiritual concerns in the face of death.

San Angelo Diocese Missing Up to $4.5 Million

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Diocese of San Angelo in Texas has learned that at least $200,000 of diocesan funds were misappropriated and up to $4.5 million in parish savings, seminary support and capital funds is missing. At a Dec. 1 press conference, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer announced that a review of funds by the newly appointed diocesan finance officer turned up nine checks that apparently were altered to divert $200,000 into a bank account of the diocese's outside bookkeeping firm. The former diocesan financial officer, David L. Mayrand, died Oct. 13. He served in that position under three consecutive bishops, with his firm, David L. Mayrand & Associates Business Services, handling the diocesan account for 20 years. Les Maiman, formerly the diocese's business manager, assumed Mayrand's post as financial officer and initiated the audit that uncovered the irregularities, Bishop Pfeifer said.

Irish Archbishop Decries Decision Allowing Girl's Abortion

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Archbishop Desmond Connell of Dublin condemned as "incomprehensible" a court decision to allow a 13-year-old Irish girl to travel to England for an abortion. "I had hoped that a decision would be reached which was truly life affirming, which would cherish the welfare of each of the children involved, one 13 years old, the other 13 weeks in the womb," Archbishop Connell said. The 13-year-old ward of the court, identified only by the initial "C" for legal reasons, is a member of Ireland's Traveling Community. The group has the greatest levels of poverty, deprivation and discrimination in Irish society. The girl is one of 11 children living with their parents on the outskirts of Dublin in two caravans. According to The Irish Times newspaper, the girl was given to the man who raped her as partial payment for a debt. That man, who also cannot be named, has been charged with rape by police and was kept in custody awaiting a trial.

CNS photo from Reuters

LAND MINE CONVENTION — Tun Channareth, a Cambodian anti-land mine activist, accepts a copy of the Global Ban on Landmines from William Bowden in Ottawa Dec. 3. Some 121 countries, including the Vatican, signed the treaty. The United States, citing concern for troops in South Korea, did not sign the resolution.

Pilgrimage Coordinator: Cuban People Need Our Support

MIAMI (CNS) — Sammy Diaz fled Cuba 36 years ago. He never had a reason to go back, he says, until now. Diaz plans to be aboard the chartered cruise ship that will take U.S. pilgrims to the papal Mass in Havana on Jan. 25. As a Cuban and a Catholic, he said, his presence is required. "As I see it, everyone who has the opportunity to show solidarity with the church in Cuba should take it and go." Diaz is coordinating the Miami Archdiocese's spiritual preparation for Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba in January. He sees his role as calling all of South Florida's Catholic community, and especially Cubans, to unite in support of the church in Cuba.

Latina Grandmothers Credited With Survival of Popular Catholicism

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — Older Latina women, recognized in their culture as leaders and wise interpreters of the Bible, are responsible for the survival of popular Catholicism, says a leading U.S. Hispanic theologian. Besides the patriarchal structures of the Latino culture, there is also "an emphasis on older Latina women as leaders, wise interpreters of the biblical message, interpreters of the heart and mind of God and the teachers of ethics," said Orlando Espin. Espin, who made the comments in a speech at the University of Dayton, is director of the Latino studies program and associate professor of religious studies at the University of San Diego. "The grandmothers have been responsible for the survival and resilience of popular Catholicism," he said. Espin discussed results of research he has been conducting as one of 12 participants in a year-long symposium on Catholic Latino theology funded by the Lilly Foundation.

Vatican Representative Signs Treaty To Ban Land Mines

OTTAWA (CNS) — The Holy See was one of more than 120 countries signing a treaty to ban land mines at an international conference in Ottawa. And while the United States, Russia and China did not sign the treaty, a spokeswoman for a Catholic anti-land mine group said she thought President Bill Clinton would try to sign it while he was president. Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, signed the treaty, which prohibits the production, use, stockpiling and export of mines around the world. Among Americans attending the conference were Jody Williams, an anti-mine activist and this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, and Mercy Sister Janice Ryan, coordinator of the Catholic Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Catholic Officials Regret U.S. Failure To Join Land Mine Treaty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic officials voiced regrets at the Clinton administration's decision not to join more than 120 other nations in a treaty for a global land mine ban, but they said it should give a new thrust to the Catholic Campaign to Ban Landmines. Speaking for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston wrote to Clinton: "The Catholic bishops, like many others, were deeply disappointed ... with your decision not to sign the Ottawa treaty that bans these insidious weapons." He added, "Their terrible moral and human costs should compel us to help ban them, not resist or delay work toward this urgent moral imperative." Bishop Fiorenza is NCCB vice president and acting president while the head of the conference, Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, is recuperating from bypass surgery.

States Seek To Deter Assisted Suicide With Better Pain Control

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Effective pain management and improved comfort care in the last days of life are emerging as new weapons in state battles against assisted suicide. In 22 states this year, lawmakers have moved to expand pain control laws, outlining a patient's right to receive adequate medication and protecting physicians from penalties for giving increased doses. Seven additional states have older pain control laws on the books. Even in Oregon, where voters recently affirmed a state referendum to permit doctor-assisted death, the law has been strengthened to allow more patients to receive drugs "to relieve pain and suffering." Suicide foes hope the trend means assisted suicide will be rare, if not irrelevant.

Space is Limited at Bishop McGuinness

If you are interested in having your student attend Bishop McGuinness High School in the fall of 1998, it is essential that you send in an application as soon as possible! Since our Open House in late November, the Admissions Counselor's phone has been ringing "off the hook." To ensure a place in the BMHS Class of 2002, an application must be received by February 1, 1998. There are still a *few spaces* remaining!

To request an application call our Admissions Counselor, Louise Sechler at (910) 725-4247.

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Parish Profile

St. Andrew the Apostle Church

St. Andrew the Apostle Church
149 Brook St.
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(704) 689-3719

Vicariate: Asheville

Pastor: Jesuit Father Edward M. Ifkovitz

Mass Schedule: Sunday — 9 a.m.

Number of parishioners: 150

Number of households: 70

MARS HILL — One cannot fully know the history of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Mars Hill without knowing the influence of a Jesuit priest who diligently served Catholic communities north of Asheville during the earlier decades of this century.

Jesuit Father Andrew Graves, from the order's Maryland Province, arrived in Madison County in August 1937. He came to staff the little Catholic chapel in Revere called Church of the Little Flower. Now defunct, that chapel provided a home to one of the most notable missionary priests of the period and region.

Even today, the populations of Madison, Yancey and north Buncombe county towns are relatively small compared to such Tar Heel Piedmont cities as Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem to the east. Back in the 1930s, people there were even more scattered, and the Catholic community in the area was quite sparse.

Although their numbers were few, the Catholics of the region did have a history dating back to the mid-1800s, as noted by Father Graves, who wrote a historical account of the Catholic Church in northwestern North Carolina.

Father Graves assumed a pastorate in a town where very few of those Catholics resided and questions about the faith abounded. With the population so scarce, no great numbers of converts were recorded during his priestly service, but Father Graves became known for leading a pioneering ministry of ecumenism in the years preceding the Second Vatican Council.

Father Graves was a man reputed and loved by Madison County folks, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, for his preaching, his generosity and his outreach to people of all faiths. His robust interest in sports is also well remembered by county residents, who recall that Father Graves often rode buses with area children to state competitions.

Health reasons soon brought Father Graves from Revere to Hot Springs in northwest Madison County. There he helped build another Catholic church, Chapel of the Redeemer, and acquired the house that would later become the Jesuit House of Prayer retreat center.

Father Graves remained in northwestern North Carolina for decades to come, serving in ministry and later becoming known as a historical writer and researcher. He died in Philadelphia in September 1995.

Over time, the core of the Catholic community in Madison County began to center in Mars Hill, today a town of less than 2,000 residents and yet the largest in the county.

With Jesuit priests and Mercy Sisters serving them, members of the Catholic community in Mars Hill became a mission of the Chapel of the Redeemer by 1981. The mission gathered for Masses in several storefront chapels and — perhaps in that ecumenical spirit of Father Graves — on the campus of Mars Hill College, a Baptist institution.

The Mars Hill mission became a parish under the patronage of St. Andrew in November 1985. The following year, the Yancey County Catholic community in Burnsville, Sacred Heart Church, was placed in the missionary care of St. Andrew's.

A multi-purpose facility was constructed several years later in Mars Hill, and was dedicated in November 1991. In turn, Chapel of the Redeemer became a mission of St. Andrew Parish. Jesuit Father Francis Reese was pastor at the time.

The Jesuit tradition continues in Madison and Yancey counties. The people of St. Andrew Church and its two missions have been served by Jesuit Father Edward M. Ifkovitz since September 1996. The territory he ministers in comprises more than 1,000 square miles. About 135 families make up the year-round congregations of the three churches, and summer visitors increase that number by about 20.

IRELAND 98

WITH FATHER MAURICIO WEST

NOVEMBER 1 THROUGH 10

No Blarney: Send more information

Send name, address
and phone number to:
Joann Keane
Director of Communications
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
or E-mail: JSK330@aol.com

Information mailed January 1998

Italy

March 23 - April 1, 1998

A classic tour of the
splendors of Italy
including
Rome
Florence
Venice

The Most
Reverend
William G. Curlin
will celebrate Mass
for our pilgrims in
Rome. The tour continues
through the Italian villages
accompanied by
Father Anthony Marcaccio

For more information,
contact
Joann Keane
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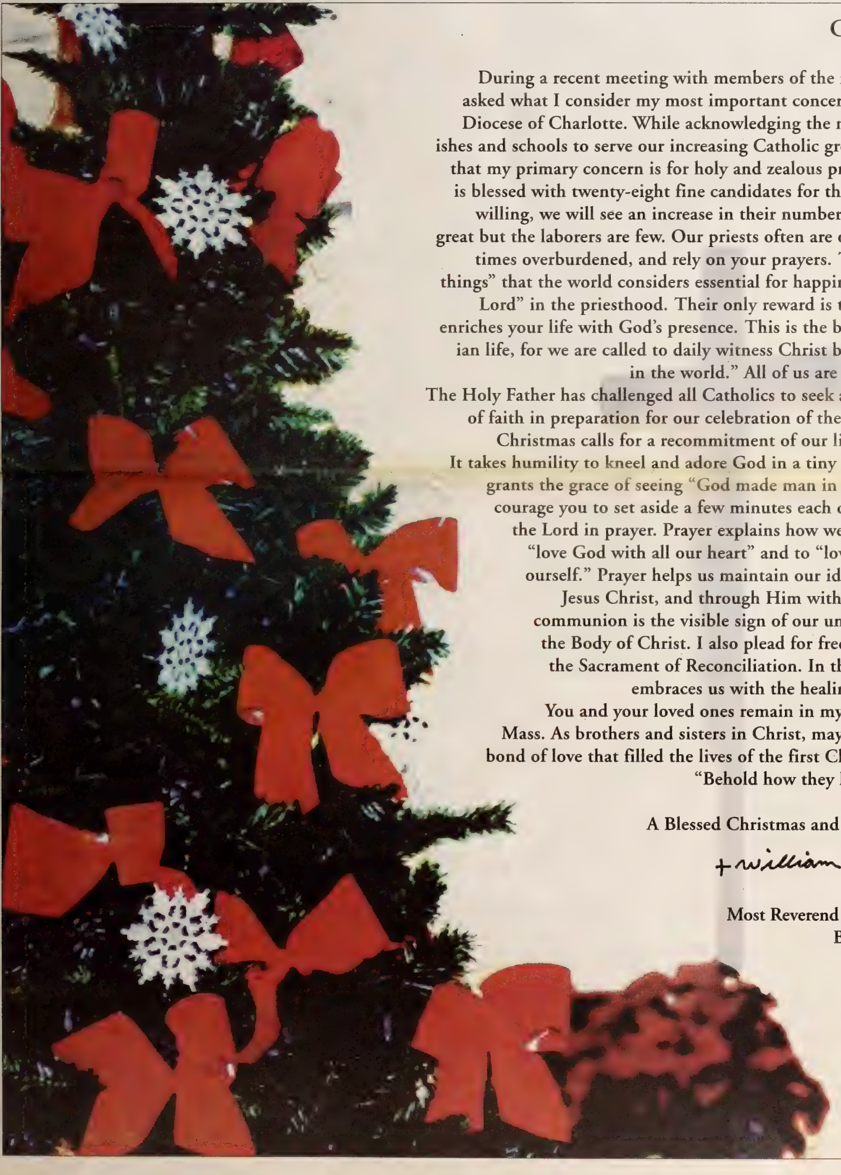
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 16 • December 19, 1997



Christmas 1997

During a recent meeting with members of the news media, I was asked what I consider my most important concern as bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte. While acknowledging the need for more parishes and schools to serve our increasing Catholic growth, I responded that my primary concern is for holy and zealous priests. The diocese is blessed with twenty-eight fine candidates for the priesthood. God willing, we will see an increase in their number, for the harvest is great but the laborers are few. Our priests often are overworked and at times overburdened, and rely on your prayers. They "have left all things" that the world considers essential for happiness to "follow the Lord" in the priesthood. Their only reward is that their ministry enriches your life with God's presence. This is the basis for all Christian life, for we are called to daily witness Christ by being "His light in the world." All of us are called to holiness!

The Holy Father has challenged all Catholics to seek a spiritual renewal of faith in preparation for our celebration of the new Millennium. Christmas calls for a recommitment of our life to Jesus Christ. It takes humility to kneel and adore God in a tiny infant; faith alone grants the grace of seeing "God made man in Bethlehem." I encourage you to set aside a few minutes each day to be one with the Lord in prayer. Prayer explains how we live. It calls us to "love God with all our heart" and to "love our neighbor as ourself." Prayer helps us maintain our ideals as disciples of Jesus Christ, and through Him with one another. Our communion is the visible sign of our unity as members of the Body of Christ. I also plead for frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament God embraces us with the healing love of Calvary.

You and your loved ones remain in my daily prayers and Mass. As brothers and sisters in Christ, may we maintain that bond of love that filled the lives of the first Christians in Rome. "Behold how they love one another."

A Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

A Month-By-Month Look at 1997

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Here is a month-by-month review of some of the events in the world of religion in 1997.

January

Vatican says Sri Lankan theologian, Father Tissa Balasuriya, is automatically excommunicated for refusing to retract heresies. Bishop Benjamin de Jesus of Jola, Philippines, is murdered outside his cathedral. Peru's Cardinal Juan Landazuri Ricketts, advocate of poor, dies. Several hundred are killed in Christian attacks on Muslim immigrants in Borneo.

February

Pakistani Muslims riot against Christians, burning 12 churches and leaving hundreds of families homeless. Vatican issues recommendations for pastoral care of divorced-remarried Catholics. Successful sheep cloning announced in Scotland, church leaders say human cloning would be wrong. U.S. Supreme Court ruling on abortion clinic protests accepts fixed buffer zones around property, rejects floating zones around people.

March

Mother Teresa steps down as head of Missionaries of Charity. Vatican-U.S. working group of bishops revises proposed U.S. Lectionary to reduce inclusive language. Pope warns Israel's Jewish housing plan threatens peace. Australian Parliament passes anti-euthanasia law, reversing legalized euthanasia in Northern Territory. Mass suicide of 39 Heaven's Gate cultists near San Diego revives concern about fringe cults.

April

Pope visits Bosnia-Herzegovina, later goes to Czech Republic. Pope urges world community to step up efforts to ban land mines. In new autobiography, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger says Pope Paul VI harmed church with his approach to Mass reform. Military assault ends hostage crisis in Peru, killing all 14 Tupac Amaru rebels who held 72 hostages 126 days; two soldiers, one hostage also killed. Vatican newspaper runs extensive series on homosexuality. Red River Valley floods force 80,000 people to evacuate homes in Upper Midwest.

May

Pope visits Lebanon. U.S. Senate passes Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. German bishops and pope consult on German law embroiling Catholic pregnancy counseling centers in abortion decisions. Zaire becomes Democratic Republic of the Congo as ailing 32-year dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko flees advancing rebel troops. Pope begins 11-day visit to Poland that includes canonization June 8 of medieval Polish queen, St. Hedwig.

June

Timothy McVeigh's conviction and death sentence for Oklahoma City bombing finds U.S. Catholic bishops sharply opposing popular sentiment for capital punishment. U.S. Supreme Court says states, not Constitution, should decide policies on physician-assisted suicide. Supreme Court throws out Religious Freedom Restoration Act and federal law regulating smut on the Internet, decides federally funded remedial education can take place within religious schools. U.S. bishops meet, approve Sacramentary and Lectionary. Catholic-Orthodox relations sour as ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople scuttles planned papal meeting with patriarch of Moscow; Orthodox cancel annual June visit to Rome.

July

With British lease ended, Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule. State Department cites religious freedom problems in 78 nations. Texas jury orders Dallas Diocese to pay $120 million to men sexually abused as boys by a former Dallas priest.

August

World Youth Day is celebrated in France; pope visits Paris for it, beatifies Frederic Ozanam, founder of St. Vincent de Paul Society. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America approves full communion with three Reformed churches, rejects full communion with Episcopal Church, approves Catholic-Lutheran "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification." Princess Diana dies in high-speed car crash. Vatican spokesman says pope plans no new Marian dogmas.

September

Mother Teresa of Calcutta dies. India declares national holiday as it buries her with full state funeral. Definitive Latin version of "Catechism of the Catholic Church" is published, says capital punishment almost never justified. French bishops apologize to Jews for World War II silence on Nazi horrors. Russian President Boris Yeltsin signs restrictive church registration law viewed as giving most Christian churches second-class status.

October

Bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family Life issues "Always Our Children" for Catholic parents of gay and lesbian children. House passes Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act; Clinton vetoes it. Pope visits Brazil. Pope declares St. Therese of Lisieux a doctor of the church. Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople starts one-month U.S. visit.

November

In state referendum Oregonians reaffirm their law permitting assisted suicide. Vatican, Israel sign treaty on church's legal status in Israel. U.S. bishops meet, issue statements on abortion, global solidarity. Vatican instruction hits abuses in lay ministry. Synod of Bishops for America opens, bringing some 200 bishops from Western Hemisphere to Rome for month of discussions on future of church. More than 17,000 U.S. Catholic youth gather for national conference in Kansas City, Mo.

December

More than 120 nations sign treaty to ban land mines; U.S. not among them. Jody Williams gets Nobel Peace Prize for land mine ban campaign. Synod of Bishops for America ends with new sense of North-South unity among bishops of the Americas. Tanzania's Cardinal Laurean Rugambwa, first native African cardinal, dies.

1997 TOP NEWS

Stories

1. **Mother Teresa**
Nobel laureate and missionary to the world's poor turned over the leadership of her order to another nun in March. On Sept. 5 she died at her Calcutta home. India declared a national holiday and day of mourning for her funeral Sept. 8.
2. **Assisted Suicide**
3. **Abortion**
4. **Land Mines**
5. **Synod of Bishops for America**

People

1. **Mother Teresa**
2. **Pope John Paul II**
3. **St. Therese of Lisieux**
4. **Princess Diana**
5. **Archbishop Francis E. George**

Source: CNS poll of Catholic newspaper editors

© 1997 CNS Graphics

Bishop, St. Patrick Cathedral to Celebrate New Year's, Christmas Midnight Vigil Masses

CHARLOTTE — Continuing a practice begun in 1996, Bishop William G. Curlin will bring in the new year by serving as principal celebrant and homilist at midnight Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral on Thursday, Dec. 31.

The Mass will serve as a vigil for the Jan. 1 feast day of Mary, the Mother of God, a holy day of obligation.

All are invited to attend.

Bishop Curlin will also serve as principal celebrant and homilist at three Christmas Masses: the Dec. 24 midnight Mass and 11 a.m. Christmas Day Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, and a 2 p.m. Christmas Day Mass at Holy Angels in Belmont.

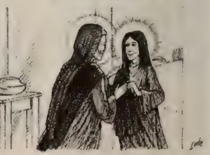
Readings for the week of December 21-27, 1997

Sunday	Micah 5:1-4 Hebrew 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45
Monday	1 Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56
Tuesday	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Luke 1:57-66
Wednesday	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16 Luke 1:67-79
Thursday	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrew 1:1-6 John 1:1-18
Friday	Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 Matthew 10:17-22
Saturday	1 John 1:1-4 John 20:2-8

Readings for the week of December 28 - January 3, 1998

Sunday	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 1 John 3:1-2,21-24 Luke 2:41-52
Monday	1 John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35
Tuesday	1 John 2:12-17 Luke 2:36-40
Wednesday	1 John 2:18-21 John 1:1-18
Thursday	Numbers 6:22-27 Luke 2:16-21
Friday	1 John 2:22-28 John 1:19-28
Saturday	1 John 2:29—3:6 John 1:29-34

Visitation



Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Luke 1:39-42)

Saints & Scripture

© 1997 CNS Graphics

Pope Says Solidarity of Synod Must Spread Through Americas

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Synod of Bishops for America "reinforced the bonds of solidarity" among participants and those bonds must now be extended to all sectors of society in North and South America, Pope John Paul II said.

Speaking Dec. 14 during his midday Angelus prayer, the pope highlighted the synod's focus on solidarity as the visible sign of true conversion.

Meeting Nov. 16-Dec. 12, almost 300 synod participants shared experiences and strategies regarding everything from religious education programs to the foreign debt of the region's poorest countries.

The synod brought together church representatives from the Caribbean, North, Central and South America, as well as the heads of every Vatican congregation and council. Pope John Paul attended each of the synod's general assemblies.

In the last days of the synod, the 233 full voting members — cardinals, bishops and a few priests — issued a message to their faithful and adopted 76 proposals for the pope to use in writing his own document on the synod's work.

Synod members also recommended that the pope officially present the document in a ceremony at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

The pope indicated his agreement, placing "all my trust, my plans and my desires" in the hands of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Archbishop Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City told reporters later that trip likely would take place sometime after October 1998.

The synod's message and the proposals stressed the importance of strengthening an individual's relationship with Jesus and with the church, as well as the need to make people realize that their faith calls them to solidarity with the poor and marginalized.

In the final message, synod members said, "Solidarity in its completeness is the sharing of what we are, what we believe and what we have."

In his homily during the closing Mass, Pope John Paul said, "Solidarity, by joining the efforts of each individual and all peoples, will help to overcome the harmful effects of certain situations forcefully brought to our attention during the synod."

The synod message and proposals strongly emphasized the church's identification with the poor and its commitment to work for justice. They pointed to concrete problems such as the impact of extreme poverty on family life, the plight of abandoned children, continuing discrimination against indigenous peoples and Americans of African descent, and the struggles faced by immigrants.

In the propositions, the synod called for Gospel-based social and economic reforms and condemned exaggerated forms of capitalism which, it said, have turned profit-seeking and laws of the market into absolute values.

The starting point of the synod discussion and of the proposals was the need to bring modern people to an "encounter with the living Christ." In doing so, the proposals said, the church must work to overcome "the drama of our times: the rupture between faith and culture."

One proposal, titled, "The Preferential Option for the Poor," stressed that the entire pastoral program of the church in the Americas — including the lifestyles of bishops and priests — must reflect solidarity with the poor and the excluded, and favor their "assistance, promotion, liberation and fraternal acceptance."

In their final message, the bishops said, "The cry of the poor has been heard with special attention" at the synod.

"In the North, we look with dismay and alarm as the gap widens year by year between those who have an abundance and those who have only the barest of resources," they said.

Pope John Paul II blesses an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on her feast day during the closing Mass of the Synod of Bishops for America Dec. 12. Church representatives from the Caribbean, North, Central and South America, as well as the heads of every Vatican congregation and council met at the Vatican for nearly a month.

CNS photo by Arturo Mar

"In the South," they continued, "there are regions which suffer conditions of such utter human misery that they cannot be reconciled with the dignity which God has bestowed equally on each of his children."

The bishops decried the situation of street kids throughout the Western Hemisphere.

"What you, the children of God, suffer, should happen to no one."

They also called for efforts "to protect innocent unborn children from the scourge of abortion."

The bishops called for an end to racial discrimination and for efforts by all the faithful to ensure that all peoples of the continent are able to share the goodness of creation as one family under God.

The native peoples of the Americas, they said, "have suffered so much these past five centuries at the hands of the greedy and violent" and still today "enjoy so little of the abundance our lands have produced."

They also pledged to work with African-Americans "so that you may enjoy your full dignity as children of God, and so that you may always feel welcome in our churches and communities of faith."

Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez of San Salvador said the synod outlined proposals for a true "civilization of life," an environment in which children are welcomed, where their growth and education is ensured, and where they can look forward to a future marked by justice and respect for their dignity.

"Christ came to give life to the fullest to everybody — the street kids, women, all people in the concrete situations of their lives," he said.

The synod included specific proposals for action, such as support for Pope John Paul's call for a reduction or cancellation of the debts of poor countries, and a pledge to continue lobbying at home for debt reduction plans and greater responsibility in how borrowed money is spent.

But, for many bishops, the sharing and the personal relationships cemented

See **Synod,** page 11

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

What is Christmas? It is living in hope, holding out the hand of reconciliation, accepting strangers, helping one another to do good, wiping away the tears.

Every time love is given, distress is relieved and someone is made happy, God comes down from heaven and brings us light.

That is Christmas.

A carol from Haiti

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will
take part in the following events:

December 20 — 3:30 p.m.
Blessing of Maria Morrow home
Holy Angels, Belmont

December 21 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

December 24 — 12:30 p.m.
Speaker
Quaint Hallow Country Club, Charlotte

December 24
Celebrant and homilist
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

December 25 — 11 a.m.
Celebrant and homilist
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
2 p.m.
Mass
Holy Angels, Belmont

December 28 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

December 31
Celebrant and homilist
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

January 1 — 11 a.m.
Mass
Celebrant and homilist
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Incarnation Changed Meaning of Time for Christians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Dec. 10.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, today we reflect on the Son of God who, moved by love, became man so that we could share in his divine life. In the life of grace, especially as we experience it in the Eucharist, our earthly existence is lifted up and directed toward the heavenly life. Time itself takes on a new meaning and is pervaded by eternity. To share in the life of Christ is to share in his eternity. Eternity enters our lives as the divine power of love, which directs us toward our final end and purpose. The year 2000, therefore, not only marks the beginning of a new millennium, but is an important stage in humanity's journey toward its final high destiny. The celebration of the jubilee is an invitation to use our time well, to deepen our desire for eternal happiness by opening our hearts to an unbounded and everlasting life.

In particular I wish to greet the ecumenical group from Kristiansand in Norway. I extend a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors. During this season of Advent, may peace and joy fill your hearts as you prepare to celebrate the birth of the Savior. Upon you and your families, I cordially invoke abundant divine blessings.

Pope Thanks Knights of Columbus for $2 Million Donation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II thanked the Knights of Columbus for their "outstanding spiritual and material support" when they brought an annual donation to the Vatican in early December. The 1.6-million member, U.S.-based group brings earnings from investment funds every year, presenting them to the pope in a private audience. Supreme Knight Virgil Dechant met the pontiff Dec. 11 along with Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, N.Y., the group's supreme chaplain. "I assure you of my personal thanks for your closeness to the pope in his ministry of service to the Gospel," Pope John Paul told them.

Speaking to Cancer Research Group, Pope Decries Euthanasia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a speech to an Italian anti-cancer group, Pope John Paul II decried viewing euthanasia as a means to avoid pain. Members of the Italian League for the Fight Against Tumors met the pope during a Dec. 13 pilgrimage to the Vatican. "In every case (of illness), interventions which are inadequate to the real situation or disproportionate to the medical results must be avoided," Pope John Paul said.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Saved By Jesus

The Rev. Francis T. Gignac

Only the Gospels according to Luke and Matthew have introductory sections about the birth and childhood of Jesus. In Luke this section foreshadows things to come in the Gospel and in Acts, the second part of his work. These infancy narratives were in large part freely composed on the basis of earlier models and in imitation of Old Testament birth stories and include canticles composed of phrases drawn from the Greek Old Testament.

The author structures his infancy narratives by presenting parallel scenes, first of angelic announcements of the births of John the Baptist and of Jesus. The purpose of these stories is to introduce and identify John and Jesus as agents of salvation history. Both come from God; but through this parallelism, the author is able to stress the preeminence of Jesus over John: John is presented as prophet of the Most High, Jesus as Son of the Most High.

Today's Gospel selection (Luke 1:39-45) is the third episode in these infancy narratives. It is an episode complementary to the two preceding annunciation scenes. It brings together elements from each of them and acts as a link by having the two mothers come together. It is in turn followed by the Magnificat, an early Jewish Christian hymn composed of phrases from the Greek Old Testament.

In these beautiful infancy narratives, the author of this Gospel presents a meditation on the redemptive work of Jesus. We are too invited to join him in his praise of God's saving activity in the person of Jesus as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season.

The first reading is taken from the Book of Micah (5: 1-4). The Hebrew text reads, "And you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you one (or: a king) shall go forth indeed, who shall be ruler over Israel." This forms part of the promises made to Israel in that book. The oracle contrasts the actual eighth-century king of Israel, just humiliated by the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib, with an ideal successor to the throne, whose birth would inaugurate the new era of glory and peace. The description of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem in the New Testament is intimately connected with his Davidic role.

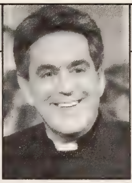
The second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (10:5-10) presents an early Christian reflection on the saving value of the death of Jesus. Christian faith gradually came to the conviction that the death of Jesus was the true sacrifice prefigured by the multiple sacrifices of the Levitical priesthood. The author here states his view that these sacrifices did not bring about the spiritual benefits they signified because human sinfulness could not be removed by the blood of animals.

So he placed a passage of Psalm 40 on the lips of Jesus at the time of his incarnation to show that Jesus understood his mission in these terms. He pictures Jesus acknowledging that the four principle types of temple sacrifices did not remit the sins of the people and so, perceiving the will of God, her offered his own body for this purpose.

This is an expression of Christian reflection on the meaning of Christ's death for us. It reminds us that what we prepare to celebrate at Christmas is not just the birth of a child but the beginning of our salvation. What happens to Jesus at his infancy, according to the Gospel stories, foreshadows his saving death and resurrection. In these stories we have the seeds of our Easter joy, beckoning us to hear him and to follow him along his way. This the message of Christmas: that God sent his Son to lead us to him. So let us open our hearts to him in a special way this Christmas.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



What To Give God This Christmas

Maybe it's possible to get this close to Christmas Day without thinking about gifts, but I doubt it.

A lot of us make lists. Children's are usually preoccupied with what they want to get, while adults' lists tend to cover their gift-giving obligations. Still, there is something richly personal about choosing and presenting a gift to someone.

The best Christmas stories seem to illustrate the ways we not only give to one another but also try to give something back to God. This year I was reminded of a cartoon classic from several decades ago that features the voice of Boris Karloff of "Frankenstein" fame. Based on a legend, "The Juggler of Our Lady" is a poignant treatment of how one man offers God his simple best.

Karloff's character is a novice in a monastery who fervently laments his inability to match the other monks whose elegant music and eloquent sermons fill the chapel with beauty. The novice's words seem flat and plain in comparison. Overwhelmed by his own incompetence, he sadly ponders what he can do to give praise and thanks to God. Gradually his face lights up with joy and resolve. He has a plan.

In the chapel there is a statue of the Blessed Mother holding the Christ Child in her arms. In the dead of night, the novice leaves his dormitory bed without a sound, walks through the dark cloister and retrieves a bag he has hidden. Entering the chapel, he stands before his beloved statue of Mary and Jesus. With a flourish and a smile he reaches into the bag and produces several wooden clubs and balls. Drawing on his skill as a one-time street juggler, he performs his act for the Christ Child and His Mother.

It is a magical moment. With muscular feats of tossing and twirling, the Juggler hopes to delight both the Child and His Mother with his gyrations. The fact that he does so in private, without any of his fellow monks seeing him, underscores his ardent wish to bring his special gift to them and only them. Indeed, the story would not have worked if the juggler were to draw public attention to his efforts.

At one point several wooden balls seem suspended in midair as the juggler takes a quick look into the face of the Infant and hears his laughter. Knowing that gift has been warmly received, the Juggler (as only Karloff could say it) offer his final act of praise by praying simply, "Agnus Dei" — "Lamb of God."

It's a beautiful story that reminds me how God gives his best to each of us in the way we are ourselves — innocent, unpretentious and unaffected. Too often, because of social conditioning or expectations, we allow ourselves to act like poor imitations of someone else. Yet we know that God delights in us when we use our talents and celebrate the best that is in us by being exactly who we are. To be sure, we can love ourselves and be proud of the way we reflect God's goodness and mercy.

Remember when Jesus singled out the young lad who had only a couple of fish and five barley loaves? The apostles were skeptical, "What can we do with that!?" But the miracle was that Christ took what the apostles deemed insignificant and made a miracle.

Don't be afraid to let God turn your gift to him — however small you think it is — into a miracle this Christmas.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Live Joyfully", write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Misinformation From Holy Land Tour Guide

***Q.** I am deeply interested in the life of Mary and realize not much information is available about her after the Pentecost.*

I've been to the Holy Land twice. Most recently our tour guide told us Mary died in her deathbed, with family and friends around her, as she had requested.

He told us she was buried near Nazareth, but he was not at liberty to say where.

Shortly later, I watched "Mary of Nazareth" on television. We were told that when Mary was about 12 years old, a male suitor was sought for her. Out of 10 who answered the call, she chose Joseph after he offered her a precious stone.

I was also shocked to learn Mary had two more sons and two daughters after Jesus. Can you clarify these points?

A. You managed to pick up a lot of misinformation in a short time. I have two suggestions.

If you go to the Holy Land again, be sure you or your tour arranger choose a guide carefully. Some guides, while licensed by the government, are not at all well educated about Christian teachings, traditions and sensibilities.

Many of them are oriented toward views and understandings of religion and history that are distinctly not Christian. They can be quite misleading.

Ask for a Christian guide, perhaps one of the Franciscan priests who, almost since the time of St. Francis, have been the primary Catholic caretakers of the Holy Land shrines.

There are other excellent, well-trained, Christian guides also, though their numbers are fewer and fewer. Until relatively recently, the curricula of some Christian universities in the area included major courses specifically to educate tour guides.

One of these was in Bethlehem, another not far north of Jerusalem. For some time now, however, the Israeli government has severely limited or completely eliminated these programs.

I understand some of the older — and very good — guides with Christian backgrounds still are available. One would need to ask.

Helpful information is available from the Franciscan Commissariat for the Holy Land in Washington, D.C.

Second, it is unwise, to say the least, to rely on TV programs for accurate portrayal of things religious.

They often present much that is interesting and helpful, but with few exceptions the people involved are not well-versed in Catholic or other Christian matters, so occasional big mistakes are not surprising.

Long-time Christian traditions, incidentally, place Mary's death either in Ephesus, which may have been the home of John the evangelist in his later years, or in Jerusalem. I know of no tradition that she died in Nazareth.

It is Catholic teaching that Mary had no other children than Jesus. The Gospels speak of his brothers and sisters, but those passages have other good meanings, which I've explained often in previous columns.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

A Year's Worth of News

This is the time of year when I like to look back over the past 12 months and reflect on some of the news stories that caught my attention.

I probably wouldn't be alone in saying that top of the list is the sad one of Princess Diana dying in a car crash, with the news that followed in the next few days reporting that Mother Teresa also had died. Their lives were certainly different in extraordinary ways. But somehow in death they became united, and not just by timeliness.

These remarkable women sparked new attention to our need to care for the safety and welfare of all people — Mother Teresa through the work of her long lifetime, and Princess Diana, through the humanitarian work she initiated and achieved in her short lifetime. Bravo to both!

Earlier in 1997 we got the astonishing news that an embryologist in Scotland, Dr. Ian Wilmut, had cloned a sheep, producing an exact replica he named Dolly.

This became the hottest world news for a few days last February, with people glued to their TV sets in fascination. The real question on everybody's mind was, What's next? Cloning of humans?

Well, on Dec. 2, a front-page story in The New York Times took up that question and came to a somewhat scary conclusion. Considering all the research being conducted, it seems, as one animal cloning pioneer put it, that "it's just a matter of time."

Another story caught my attention because I always have been interested in how people can bring spirituality into the workplace. There's a new development in the corporate world, a New York Times story Nov. 29 reported. Study classes in the Torah, Koran and Bible are being held in such places as the Chrysler Building in New York, Boeing in California and Lucent Technologies in New Jersey.

Professionals are going to these classes "because they fill a spiritual void created by years of secular, career-driven focus," the story explained. How good it is to know that there's a place for God in corporate life and that some people learn to take seriously the question Jesus asked, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world" if that only causes him to lose his soul?

My guess is that most people would single out the birth of septuplets as the highlight story of the year. What a miracle for Bobbie and Kenny McCaughey to be blessed with seven babies at one time. Best of all was the mother's response to someone who said she should have aborted a few. "I have to answer to God," she said. God bless her.

A headline that said "Castro Calls for Prayers" also grabbed me. Looking forward to Pope John Paul II visiting Cuba in January, the communist president met with Christian and Jewish leaders, telling them the country needs their prayers and efforts to help solve its eco-

See **Bosco,** page 11

"Of One Heart and One Mind:" A Letter To Hope By

The following is a homily given by Jesuit Father James Devereux, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Charlotte, on Nov. 29 and 30. It reflects on "Of One Heart and One Mind," the pastoral letter issued by Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh.

CHARLOTTE — "Hope springs eternal in the human breast:/Man never is but always to be blest" (A. Pope, "Essay on Man", I.95-96). Behold one reason why Advent is everybody's favorite season. Its readings and music invite us to do what humans do instinctively: We hope, we live in expectation. And if we are Christians, we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.

The Advent liturgy alone is full of encouragement, but we still have need of concrete signs in the world around us that the Lord will come and will not delay. We need palpable grounds for hope. I found one such sign in the McCaughey family in Iowa, and how they have responded with deep Christian faith to the birth of seven children.

Closer to home, I find grounds for hope in, of all things, a letter from two bishops. It's called "Of One Heart and One Mind." It's a pastoral letter to the Catholics of North Carolina from Bishop William Curlin of Charlotte and Bishop Joseph Gossman of Raleigh.

Speaking personally, I must tell you that in recent years not all the pronouncements of the Catholic hierarchy worldwide have nourished my hope. Some have seemed to run counter to the great surge of the Holy Spirit set in motion at the Second Vatican Council. Theologians have been pressured and excommunicated, generous lay men and women reminded of their place, the efforts of the late Cardinal Bernardin to find common ground attacked by other cardinals.

What a joy, then, to receive a pastoral letter from the head of our local church and his fellow bishop which encourages us with warm and positive words to do as the Gospel urges us: "Care about Christ's favorites, the poor, here in North Carolina." This is just what bishops are for.

Let me say a few words about the letter's occasion and its content. Our bishops write out of concern for a concrete situation. In recent years the American economy has grown steadily. These are likewise prosperous times for many of us in North Carolina. The unemployment rate is low; overall income has risen. Yet thousands of our brothers and sisters still live below the poverty line, and their number is growing. These are, for the most part, people who work hard and still cannot feed and clothe and house their children. The national safety net of programs to alleviate poverty, in place for the past sixty years, has been dismantled.

Changes in the federal welfare system were doubtless needed. But the bishops wonder aloud what will happen to the most vulnerable among us. Non-profits and churches—our own included—are working hard, but we can't possibly compensate for the cut in federal programs for the poor. Ask the people at Crisis Assistance Ministry, at the shelters, and Center for Urban Ministry. They will tell you that they are overwhelmed trying to answer the needs of the people at their doors.

Why have the bishops brought this painful matter before us? Because the words of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel ring in their ears: "Truly I say to you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers and sisters, you did it for me" (Matthew 25:40). These are our brothers and sisters.

It's impossible to present the bishops' thought convincingly except in detail and with concrete examples. Their letter is rich in both. It lays no guilt trips, nor do I. I simply ask you to sit down and read what these two good and holy men wish to tell us. The complete text of the pastoral letter is included in the November 21 issue of The Catholic News & Herald that comes to every registered household in the diocese.

Father James Devereux

I'm asking our parish Social Justice Committee to study the letter and to find ways of moving from words to action. Many suggestions for action are included in the text itself.

Let me return to Advent and to Alexander Pope, the poet who wrote: "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." I looked for a sign that gives reason to hope in the Lord's coming, and I found one. The publication of this letter tells us that the Church has pastors who care for everyone, especially the least among us. It says that Emmanuel, the Lord we long for, is indeed coming, is already here, in North Carolina, the beautiful place where we live.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a Great Light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now Light is shining on them.
Isaiah 9:2

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Entertainment

Titanic Has Everything — But a Sense of Humanity

NEW YORK (CNS) — Making a spectacle of the greatest sea disaster of the century is the special effects blockbuster "Titanic" (Paramount).

Those interested in the big finish, however, will have to sit through an improbable love story long after its soggy proceedings have exhausted one's patience.

The picture begins in 1996 as a scientific expedition explores the sunken remains of the R.M.S. Titanic using, among other things, computer graphics showing how the supposedly unsinkable ship went down.

The expedition's leader (Bill Paxton) is interested in recovering the ship's valuables, in particular a priceless diamond known to have been aboard. When he learns its owner survived and is still alive, he has the 101-year-old woman brought to the expedition's ship.

She is Rose DeWitt Bukater (Kate Winslet), who in 1912 was a 17-year-old American sailing to New York to wed her wealthy fiance, Cal Hockley (Billy Zane).

Unhappy that her mother is forcing her into this marriage, Rose climbs over the rail and contemplates suicide until saved by a sturdy youth from steerage, Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio).

Rose is intrigued by penniless Jack's boundless optimism and artistic talent when he shows her his sketches of nude Paris prostitutes.

Along the way, Rose introduces Jack to some of the famous personalities among the first-class passengers, notably Molly Brown (Florence Bates), but this serves no greater purpose than providing the dramatic equivalent of name-dropping.

What is far more interesting than any of these characters is the plush background of the sets showing the luxurious trappings of first-class accommodations as well as the cramped, unrelieved drabness of the steerage quarters.

The friendship between the youths blossoms into an affair which begins with Rose posing for one of Jack's nude sketches, then is consummated in the back seat of an auto in the ship's hold.

This plays out as bad Edwardian melodrama with snarling villain Cal and his dour, armed retainer (Jack Warner) chasing them in and out of the bowels of the ship.

CNS photo from Paramount Pictures

Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet star as passengers on the flooded luxury cruiser in the epic drama "Titanic."

Writer-director James Cameron tries to win sympathy for the young lovers by portraying them as heroes defying the strict social conventions and moral standards of their time.

But he can't overcome the soap opera level in which the egalitarian romance is portrayed, nor the cardboard characters of the lovers.

By the time Cameron gets to staging the sinking of the Titanic, it is indeed done on a spectacular scale, using mammoth sets and hundreds of extras.

The confusion and panic of the passengers is amply displayed as the ship flounders, then breaks apart and plunges to the deep.

By focusing on the fate of the callow lovers, however, the movie fails to evoke the human dimension of this tragic loss of more than 1,500 lives in the icy waters of the North Atlantic.

In retelling an epic tragedy, "Titanic" has everything but a sense of humanity.

Because of agonizing death scenes on a massive scale, sexual situations and sporadic rough language and profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Bishop's Wife" (1947)

A debonair, smartly tailored angel (Cary Grant) uses his heavenly powers to help the neglected wife (Loretta Young) of a busy Episcopalian bishop (David Niven) renew her husband's ministry to those in need rather than in raising the money for a new cathedral. Director Henry Koster's sentimental Christmas fable has the virtue of a good script, sincere performances and some amusing moments with Grant's angelic powers and Monty Wooley as a softhearted old cynic. Most of the family will find it charming entertainment. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

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"A Christmas Carol" (1951)

This British version of the Dickens' classic has worn well over the years principally because of Alistair Sim's zestful performance as Scrooge, the old humbug whose transformation into a loving human being is a pleasure to behold. Director Brian Desmond Hurst's period piece does well with its 19th-century London setting and the ghostly visitations are done simply but with considerable flair. The result is dandy family viewing. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Christmas in Connecticut" (1945)

Breezy romantic comedy in which the unmarried writer (Barbara Stanwyck) of a popular homemaker column has to invent a husband, baby and country home after her unsuspecting publisher (Sydney Greenstreet) invites a war hero (Dennis Morgan) to celebrate Christmas with her "family." Directed by Peter Godfrey, the slickly contrived proceedings benefit from a capable cast but the slapdash humor is uneven and the romance less than convincing. Romantic situations, sexual innuendo and much comic duplicity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"A Christmas Story" (1983)

Adapted from Jean Shepherd's nostalgic piece of whimsy, "In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash," the movie re-creates what it was like to be a boy yearning for a Red Ryder air rifle for Christmas in the Midwest of the 1940s. Director Bob Clark gets good performances from Darren McGavin and Melinda Dillon as the understanding parents and the period atmosphere is nicely conveyed in what is essentially a warm celebration of a more innocent, less sophisticated America. A few vulgar syllables. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)

Seasonal favorite about the joys and trials of a good man (James Stewart) who, facing financial ruin on the eve of Christmas, contemplates suicide until his guardian angel (Henry Travers) shows him how meaningful his life has been to those around him. Director Frank Capra's unabashedly sentimental picture of mainstream American life is bolstered by a superb cast (including Lionel Barrymore as a conniving banker) and a wealth of good feelings about such commonplace virtues as hard work and helping one's neighbor. Young children may find the story's dark moments unsettling. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Republic, $14.95)

"The Preacher's Wife" (1996)

Charming remake of the 1948 fantasy, "The Bishop's Wife," in which an angel (Denzel Washington) is sent to help the discouraged Baptist minister (Courtney B. Vance) of a struggling inner-city church and his neglected wife (Whitney Houston) rediscover romance in their marriage. Director Penny Marshall's slow-paced, sentimental story about the values of faith and hope is enlivened by an engaging cast and vibrant gospel songs. Romantic complications. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Scrooge" (1935)

Truncated but effective version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with impressive performances from Seymour Hicks in the title role and Donald Calthrop as Bob Cratchit, though the only ghost to be seen is the robust figure of Christmas Present (Oscar Asche). Director Henry Edwards delivers an atmospheric picture of 1840s London emphasizing the oppressive gulf between rich and poor bridged by Dickens' fable of helping others. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

FAITH alive!

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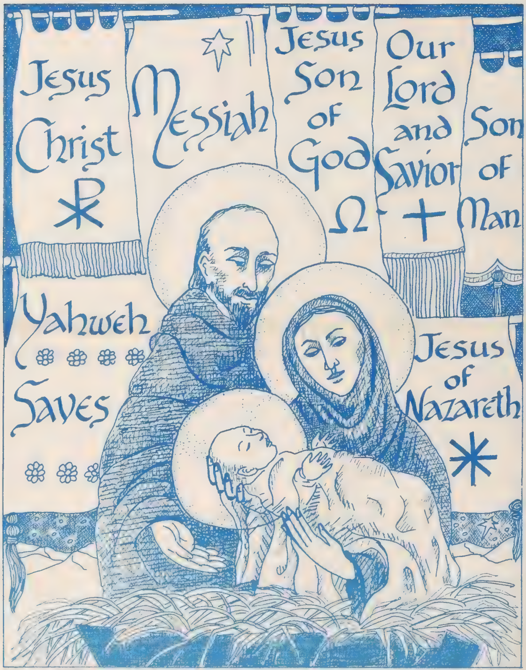
Giving a name to Jesus

By Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
Catholic News Service

Both Matthew and Luke emphasized the naming of Jesus in their accounts of his birth. Since then, Jesus' name has been a big part of the Christmas story.

What's in a name?



CNS illustration by Joan Hyme

Why is it so important to know a person's name? When God commissioned Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses asked for God's name.

In Matthew, the angel of the Lord told Joseph that Mary had conceived through the Holy Spirit and would bear a son. The angel then told Joseph, "And you are to name him Jesus" (Matthew 1:20-21).

In Luke, the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would conceive in her womb and bear a son. Immediately, the angel told her: "And you shall name him Jesus" (Luke 1:31). Later, Luke tells us that the child "was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb" (2:21).

There is something both mysterious and wonderful about a name.

■ ■ ■

The revelation of the name of God, "I AM," that is, "I AM with you," shows that God is not an abstract notion and is involved personally in our lives.

Many other people in New Testament times were named Jesus. Giving the Son of God the same name showed that Jesus was human like all of us. It is by that name that the people of Nazareth knew him growing up at home, in the marketplace and at the synagogue.

But away from Nazareth — away from one's home — it was sometimes necessary to specify a Jew's hometown. Hence the reference "Jesus of Nazareth" or "Jesus the Nazarene."

The name of God, I AM, expressed God's relationship to the people of God. God is the one who is with us, giving us life, supporting us and guiding us.

The name of Jesus expressed Jesus' mission in the world. Joseph was told to name him Jesus "because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

In Hebrew, Jesus' name means "Yahweh helps." Applied to Jesus, it means "Yahweh saves."

Unlike Matthew, Luke did not dwell on the Hebrew etymology of Jesus' name, but he still connected Jesus' name to his mission as savior (Act. 4:12).

■ ■ ■

What is special about Jesus' name? The New Testament invites us to reflect on Jesus' name, especially at Christmas when his name is at the very heart of the story.

First, Jesus' name identifies him and distinguishes him from other people. Doing that, the name Jesus points to a particular person and acts like an identification tag. For example, it distinguishes Jesus from John the Baptist.

> **"There is something both mysterious and wonderful about a name.... The name of Jesus expressed Jesus' mission in the world. Joseph was told to name him Jesus 'because he will save his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21)"**

More important, Jesus' name communicates Jesus' identity and expresses the uniqueness of Jesus' person. Someone's identification is not the same as someone's identity. Anyone can make an identification of a particular person. But to know a person's identity you have to know someone personally.

Expressing Jesus' very identity, Jesus' name acts as a symbol for his person. That is why we speak Jesus' name with respect. Spitting it out would indicate hatred and contempt toward Jesus.

That is also why to understand Jesus' name we have to know Jesus, the person who bears it. For that, we must have a personal relationship to Jesus.

That is how it was with the early Christians. Knowing Jesus, they also wanted to express his relationship to God, his role in history and his mission in the world. For that, they gave him titles like "Son of God," "Son of Man," "Christ," "Messiah" and "Lord."

The titles "Christ" and "Messiah" are actually the same, meaning "the anointed one." The title "Christ" comes from the Greek, while "Messiah" comes from the Hebrew. Today we use both terms as though they were distinct.

—The title "Christ":

In the New Testament this title related Jesus to the passion, the climax of his historical life. Soon the title became a second name for Jesus, giving him the name Jesus Christ. Around the year 70, Mark used that double name in the title of his Gospel: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ (the Son of God)" (1:1). In English, the title "Christ" eventually gave us our name for the feast of the Nativity, Christmas.

—The title "Lord":

This title was related to Jesus' resurrection, and that is why the early Christians referred to Jesus as the Lord Jesus.

There was no separating the passion and the resurrection, and there was no separating the titles of "Christ" and "Lord." That is why the New Testament often refers to Jesus as Jesus Christ our Lord.

Both titles, "Christ" (Messiah) and "Lord" are part of the good news the angel announced to the shepherds: "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah (Christ) and Lord."

On Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord, and the mission for which he was born.

(Father LaVerdiere is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We may think we're searching for God, but the truth is that God is searching for us — and the incarnation proves this, Pope John Paul II says. This is the meaning of Christmas.

That's a large message to internalize when you're trying to ensure that your Christmas tree won't fall over, balance the checkbook after many purchases, make certain not only that you have camera film for the big day but batteries too (yikes!) — and all the while tap into your brain cells for one last-minute gift inspiration.

Those of us who arrive, slipping and sliding, at the threshold of one more Christmas — feeling a little confused, even "lost" — may wonder, Will God be able to find us?

God has divine ways to become present in our Christmas: in our homecomings and friendships; in our household rituals; in our special focus on what is special about each other; even in the questions we raise, like "Why don't we do this more often (spend time together; play board games; listen)?"

If at some point this Christmas you notice that the real gift being given is the gift of life and love, trust that God has found you.

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David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

CNS illustration by Robert F. McGovern

When Jesus is a stranger

By Father W. Thomas Faucher
Catholic News Service

College student Mike grew up with no religion and ended up with Sean, a going-to-church Catholic, as his roommate.

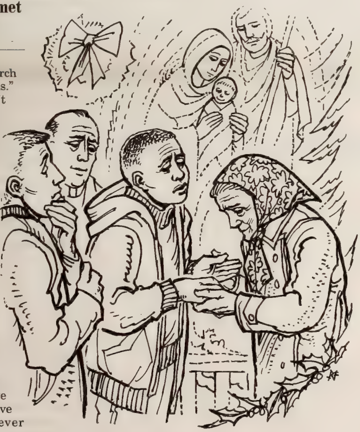
One early December day Mike came back to the room to find Sean and a few other guys making life-sized paper-mache figures for a Nativity set for the local Catholic student chapel. As he walked in Sean said:

"Mike, just in time. We need help, and you are a much better artist than I am. Will you make a baby Jesus for us?"

Having nothing better to do, Mike said yes, and sat down to make a baby out of paper and water.

The conversation moved around and around until Mike finally asked, "Why do you guys do this?"

"She asked Mike, 'Did you make the baby Jesus figure for the Nativity set?' 'Yes, I did.' Taking his hand, she kissed it.... Later, they concluded that in the woman they had met Jesus."



"To get the church ready for Christmas."

"No, I don't mean just this, but 'this.' Why do you go to church? What do you get out of it?"

"For Jesus."

"What does that mean? Jesus is some guy who lived and died a long time ago. He doesn't have anything to do with us now."

"Mike! Jesus is my best friend."

"I don't believe that. You can't have a best friend you've never met, never talked to."

"Mike, for me Jesus is alive, as alive as you are. I talk to him. He is always there for me."

"Sean, I just don't buy any of that. You make up some projection in your mind, some spiritual hologram, and then talk to it. You religious nuts just play games with your minds."

The conversation moved around again to something else. Mike finished the baby and really didn't think much more about it.

One day Sean asked him if he wanted to see the final product. Mike said yes, and they agreed to stop by the campus chapel after class.

Mike got there early, went inside and wandered around. The Nativity scene was set up just off to the side of the altar, and he was looking it over when Sean got there. With him was the campus parish priest.

Sean told the priest all about making the figures and the conversation that had taken place while they were doing it. He was a bit embarrassed when he said that none of them could explain to Mike that Jesus was really as alive today as he had been 2,000 years ago.

The priest said: "You can't explain Jesus. You can't understand him from all the titles and names he has. You have to experience Jesus, have him touch you. Then while you savor that experience, all the words about Jesus and the names of Jesus will make sense."

They hadn't paid any attention to an old woman in the church who came up to them while they were talking. She asked Mike, "Did you make the baby Jesus figure for the Nativity set?"

"Yes, I did."

Taking his hand, she kissed it. "In my country we believe that Jesus leaves something of himself on the hands of the person who makes the figure of the baby Jesus."

With that she turned and shuffled away.

The three men stood there silently.

"Who was that?" It was Sean who broke the silence.

Mike said nothing. But what had happened had obviously touched him. When he and Sean recalled the event some time later, they concluded that in the woman they had met Jesus.

(Father Faucher is a priest of the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, on assignment in the Diocese of Baker, Ore.)

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FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What is the place of Jesus in your celebration of Christmas?

"As a single parent, I struggle with letting go of my children to visit their father and I meditate on the true presence of the baby Jesus in my life at that time. What I've learned to do is to identify with Jesus at the vulnerable and special time in his life and how he is always with us even at our most vulnerable times." — Laura Adauto El Paso, Texas

"He's the top of the totem pole." — Sister Austin Babin, MSC, New Orleans, La.

"It should be first, but sometimes it seems to be second or third, after shopping and gifts. It takes a little while to remember what all the hoopla is about. I think as Christians we want to make Christ the center, but it's easy to get distracted." — Ken Scott Portland, Ore.

"In our family it's always been our tradition to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas by going to Midnight Mass and to keep Jesus, not gift-giving, as the main focus of the holiday." — Lourdes Hinojo, Las Cruces, N.M.

An upcoming edition asks: What is your approach or attitude toward someone who considers himself/herself a nonbeliever? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

This name was a profession of faith

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

"Hallowed be thy name" is much more than a prayer that God's name be held in reverence.

In biblical times a name was not just someone's convenient identification tag. It was identical with the person.

Thus, when Moses heard God's name, God was being revealed to Moses.

In a primitive culture which honored many gods, it was deemed important to know the name of one's personal god. To have this knowledge was to have influence with, even power over, the god.

So when Moses received a divine commission to represent God with the people, he was worried. They surely would ask him the name of this God. Only if Moses knew it would they be sure that he enjoyed familiarity with God, power to act in God's name.

God granted Moses' request. Thus it was revealed to Moses that God's personal name was Yahweh or "he is." This was more than a statement of God's existence. The verb "to be" in Hebrew was a powerful verb denoting active, powerful, effective existence in people's lives.

It thus assured them that God had the power to free them from bondage in Egypt. It told them something about God.

In the course of time this name was held in such awe that no one would even pronounce it. The people used all sorts of substitutes when speaking of God. In Jesus' time it was customary to refer to God as "memra," which in Aramaic simply meant "the name."

A Christian hymn extolling the power of the risen Christ proclaimed that God "bestowed on him the name that is above every name" (Philippians 2:9). This was a way of saying that God invested him with the power inherent in the divine name itself. And the Lord's personal name, Jesus, was to be accorded the reverence of all creation, which was to cry out: "Jesus Christ is Lord," on a par with God.

This name, Jesus, actually was a common name among Jews, but had deep significance. It meant literally "Yahweh saves," at least in popular etymology.

This is why, when Joseph was directed to name the soon-to-be-born son Jesus, the angel explained: "because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

In Luke's Gospel, too, the angels tell the shepherds, "Today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (2:11).

All these names, "Jesus," "Messiah," "Lord," are much more than conventional identification tags. They are professions of faith in the profound significance of the newborn babe.

They cry out that "Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11).

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

In a Nutshell

- ***"Jesus," "Messiah," "Lord": These names punctuate Christmas. More than identification tags, they are professions of faith.***
- ***The titles "Christ" (Messiah) and "Lord" are part of the good news the angel announced to the shepherds.***
- ***Joseph was directed to name him Jesus because "he will save his people from their sins."***

People In The News

Liturgical Music Composer Sebastian Temple Dies

TUCSON, Ariz. (CNS) — Liturgical music composer Sebastian Temple, 69, died Dec. 9 at his home in Tucson of a suspected heart attack. A memorial service was scheduled for Dec. 16 in Tucson. Temple enjoyed a resurgence in popularity after his best-known song, "Prayer of St. Francis," was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana in September. It was said to have been the princess' favorite song. A native of South Africa, Temple achieved his greatest popularity with a series of recordings in the years immediately following the Second Vatican Council. Among his better-known songs were "Happy the Man," "Prayer for Peace," "All That I Am," "The Mass Is Ended," "Take My Hands," "Sing! People of God, Sing!", "The Living God," "Do You Know," "Lamp Unto My Feet," "Here at the Table of the Lord" and "Jesus Christ Is King." His work was popular in parishes and in the early days of the Catholic charismatic movement.

Pittsburgh Nun Tells Story of Tragic Zimbabwe War

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — For Sister Janice McLaughlin, the role the Catholic Church played in Zimbabwe's war of liberation 20 years ago was a story that needed to be told. The Maryknoll missioner, a native of Pittsburgh, served in Rhodesia during the seven-year civil war that resulted in formation of an independent Zimbabwe in 1980. She was press secretary with the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission in the south central African country when in 1977 she was jailed for three weeks and then deported by the Rhodesian government. She was among 18 foreign missionaries thrown out of the country. Last year, Sister McLaughlin wrote a book detailing the relationship between Catholic personnel at four rural missions and nationalist guerrillas during the conflict. Titled "On the Frontline: Catholic Missions in Zimbabwe's Liberation War," it was named one of the best nonfiction titles of the year in the Zimbabwe Book Fair this summer. "I wrote to pay tribute to the role the Catholic church played in obtaining independence in the former Rhodesia,'' she told the Pittsburgh Catholic, diocesan newspaper.

Catholic Irish President Receives Communion at Anglican Service

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Irish President Mary McAleese created a stir when she received communion at a Church of Ireland service. McAleese, a practicing Catholic from Northern Ireland, received communion at St. Patrick's (Anglican) Cathedral in Dublin Dec. 7. Msgr. Denis Faul, a prominent Northern Irish Catholic priest, said McAleese broke church law, but added that it was unlikely the church would sanction her. Stating that church teaching on the matter was "crystal clear" in the Code of Canon Law and the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," Msgr. Faul said: "There is no splintering, blurring or clouding — you can't be in communion with two or three churches. Eucharistic intercommunion with Protestant churches is not possible."

Raising Cane: Pope, Alabama Archbishop Make No Bones About It

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II and Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala., carried the same accessory to the Synod of Bishops for America — a cane. "We play on the same team," the pope said, raising his cane in greeting to the archbishop on his way out of the synod hall. "I hope that it is temporary," Archbishop Lipscomb replied, obviously referring only to their use of the walking aid. Pope John Paul has been using a cane on and off since he broke his right thigh bone in 1994. Archbishop Lipscomb is a novice cane user, but a happy one, he told Catholic News Service. "It's been a remarkable help," the archbishop said. Just before coming to the Nov. 16-Dec. 12 synod, Archbishop Lipscomb's doctor told him he would have to have hip replacement surgery.

French Doctor Sought Asylum in Vatican Embassy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A French physician prominent for his opposition to abortion sought political asylum overnight in the Vatican Embassy in Paris but had no legal basis for his claim, the Vatican said. Dr. Xavier Dor, 68, presented himself at the Paris apostolic nunciature on the afternoon of Dec. 10, the same day he was meant to enter a minimum-security prison for one month. He left "by his own decision" the next morning, said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. Dor, a retired pediatrician, is described by French media as a "militant abortion opponent." Abortion is legal in France. The doctor was convicted of inciting an illegal anti-abortion demonstration outside a Paris-area hospital.

Tanzanian Cardinal Rugambwa Dead At Age 85

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II sent a message of condolence to Tanzania after the first African cardinal died in early December. Cardinal Laurean Rugambwa, archbishop emeritus of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, died Dec. 8 at age 85. The pope said in a telegram the next day to the cardinal's successor, Archbishop Polycarp Pengo of Dar-es-Salaam, that he was "deeply saddened" at the loss of a "close collaborator of myself and my predecessors." Born in Bukoba, in what is now Tanzania, the future cardinal was raised in a tribal clan that converted to Catholicism when he was 8 years old. In 1948 the then-Father Rugambwa was sent to Rome to complete a degree in canon law, after which he returned to Africa. He became a bishop in 1951 and was made a cardinal by Pope John XXIII in March 1960.

CNS photo from Reuters

Christian pilgrims light candles at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem Dec. 14 in anticipation of Christmas. The traditional place of Christ's birth usually draws thousands of tourists each Christmas season.

Bishop Writes Netanyahu Over Canceled Religious Radio Program

JERUSALEM (CNS) — A bishop in Israel sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu complaining about the cancellation of Christian religious programming on the state-run radio. "We are citizens of the State of Israel. Why should Christians be deprived of having their religious rights," said Auxiliary Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo of Jerusalem. He said a monthly one-hour religious program had been canceled in September 1996, and he had been trying through various channels to have it reinstated, but with no success. "We tried many times to complain at many levels. We are now at the level of the prime minister because no one wanted to try to solve the problem," he said.

Thousands Pack Belfast Church for Funeral of Team Manager

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — On a cold and overcast day, thousands of mourners packed into St. Bernard's Chapel in North Belfast to pay their final respects to Gerry Devlin, who was shot dead outside a Catholic sports club. Devlin's widow, Hazel, and two young sons walked behind the coffin decked with a yellow and black Gaelic Athletic Association jersey as the funeral cortege made its way to Carnmount cemetery. Devlin, team manager at St. Enda's Gaelic Athletic Association, was shot four times in the head and body in the club's parking lot around 11 p.m. Dec. 5. Police are continuing investigations and have not ruled out a sectarian motive behind the murder. The Gaelic Athletic Association, which promotes Gaelic football and hurling, has long been linked with nationalism and Catholicism in Ireland.

U.S. Catholics End Fast in Honduras, Send Letter to Clinton

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Catholic activists have ended a fast aimed at trying to find out what happened to an American priest who disappeared in Honduras. Matthew Eisen and Jesuit Father Joseph Mulligan ended their fast Dec. 12 with a meal among friends in San Salvador, where earlier in the day they held a vigil in front of the U.S. Embassy. In a phone interview, Eisen said the fasters tried to deliver to U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Anne Patterson a letter addressed to President Bill Clinton, asking Clinton to speed up disclosure of secret U.S. documents relating to the 1983 disappearance of Father James Carney.

Father Albert Nevins, Journalist, Author, Dead at 82

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — Maryknoll Father Albert J. Nevins, former editor of Maryknoll magazine and Our Sunday Visitor, died of complications from lung cancer Dec. 15 at Maryknoll St. Teresa's Residence. He was 82 years old. He was to be buried at Maryknoll Center Cemetery following a funeral Mass Dec. 18 at the center's chapel.

Albright Launches Anti-Violence Program At S. African Church

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited a Catholic Church in Cape Town to launch a violence-prevention program in memory of an American killed there in August 1993. Amy Biehl, 26, was stabbed to death by black youths who said at their trial that they killed her because she was white. The murder took place a few blocks away from St. Gabriel's Church in Guguletu. There, Albright, Biehl's parents, Peter and Linda, South African Justice Minister Dullah Omar and Father Basil van Rensburg, parish priest, paid tribute to Biehl Dec. 13 and spoke of the need to break the cycle of violence in the country.

Bishop Welsh Resigns; Bishop Cullen To Succeed Him

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop Thomas J. Welsh of Allentown, Pa., and named an auxiliary bishop from Philadelphia to succeed him. Bishop Welsh's resignation and the appointment of Auxiliary Bishop Edward P. Cullen of Philadelphia as his successor were announced in Washington Dec. 16 by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pro-nuncio in the United States. Bishop Welsh, who turns 76 on Dec. 20, had submitted his resignation to the pope when he reached age 75 in accordance with a provision of canon law.

Holy Angels Appoints New President, C.E.O.

BELMONT — Sister Mary Rosalind Picot, president of the regional community of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, has appointed Regina P. Moody as the president and chief executive officer of Holy Angels, Inc. Mother Mary Benignus Hoban, who has served as the president for the past 20 years, was named president emeritus.

"Regina Moody has served Holy Angels, Inc., faithfully for the past 15 years as executive director," said Sister Rosalind. "Regina brings her energy and creativity in, constantly initiating new programs and seeking the necessary resources to meet the needs of the special people whom Holy Angels serves.

"The Sisters of Mercy have great faith and confidence in her ability to continue the tradition of mercy through respecting and promoting the values of sacredness of life, justice, compassion, human dignity and quality of life."

Moody has served as the executive director and vice-president of Holy Angels since 1982. Under her leadership, Holy Angels has grown from 35 employees and an annual budget of $450,000 to 250 employees and an annual budget of more than $5 million.

Holy Angels ranks among the top 75 employers of Gaston County and is one of the top five in Belmont. In the field of mental retardation, it is considered a leader, providing innovative, quality programs for persons with developmental disabilities.

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1955, Holy Angels is a private-non-profit, 501(C)(3) corporation. Sixty-seven children and adults currently live in Holy Angels' models of residential services, or group homes. Among its variety of programs and services are supported living services, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, an outdoor camp, and Cherubs Craft & Coffee Shop.

To ensure that Holy Angels continues as a leader in providing quality services and programs for individuals with developmental disabilities, Moody maintains memberships and has served in leadership roles in numerous professional organizations, including the American Association on Mental Retardation, NC Association of Residential Resources, Community Living Association and Gaston County Association for Retarded Citizens.

Regina P. Moody

Active in the civic community, Moody serves as the vice-chair of the Gaston Health Care, Inc., board of trustees, chair of the Gaston Community Healthcare Commission and community advisor for the Gastonia Junior League. She is also a member of the Sisters of Mercy Associates program, Belmont Rotary, Gaston County Community Child Protection Team and the Gaston County Family YMCA Metropolitan Board.

Moody lives in Belmont with her husband, David, and son, Kevin.

Employment Opportunities

Minister of Music / Pastoral Musician / Organist:
Established, growing downtown parish of 950 families desires a full-time minister of music / pastoral musician / organist. Wonderful opportunity to enhance present programs and vitalize new ones. Willingness to collaborate with present musicians and staff a must. Must be competent in organ / keyboard. Familiarity with pre- and post-Vatican II music and liturgical styles necessary. Responsibilities include: choir direction and development; cantor training, resourcing parish musical programs. Degree in music or liturgy or both a plus. Benefits and salary commensurate with experience and training. Resume and references to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA 24504 (804) 846-5245; Fax (804) 846-7022.

Casework Supervisor:
Needed in new Hispanic Program. BSW, bilingual English / Spanish, experience and computer skills required. Phone Catholic Social Services, 370-6155.

Administrative Assistant:
Needed in new Hispanic Program. Fluent English / Spanish, computer knowledge Microsoft Office, comfortable working with public. Phone Catholic Social Services, 370-6155.

Biology and Science Teacher:
Charlotte Catholic High School will have an opening beginning second semester in January, 1998. Call 543-1127 for an application.

Director of Religious Education:
St. Peter's Parish, Columbia, SC, a dynamic multi-cultural community of 1,000 families, is accepting applications for a full-time DRE. Qualified, organized candidate must provide leadership, coordination and support for religious education program, K-6th grades, including school and adult education. Salary commensurate with degree and experience. Position becomes effective July 1, 1998. Deadline: March 25, 1998. Submit resume to: Search Committee, St. Peter's Church, 1529 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

Music Teacher / Organist:
Provide piano lessons & educate & train church school children (grades 2 - 6) in the fundamentals of sacred music. Plan & implement music & workshop education opportunities, incldg. participation in the Pastor's information classes. Plan & coordinate music education, piano lessons and other musical activities for summer music camp. Play organ at weddings, funerals & other special events. Prepare music to be included in worship bulletins, oversee maintenance of the church's musical instruments & publicize musical events in consultation w/Pastor & church office. Reqs. BS in Music (w/ Piano Performance or Piano Pedagogy) & 2 yrs. in job offered or as Piano Teacher or Concert Pianist. The 2 yrs. exp. must include work w/conducting instrumental ensembles & vocal choirs, piano performance, piano teaching, sight reading, improvisation, musical arrangement & composition & piano tuning & maintenance. $9.06/hr., 40 hrs./wk. Submit resume incl. SS# to Fr. Daniel Carboy, St. James Catholic Church, 251 Union Street, Concord, NC 28026.

Synod, from page 3

during the synod were what made the gathering a real success.

"Even if no proposals were written and nothing else happened, I think this dimension would be very, very important," Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, one of the synod presidents, told Catholic News Service.

Brazilian Archbishop Vitorio Pavanello said the synod changed some bishops' understanding of what solidarity really means.

"We don't like solidarity being understood as begging from North America," the archbishop of Campo Grande said. "Some North American bishops would see us coming, and ask, 'How many dollars?'"

The archbishop said the synod will help the people of the entire Western Hemisphere celebrate the real meaning of the jubilee year 2000 "by doing what Jesus did: act in solidarity with humanity."

At his Angelus address two days after the synod, the pope said, "The synodal assembly reinforced the bonds of solidarity which the Catholic Church can help consolidate and extend through all the regions of the American continent."

Bosco, from page 5

nomic problems. There's always hope.

A story that warmed the heart came from Somerville, N.J. It told how 72-year old Eleanor Boyer had won the lottery, $11.8 million, before taxes, and knew immediately what she'd do with the money. Half of it went to her parish church, the Church of the Immaculate Conception, and the rest to the town rescue squad, the volunteer fire department and some other groups that serve her neighbors.

Her generosity reminded me of a line I have quoted all my life: "What you keep, you lose, what you give away, you keep." She is a very blessed woman.

A new year awaits us. May it be full of joy!

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Photo by Donna Jernigan

Art Bender, a resident of The Little Flower Assisted Living Residence in Charlotte, welcomes an early visit from "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" in this recent holiday photo. Forty-six seniors make their home in the assisted living facility, opened in August 1996 and named in honor of St. Therese of Lisieux, popularly known as the Little Flower.

Tradition Continues At St. Patrick School

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Christmas time is a season of joy, hope, family and friends. And tradition.

St. Patrick School will host one of those Charlotte holiday traditions Dec. 25 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., when the annual St. Patrick Christmas Dinner returns to feed hundreds of needy folks, travelers and those who would otherwise spend Christmas alone.

For more than two decades, area citizens of many faiths have joined the Christmas dinner project. What began as an outreach from people's homes a quarter-century ago has grown into a holiday staple that has fed thousands of people and provided countless hours of fellowship.

Representatives from church, civic and private agencies throughout the city refer clients and other area citizens whom they feel may enjoy a holiday meal in the presence of community.

As in years past, the meal is for anyone who'd like to spend a few hours on Christmas Day in the presence of an "extended family." And with the assistance of agency contacts, those experiencing particular social, spiritual or financial needs can spend the day in good cheer.

Since the early '80s, the dinner has been offered at St. Patrick School's cafeteria. The project has become an elaborate and collaborative effort: Hundreds of volunteers, dozens of agencies and groups, and a host of professional chefs, area musicians and local businesses have joined to provide more than 4,000 meals in the past two years alone.

In addition to the hundreds served at St. Patrick School, meals are delivered throughout town via the volunteer team. Mecklenburg Area School System buses provide transportation to those who need it.

Because the dinner is funded, prepared and served entirely through the stewardship of the project's volunteers and supporters, financial contributions help ensure this Charlotte tradition will continue. Gifts for the needy are purchased with remaining funds, and leftover food is given to local shelters.

So, if you or someone you know is looking to share in the joy and fellowship and tradition of the season in a special way, come by St. Patrick School Dec. 25. For more information on attending or receiving the dinner, or to make a financial contribution to the project, call St. Patrick's parish office at (704) 334-2283.

Annual Martin Luther King Celebration Set for Jan. 17

CHARLOTTE — Participants will take part in something new when the African-American Affairs Ministry hosts its 13th annual Martin Luther King Celebration on Jan. 17 at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

"In the past, we have had more of a workshop format with our presenters," explained Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice-chancellor and vicar for African-American Affairs Ministry. "This year, we will have three guest speakers and hope to have the feel of a community gathering."

Speakers will include U.S. Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C.; Bishop Smith Turner of the AME Church; and Phyllis Lynch, a long-time advocate of minorities and the disabled. Each will talk about the impact Dr. King's life and philosophy have had on their generation and in their profession.

The program begins at 9:30 a.m. and includes a meal, singing, and time for reflection. It concludes with a Mass at 3 p.m.

"We want to create more of a retreat atmosphere," Rev. Mr. Todd noted.

Registration fee is $10 for adults, and $5 for children under 12. The cost for a family of three or more is $15.

To register, fill out and return the accompanying form on this page. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Todd, (704) 370-3339.

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For Retreat Registration and / or Information Contact:
African Affairs Ministry / Diocese of Charlotte
P.O. Box 36776 , Charlotte, NC 28236 (704) 370-3339
Or mail complete forms with appropriate fees
to address above by Jan 9.

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Long Term Care
Insurance Seminar
January 9
10 AM & 7 PM

St. Paul the Apostle
2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro
For directions call St. Paul (910) 294-4696
For more information, contact:
Suzanne Bach (704) 370-3230 CRISM Coordinator

PLEASE KEEP
"CHRIST"
IN CHRISTMAS

Breakfield to Direct CSS Elder Services Program

CHARLOTTE — Jan. 1 is a day many senior citizens in the Diocese of Charlotte have looked forward to for some time. It will mark Sandra Breakfield's first day on the job as program director of elder social services.

The position, created as a result of recommendations made by Catholic Social Services' task force formed last January to assess the needs of those over age 60 in the diocese, will help develop and oversee social service outreach programs for elders in the diocese.

"We looked at transportation, healthcare and various other outreaches and developed the elder social services program to meet those needs," explained Gerry Carter, director of Family Life and Special Ministries for CSS. "The first (task force) recommendation we implemented was hiring Sandra as program director."

Breakfield, who was a member of the task force, is no stranger to the diocese. She has spent the last 11 1/2 years at CSS wearing various hats. She has worked in the foster care program, provided pregnancy support counseling and worked with prospective adoptive families. She will now spend the majority of her time overseeing the newly created elder social services program, and will also continue as coordinator of foster care services. The elder social services program will be a branch of CSS' Office of Special Ministries.

With recent census data showing approximately 20 percent of the Catholic population in the diocese — more than 20,000 parishioners — above the age of 60, Breakfield knows now is the time to begin addressing the elders issue as their population continues to grow.

"There is a great need to assist the elderly," she said. "They have voices, and we need to show them, as a diocese, we are willing to listen.

"The listening sessions held with elders throughout the diocese enabled the task force to better identify seniors' wants and needs," she added. "There are resources available to assist them, and we need to tap into them."

Elizabeth Thurbee, CSS executive director, agreed. "We recognize the needs of this population, and we want to begin to respond to those needs," she said.

Both Breakfield and Carter admit the first few months will be a learning process as the new program is put in place. "This is way too important for us to implement haphazardly," Carter said.

"It will be a time when I am getting educated myself," Breakfield added.

Breakfield also credited Carter and Suzanne Bach, elder pastoral care coordinator for the diocese, for working diligently to address the elders issue.

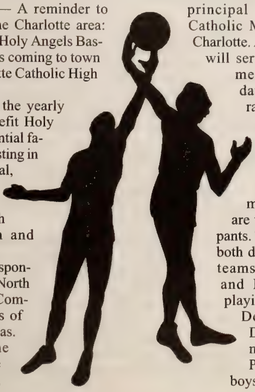
"They have been in the forefront advocating for elders. If not for them, this wouldn't be happening," she said.

Breakfield and her husband Kenny have two children: Derek, 7, and Jacob, 4. They reside in Gaston County.

Sandra Breakfield

Father Mark Lawlor, administrator of Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe, pictured holding placard, joins parishioners of Our Lady of the Americas and St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte at the end of a four-week outreach project sponsored by the Charlotte parish's Family Life Commission that brought 60 boxes of food and food gift certificates to the Biscoe mission. The cooperative project is the first of several planned between the two churches.

Holy Angels Tournament Set for Month's End



CHARLOTTE — A reminder to basketball fans in the Charlotte area: The Seventh Annual Holy Angels Basketball Tournament is coming to town Dec. 29-30 at Charlotte Catholic High School.

All proceeds of the yearly tournament will benefit Holy Angels, Inc., a residential facility in Belmont assisting in the educational, social, spiritual and medical needs of children and adults with mental retardation and physical disabilities.

Holy Angels is a sponsored ministry of the North Carolina Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

The idea for the tournament came from Jerry Healy, principal of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte. As in years past, he will serve as the tournament director. To date, the event has raised $6,000.

Boys and girls teams from CCHS, Providence Day, Sun Valley and Piedmont high schools are this year's participants. Tip-off is at 2 p.m. both days, with the girls teams from Piedmont and Providence Day playing the first game Dec. 29. Also on Dec. 29, the Piedmont boys play the Providence Day boys at 3:45 p.m., the Sun Valley girls play the CCHS girls at 5:30 p.m., and the Sun Valley boys play the CCHS boys at 7 p.m.

At half time of the 5:30 p.m. game Dec. 29, Holy Angels children will play in a wheelchair game.

Consolation and championship games are Dec. 30. That day, young adults living at Holy Angels will play in the "Great Adventure" game at half time of the 5:30 p.m. girls' championship game. Tournament awards will be presented at 8:30 p.m.

The CCHS Athletic Association will provide assistance with hospitality and a concession stand throughout the tournament.

Admission prices are $4 per day or $6 for two days for adults; $3 per day or $5 per day for two days for high school students; and $2 per day for middle school students.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence provide free tours of the historic church following every weekend Mass. Mass schedule is as follows: Saturday, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. Spanish Mass is Sunday at 7 p.m.

CCHS News

CHARLOTTE — The CCHS High School Alumni Association presents its annual Alumni Basketball Tournament and Christmas Party Dec. 27. Games begin at 8 a.m. at the school, with the championship game at 5:30 p.m. The party starts at 6 p.m. Call (704) 543-9118 for more information.

The CCHS Foundation Grand Prix Party and Auction is Jan. 24, 1998, in the school gymnasium and features a dinner buffet, music, and a live and silent auction. Tickets are $60 per person. Chances for the 1998 Grand Spree, a trip for two to London and Rome, are also on sale for $5 each or 6 for $25.

Proceeds from both fund-raisers benefit CCHS and can be purchased by calling (704) 543-9118.

Catholic Singles New Year's Party

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte hosts its annual New Year's Eve party Dec. 31 at the home of Marisa Belmonte. For more information on either event, call Marisa at (704) 541-8796.

Contemplative Prayer Group

CHARLOTTE — A prayer group open to all people regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation or HIV/AIDS status meets every second and fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m. in St. Peter Church. Gather at the rear entrance. For more information, call David Brown, (704) 535-3684, for more information.

Knights Bingo

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus of St. Ann Parish host Bingo Mondays at 7 p.m. in the activity center. Call the parish office, (704) 523-4641, for more information.

Christmas Cantata

CONCORD — The St. James Choir performs its annual Christmas Cantata, conducted and accompanied by Malek Jandali, Dec. 21 in the St. James Parish Center at 7:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Journey for Youth

GASTONIA — Journey is an experience of church and Christ in the warm context of a Christian community. The weekend retreat, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, is for youth in grades 10-12. It is peer ministered, involving a team of young people and adults who present talks, lead discussions, and plan prayer experiences and interaction with other participants.

The next Journey is scheduled for Feb. 27-March 1, 1998, at St. Michael Church. The cost is $47, which includes lodging, food, supplies and program expenses. A non-refundable deposit of $20 is required with each application, and deadline is two weeks before the retreat weekend. Each retreat is limited to the first 37 applicants.

For more information, call Carolyn Bergman, (704) 865-5537, or Chrissy Glisson, (704) 853-3620.

Epiphany Party

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church hosts an Epiphany Party Jan. 3 after the 6 p.m. Mass. The event will celebrate the ethnic diversity of the parish with a covered dish dinner featuring foods from various countires. To share ideas or help organize the event, call Ann Marie Bullock, (910) 884-5212.

Catholic Daughters of America

LENOIR — The Catholic Daughters of America group at St. Francis of Assisi Church is eager to welcome new members. For details, call Gail Stewart, (704) 726-0701.

Post-New Year's Dance

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Parish hosts a post-New Year's Eve dance Jan. 10 from 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m., with music by the Scott Adair Band. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. Tickets are $15 per person and are available by calling Melissa Anetrella, (910) 288-3528.

Married Couples Social Group

GREENSBORO — The Young Married Couples Social Group of Our Lady of Grace Church meets Jan. 18 after the 10 a.m. Mass for an information session in the cafeteria. For details, call Dan and Mary Kate Farley, (910) 854-3635, or Rich and Tracey Campbell, (910) 273-9256.

OLM School Receives Grant

WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School has received a $1,000 Community Involvement Plan grant from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. This grant will be used to help resurface the gymnasium floor.

The plan provides financial support for selected projects in organizations where RJR Employees volunteer or serve in other ways. Paul S. Chapman, Barry G. Lynch, Kathleen R. McKinney and Deborah H. Pence of RJR recommended the grant. These RJR employees volunteer in various ways at Our Lady of Mercy.

Under the RJR plan, non-profit organizations can receive up to $250 per year from one employee's recommendation, and up to $1,000 annually on behalf of all employees requests.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Four Belmont Abbey College special education majors recently received scholarships from the Knights of Columbus. Pictured from left are senior Jennifer Lancaster; junior Andrea Easler; Richard Grebner, past state deputy for the Knights; senior Brooke Hager and junior Karlee Barrington.

Around The Diocese

Advent Programs

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte is featured on the Eternal Word Television Network in a series on spirituality and prayer during the Sundays of Advent. Taped at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the sessions offer ways to spiritually prepare for Christmas.

The remaining session airs Dec. 21 at 3 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7 p.m. eastern time.

EWTN is the largest religious cable network transmitting Catholic programming 24 hours a day to more than 55 million homes in 38 countries and territories on approximately 1,500 cable systems.

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church hosts an Advent service featuring Advent-related Scripture and music Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. Refreshments follow. For more information, call the parish office, (704) 664-3992.

NORTH WILKESBORO — St. John the Baptist de la Salle Church concludes an Advent program from 10-11 a.m. Dec. 21. The final segment of the movie "Jesus of Nazareth" will be shown and discussed with the use of a Biblical study guide. Refreshments will be served.

Basketball Tournaments

CHARLOTTE — The Seventh Annual Holy Angels Basketball Tournament is Dec. 29 and 30 at Charlotte Catholic High School and pits boys and girls teams from CCHS against teams from Providence Day, Sun Valley and Piedmont high schools.

Games begin at 2 p.m. both days. Ticket prices are $4 per day or $6 for both days for adults; $3 per day or $5 for both days for high school students; and $2 per day for middle and elementary school students.

All proceeds benefit Holy Angels, Inc., a residential center in Belmont sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy providing services and programs for children and adults with mental retardation and other disabilities.

Also in Charlotte, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School hosts an eighth-grade basketball tournament Dec. 19 and 20 to benefit Room at the Inn, an outreach to young, single mothers and their children. For details, call (704) 527-7822.

Advent Reconciliation Services

CHARLOTTE — The following Charlotte parishes host Advent penance services in the upcoming weeks:

- St. Ann Church, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. Call (704) 523-4641 for more information.
- St. Luke Church, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.. For more information, call (704) 545-1224.
- St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. Call (704) 549-1607 for more information.

HIGH POINT — An Advent reconciliation service is at Christ the King Church Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (910) 884-0244.

To find out about other penance services in your area, call your parish office.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo from Reuters

School children in Havana pass a poster showing Cuban President Fidel Castro greeting Pope John Paul II at the Vatican last year. Posters announcing the January visit of the pope were showing up in public places in communist-ruled Cuba in mid-December. This one was being sold for $4.

Archdiocese Postpones Plan To Recruit Foreign Priests

CHICAGO (CNS) — Before aggressively recruiting more foreign priests and seminarians, the Archdiocese of Chicago plans to help those already here to better adjust to parish life in America. In response to concerns from the consultative Presbyteral Council and others, the archdiocese has decided to slow down the implementation of a foreign recruitment plan that was to begin Jan. 1. "We need to be more supportive of foreign priests going through the process of inculturation before aggressively recruiting new people," said Father Jeremiah Boland, chair of the archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, which discussed the issue at a November meeting.

Pro-Life Official Sees Hope In Declining Number of Abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An official of the National Right to Life Committee hailed recently announced abortion statistics as "very encouraging" and said her group would "continue working to educate Americans about the tragedy of abortion." Laura Echevarria, director of media relations for the NRLC, said, "Obviously the more the American people learn about the humanity of the unborn child and the violence of abortion, the more they reject abortion." She was commenting on statistics released Dec. 4 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta indicating a decline in the number of induced abortions performed in the United States during 1995. According to a preliminary analysis of the data for 1995, the CDC said, there were a total of 1,210,883 legal induced abortions in 1995, a decrease of 4.5 percent from the number reported in 1994.

More People Seeking Emergency Food Help, Agencies Say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite the healthy national economy, 2 million more people asked for help from Catholic Charities agencies in 1996. Nearly half the 12.8 million people receiving help from the 1,400 agencies in the Catholic Charities network came for food, reported Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, president of Catholic Charities USA Dec. 10. "We are especially startled that hunger continues at an alarming rate despite a growing economy, low unemployment and even before the full effects of welfare reform have kicked in," said Father Kammer, reporting at a press conference on the latest annual survey of the U.S. church's domestic social services agencies. Many of the effects of the 1996 welfare law will not be reflected until next year's report.

Bishops' Web Site Offers Answers to Questions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Did you ever wonder whether oil lamps can be used in parts of the liturgy that call for candles? Are you looking for the full text of the U.S. bishops' guidelines on political responsibility? Need the USCC classifications of some recent films before you head out to the movies with the kids? With the inauguration of the U.S. Catholic bishops' official Web site at www.nccbuscc.org, answers to those questions and many more are readily available on the Internet. "As new 'netizens,' the bishops are eager to explore the incredible potential the Internet holds as a means of evangelization," said Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Costello of Syracuse, N.Y., who in November ended a three-year term as chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference Communications Committee.

Castro Reinstates Christmas

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Forty days before Pope John Paul II was to visit Cuba, President Fidel Castro cleared the way for the first legal Christmas celebrations in his country in nearly three decades. At the final session for the year of the Cuban National Assembly Dec. 13, Castro announced he would make an "exception" and reinstate the holiday. Pope John Paul had personally requested this step of the Cuban leader during Castro's November 1996 visit to the Vatican. In a statement, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls expressed "satisfaction and recognition for this decision, much desired by the people and the church of Cuba." Castro explained in his speech that he had ruled out Christmas observations 28 years ago because they interfered with economic activities such as the harvesting of sugar cane.

Transportation, Media Access Concerns for Pope's Cuba Visit

HAVANA (CNS) — Transportation to papal Masses and in-country television broadcasts of the events were among church officials' concerns in the months before the visit of Pope John Paul II. Cuban bishops said they were uncertain about the extent to which transportation and media coverage would be provided during the pope's Jan. 21-25 stay in Cuba. Auxiliary Bishop Carlos Baladron Valdes of Havana, head of the church commission preparing for the papal visit, said the church is looking for ways to transport people from dioceses surrounding the four cities the pope will visit: Havana, Santa Clara, Camaguey and Santiago de Cuba. Bishop Baladron said 300,000 people are expected to travel to the final Mass Jan. 25 in Havana from the two nearest dioceses of Pinar del Rio and Matanzas.

After Pope's Plea, Colombian Bishop, Politicians Released

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Colombian bishop kidnapped in late November was released after being held 15 days. Bishop Jose de Jesus Quintero Diaz of the territorial prelature of Tibu was reportedly unharmed when he returned home Dec. 9. Pope John Paul II had made an appeal to the captors for his release. Two local politicians who had been kidnapped in the days after the bishop was taken were freed along with him. Bishop Quintero, 48, was abducted from his office Nov. 24 by the National Liberation Army.

U.S.-Born Jesuit Known for Social Work Murdered in Nepal

ROME (CNS) — A U.S.-born Jesuit priest died in his residence in Kathmandu, Nepal, when at least one intruder slit his throat. Father Thomas Edward Gafney, 65, was known to many Nepalese as "the father of social work" and the "Nightingale of Nepal" for his work at social service centers for orphans, the ill, the disabled and drug addicts. On Dec. 14, the Jesuits' headquarters in Rome reported that that morning, the priest had been discovered dead in a pool of blood in his sleeping quarters, with his throat cut by a knife that was later found in a nearby room.

Group Wants Guardians to Make Assisted-Suicide Choices

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Right to Life Committee has rejected an argument by euthanasia advocates that guardians of incompetent patients should be able to authorize assisted-suicide for that person. "The very euthanasia advocates who scoffed at warnings about the slippery slope are now providing direct evidence of it," said Burke Balch, director of medical ethics for the National Right to Life Committee in a Dec. 9 statement. The push to grant assisted suicide authorization to guardians came during the trial of David Rodriguez of Louisiana, who was convicted Dec. 5 of second-degree murder for the shooting of his 90-year-old father. Rodriguez, who was sentenced to life in prison, claimed his action was out of sympathy, because his father suffered from severe arthritis and Alzheimer's disease.

Catholic Charities Agencies Offer More Health Services

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The number of people coming to Catholic Charities agencies for health care services more than tripled from 1995 to 1996. An annual survey released Dec. 10 also showed an increase of 2 million people who sought help from the church's network of 1,400 social service agencies in 1996. Of the 12.8 million people receiving help in 1996, 5.6 million came for meals at soup kitchens, staples from food banks and other food services. One of the most dramatic increases in services noted in the report was the number of people receiving some kind of health care assistance, rising from 439,000 in 1995 to 1.45 million in 1996. Much of that change is attributable to expanded participation by Catholic Charities agencies in managed care programs, the report says. Of the 63 dioceses with managed care contracts, 57 were for mental health programs.

Mary Subject of Portuguese Exhibit at New Jersey Museum

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) — Portuguese art on the theme of Mary is the subject of a special exhibition called "Crowning Glory" at the Newark Museum. Organizers said it was one of the first times any museum had presented a full exhibit on this special theme, a primary emphasis of the Portuguese artistic tradition. It includes 76 works of art — paintings, sculpture, woodcarving, ivory and textiles. Some of them reflect areas touched by Portuguese colonial expansion — Brazil, Africa and parts of Asia. Msgr. William N. Field, a museum trustee who serves on the library staff at Seton Hall University, told Catholic News Service that the museum's Portuguese exhibit, which opened Nov. 26, was its first with a theme specifically related to Catholicism.

No Charges for Doctor Who Gave Oregon Patient Lethal Injection

CORVALLIS, Ore. (CNS) — A spokesman for the U.S. Catholic bishops called it "frightening" that prosecutors in Oregon decided not to file charges against a doctor who approved a lethal injection for an unconscious patient. Lane County District Attorney Doug Harcleroad, while calling the March 1996 case of euthanasia "a mistake," nevertheless said that it would be "an injustice" to incarcerate Dr. James Gallant. An internist practicing in Corvallis, Gallant prescribed an injection of a strong muscle relaxant for a 78-year-old woman who had suffered a burst blood vessel in the brain. The injection was intended to stop the woman's breathing. "It is frightening that in Oregon today, a dying patient who tells a doctor, 'Please don't let me suffer,' will be taken as asking for a lethal injection — and those who kill the patient can expect courts and prosecutors to look the other way," said Richard Doerflinger of the U.S. Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Parish Profile

Prince of Peace Church

Prince of Peace Church
Rt. 129
Robbinsville, N.C. 28771
(704) 321-4463

Vicariate: Smoky Mountain

Pastor: Glenmary Father James J. Wilmes

Mass Schedule: Saturday — 5 p.m.

Number of households: 30 year-round

ROBBINSVILLE — Following the mid-1950s arrival of the Glenmary Home Missioners in western North Carolina, an ecumenical and missionary spirit began to flow from one small mountain town to another. One such place is Robbinsville, where shortly after the Glenmarys began their ministry a small Catholic community began to grow.

The priests, based at St. William Church in Murphy, traveled throughout the westernmost areas of North Carolina and by 1957 established mission stations in Texana, Andrews, Tusquitte and Robbinsville.

The Catholic community in Robbinsville comprised just one family in those early years, with several more living near Fontana Dam to the north. In 1958, Glenmary Father James J. Wilmes, assistant pastor, began leading Bible classes in Robbinsville and made plans to open a chapel there. With money sent from the assistant pastor's family, who set up a mission club, the few Catholics in the area began gathering in a small storefront chapel for the classes and liturgies.

Catholicism was still largely misunderstood by the majority of the locals in those days, and the Glenmarys did their best to become part of the community and disseminate the truths of the faith. Part of the Robbinsville chapel was outfitted as a clothing center for the poor, and Catholic Bibles were given to anybody asking for one.

Revival tent meetings and novena services were held in Robbinsville, furthering the Glenmarys' missionary zeal.

By 1966, the building that housed the chapel had become so dilapidated that it had to be destroyed. Masses discontinued until 1972, when in March of that year a Baptist congregation allowed the Catholic mission to celebrate liturgy on Saturday evenings in their sanctuary.

Masses were celebrated at the Baptist church for a brief time, and in 1973 a Methodist church began serving as the mission's home. Those Saturday vigil Masses continued for 15 years, until the mission could build its own chapel again.

Meanwhile, the Glenmarys continued their ministry at other mission stations. At the western end of Fontana Lake, for instance, Fontana Village had been created as a construction community in 1942. After Fontana Dam was built, however, that village formerly known as Welsh Cove became a resort town. The small Catholic community there was joined by summer crowds, Catholics among them, whom the Glenmarys served at the chapel called Our Lady of the Lake from 1955 until decades later.

Back in Robbinsville, acceptance and understanding the Catholic faith by the local population was gradual, but in 1987 members of the Legion of Mary visited Holy Redeemer Parish in Andrews — which by then was the mother church of the mission in Robbinsville — to educate and evangelize. Some 700 homes were visited by the legion members, who left brief summaries of Catholic beliefs for interested citizens and inactive Catholics.

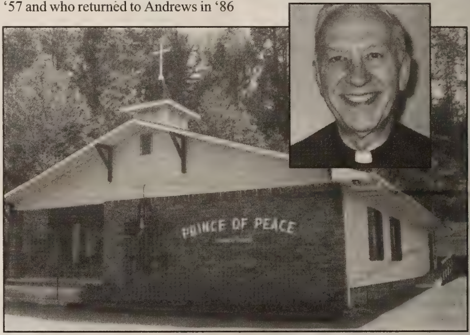
The project received such a positive response that the Legion of Mary returned to Robbinsville the following year, visiting hundreds more homes.

With the Catholic community in Robbinsville still without a church, Father Wilmes — that original assistant pastor who helped set up the mission in '57 and who returned to Andrews in '86 — set out to find property on which to build. He found it along Highway 129, and on it he found a suitable building. In October 1988, Robbinsville had its new Catholic church.

Another building on the property was later adapted for use as a parish hall.

The church was named Prince of Peace and has served the needs of Robbinsville Catholics ever since. In addition to the Andrews parish, Father Wilmes ministers to the 30 year-round households worshipping at Prince of Peace Church, who are joined by dozens more Catholics during the summer months.

Parishioners actively assist in church and community services and groups, including ecumenical food projects, the local nursing home, civic clubs and the chamber of commerce.



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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 7 Number 17 • January 2, 1998

Synods, Trips and a Consistory: John Paul II Presses Ahead to 1998

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If Pope John Paul II wrote down his New Year's resolutions, they might look something like:

1. Make pastoral visits to Catholics on at least three continents.
2. Preside over regional synods for two other continents.
3. Keep a cane nearby if needed for walking or for use as a comic prop when children are present.
4. Name at least 16 new cardinals.
5. Spend at least 15 minutes alone with the head of each U.S. diocese.
6. Remember to order calendars with more space for writing down appointments.

Although his health had obvious ups and downs during 1997, the 77-year-old pope has shown firm resolve to press ahead. His speeches are noticeably shorter than they were two years ago, and his midday breaks on foreign trips are longer, but very few fixed appointments are canceled.

However, as the pace of synods and other meetings picks up in preparation for the jubilee year, some appointments get pushed back a bit. While 1998 would be the normal time for each Canadian bishop — like his U.S. counterpart — to make an "ad limina" visit to Rome, as the old year ended it appeared the Canadians' tete-a-tete with the pope would have to wait until 1999.

Vatican officials insist the problem is the pope's schedule and not his stamina, but observers continue to worry about the pope's health.

As he did the year before, Pope John Paul took six trips outside of Italy in 1997, logging more than 20,000 miles.

Journalists saw a pope who appeared tired and sluggish during much of the World Youth Day celebrations in Paris, but the pope was animated as he handled a packed schedule during an October trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Vatican and local officials are putting the final touches on three trips for the first half of 1998: Cuba in January, Nigeria in March and Austria in June.

Officials are also busy at the general secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.

After personally attending the working sessions of the monthlong Synod of Bishops for America Nov. 16-Dec. 12, the pope is already looking ahead to the opening of the Synod of Bishops for Asia in April and the Synod of Bishops for Oceania — Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific — in the fall.

Pope John Paul has two anniversaries to celebrate in the autumn of 1998: On Sept. 28 he will mark 40 years as a bishop and on Oct. 16 he will mark 20 years as pontiff.

With his eyes fixed on the celebration of the Holy Year 2000, Pope John Paul started a series of weekly general audience talks about the jubilee and how the meaning of time changed once Christ entered the world, giving humanity the opportunity of eternal life.

According to the Pontifical Household, which arranges papal audiences, Pope John Paul met visitors to the Vatican on 45 Wednesdays during 1997 — skipping the appointment only when he was out of town and on Christmas Eve. The Vatican said 550,000 people attended the general audiences.

Almost as many people — 462,000 according to the official report — attended one of numerous liturgies celebrated by the pope in the Vatican.

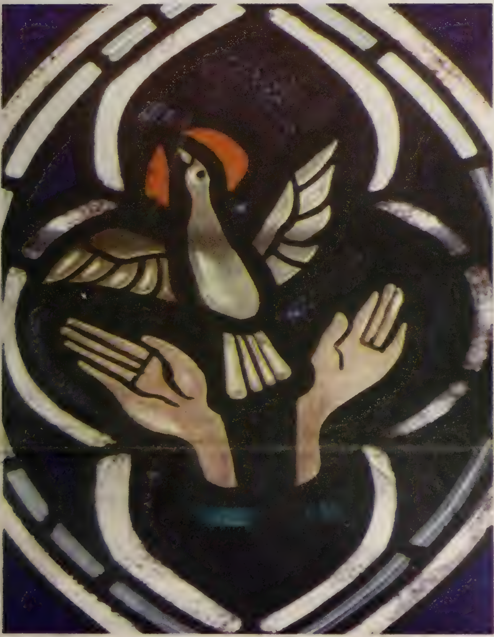
The grand total of nearly 1.2 million people present at an audience or liturgy does not include the millions of people Pope John Paul greeted in his trips abroad, nor the thousands he met in the more intimate setting of his Sunday visits to parishes in the Diocese of Rome.

Sometime in 1998 — most bets are on late February or late June — Pope John Paul is expected to name at least 16 new cardinals.

The College of Cardinals, which meets occasionally to advise the pope and which is responsible for electing a new pope, can have as many as 120 members under the age of 80.

Pope John Paul does not have to keep the membership up to the limit, but he generally fills the ranks every three or four years. The last round of nominations was in 1994. One clue that a consistory, or formal meeting of the College of Cardinals, may be near is the fact that three Vatican congregations are headed by archbishops with the temporary title of "pro-prefect," awaiting the conferral of red hats.

As of Dec. 23, the college had 107 members under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a papal conclave. With three cardinals celebrating their 80th birthdays in January or early February, the pope would have 16 places to fill.



CNS photo by Crosiers

SPIRIT 1998 — A dove representing the Holy Spirit is depicted in this stained-glass image. To prepare for the new millennium, Pope John Paul II called on the church to reflect on Holy Spirit and the virtue of hope in 1998.

Life-Ending Issues Still Center Stage at Year's End

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Assisted suicide — a major U.S. issue throughout 1997 — and euthanasia kept life-ending issues center stage as 1997 came to a close.

In Oregon, which in 1994 became the world's first jurisdiction to legalize physician-assisted suicide, a new study said poor and ill Oregonians are more likely to consider suicide, while a new survey found that a 1997 effort to repeal the '94 law was doomed simply because it was a repeal.

Also in Oregon, local prosecutors decided not to file charges against a doctor who approved a lethal injection for an unconscious patient in 1996, when the assisted suicide law was still blocked by court appeals.

And in a new Gallup Poll, two-thirds of Americans said they would support making physician-assisted suicide legal under at least a few circumstances.

However, in a Rome speech to an Italian group involved in the fight against cancer, Pope John Paul II decried the view that euthanasia should be used as a means to avoid pain.

"In every case (of illness), interventions which are inadequate to the real situation or disproportionate to the medical results must be avoided, as well as actions or omissions intended to procure death in order to eliminate pain," the pope said Dec. 13.

The pope addressed members of the Italian League for the Fight Against Tumors who were on a pilgrimage to the Vatican.

In the Oregon study, released by the

See **Issues**, page 8

Parishioners, Religious From Diocese Attend SOA Annual Memorial Service

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Convening in November were almost 2,000 people of all ages and from all walks of life. They came from distant locales — New Zealand and Nicaragua, Canada and Brazil, New York and Florida — but gathered with the dual purpose of honoring the dead and demanding the closing of the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga.

Among the participants were Diocese of Charlotte Catholics from Asheville, Yadkinville, Cherokee, Maggie Valley and other western North Carolina towns.

Four days of meetings, speeches, vigils, songs and prayers organized by School of the Americas Watch, a campaign founded by Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois several years ago, culminated Nov. 16 in Columbus, Ga. The gathering marked the anniversary of the Nov. 16, 1989, murder of six Jesuit priests, their cook and her 16-year-old daughter at a dormitory of the Jose Simeon Canas University of Central America in El Salvador.

The United Nations' Truth Commission cited 21 people for their involvement in the massacre. More than half are SOA graduates, including a lieutenant who was convicted of ordering the killing of Celina Ramos, the youngest victim. Although sentenced to 30 years in prison, the soldier spent 15 months behind bars before being freed under the terms of a blanket amnesty for those committing political crimes during the civil war raging at the time of the killings.

Established in Panama in 1946 as the Latin American Training Center — Ground Division, the School of the Americas is a bilingual military educational institution founded to promote stability primarily in Latin American countries. In 1984 it was relocated to Fort Benning east of Columbus, and was officially designated a U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command school.

Almost 60,000 people from Latin American countries and the U.S. have graduated from the institution.

Opponents have blamed the school for advancing violence, terrorism and human rights violations, particularly in Latin America. Several attempts have been made to legislate the school's closing, including a bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy, D-Mass., in February 1997.

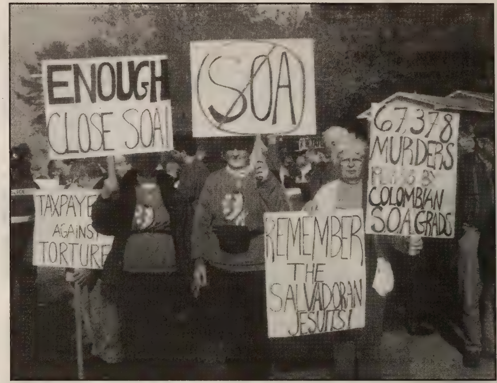
Especially in question are the actions of many of its graduates, who include nearly a dozen notorious dictators such as Manuel Noriega of Panama and Juan Velasco Alvarado of Peru.

School officials maintain that SOA teaches human rights as part of its curriculum and that the school has helped democracy grow in Latin America.

Among the others present at the annual gathering were members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Veterans for Peace; Pax Christi; Grandmothers for Peace; Witness for Peace; Catholic Worker communities; labor union leaders and members; college students; and clergy and religious of many denominations.

Speakers included members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Maryknollers and the U.S. Jesuit conference; an Episcopal minister; an AFL-CIO leader; and Major Joseph Blair, a former SOA instructor.

Some 600 of the group were arrested for trespassing as they marched in protest of the school and formed a symbolic funeral procession onto Fort Benning's grounds. Names of thousands allegedly killed by SOA graduates were read during the march, to which protesters responded "Presente" in recognition of the spirits and memory of the deceased.


ENOUGH
CLOSE SOA!
(SOA)
TAXPAYERS AGAINST TORTURE
REMEMBER THE SALVADORAN JESUITS!
67,378 MURDERS BY COLOMBIAN SOA GRADS

From left, Sisters Roberta McKinnon and Virginia Case, OSF, of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee and Sister Jane Schmenk, OSF, of Living Waters Reflection Center in Maggie Valley lend their support during the four-day School of the Americas Watch vigil in November. Some 600 of the school's protesters — the nuns not among them — were arrested during the event.

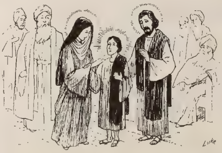
Those who were arrested were held for several hours and released with an order not to return to the base for a year.

The marchers voiced hope that legislation to close the school will be passed. Many, while remembering what they called the horrors that have occurred, also commented on a sense of unity and optimism.

"At the beginning of the weekend, our recollections of the victims of the brutality of SOA graduates in Latin America ... filled us with sadness, outrage and anxiety," said Ann Trigg, a parishioner of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, who was among the marchers. "By the end of the weekend, however, the dedication, spiritual strength, and goodness of the organizers of the demonstration had had a powerful impact. Not only had they been an inspiration to us, but a comfort as well."

Contributing to this story was Jimmy Rostar, staff writer of The Catholic News & Herald. For more information on the School of the Americas on the Internet, visit SOA Watch's Web site at <<http://www.soaw.org/>>, *the School of the Americas' site at* <<http://home.fia.net/~soa/>>, *or the Columbia (Ga.) Ledger-Inquirer's site at* <<http://www.l-e-o.com/news/soaindex.htm>>.

Jesus is Found



After searching three days, Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"
(Luke 2:46-49)

Saints & Scripture

© 1997 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of January 4 - 10, 1998

Sunday
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Monday
1 John 3:22-4:6
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday
1 John 4:7-10
Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday
1 John 4:11-18
Mark 6: 45-52

Thursday
1 John 4:19-5:4
Luke 4:14-22a

Friday
1 John 5:5-13
Luke 5:12-16

Saturday
1 John 5:14-21
John 3:22-30

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The Thrill Ain't Gone: B.B. King Gives Guitar to Pope

By LYNNE WEIL

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — None of B.B. King's hits begins with, "Woke up this mornin', gave my guitar to the pope."

But after his first visit to the Vatican, the 72-year-old blues legend just could come up with a lyric like that.

He may still sing "The Thrill is Gone," but King seemed pretty thrilled when he spoke to journalists shortly before performing in the Dec. 19 Vatican Christmas concert.

"I'm so excited, I'm a little at a loss for words," he said. "My guitar usually does the talking for me."

In eloquent testimony to his esteem for Pope John Paul II, King gave the pontiff his guitar, famously named Lucille. He once made a similar gesture to U.S. President George Bush at the White House.

King was one of 11 soloists and small groups performing alongside three choirs, a Scottish pipe band and an orchestra in the annual program, which was launched in 1993. As in years past, the event was meant to raise funds for building 50 new churches in Rome before the year 2000.

Its organizers said eight of the churches had been completed, while another 23 were either under construction or on the verge of it.

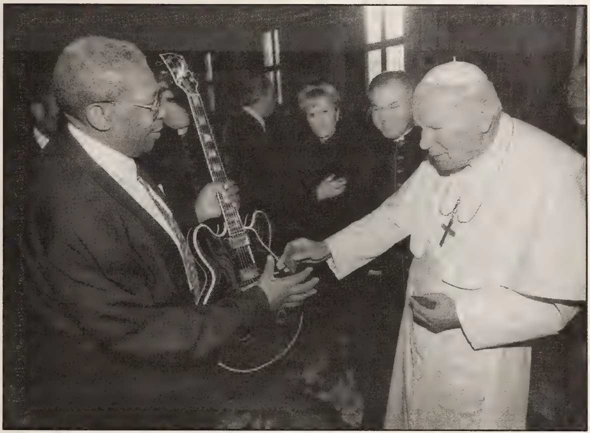
Among the performers in past concerts were Dionne Warwick, Gloria Gaynor, Jose Feliciano and the late John Denver. This year's list included Chaka Khan and the Virginia State Gospel Choir, plus well-known artists from such diverse places as Portugal, Ireland, Chile and Monaco.

Monaco's Prince Ranier and his children, Albert and Caroline, reserved seats for the event.

Performers got to meet the pope in a private audience Dec. 18. He wished them "satisfaction and joy in this show, as in every other artistic and cultural endeavor."

For those who could not attend the concert, it was to be broadcast nationally on Italian TV and radio Christmas Eve.

In addition, recordings from the program were destined to be packaged and sold in music shops, as has been the case with selections from past concerts.



CNS photo from Reuters

KING WITH POPE — Blues legend B.B. King gives his beloved electric guitar Lucille to Pope John Paul II during their meeting at the Vatican Dec. 18. The pope gave King a small cross as a gift from the Vatican.

French chanteuse Mireille Mathieu, who was to perform two seasonal songs in French and in Italian, revealed that she was doubly delighted to take part: She could help raise the funds for new churches in Rome and sing before her mother in the Vatican.

"I am one of 14 children in our family," she added. "So this is a special present from me to her."

Bulgarian-born singer Raina Kabaivanska, now living in northern Italy, said she was honored to meet Pope John Paul.

"He has placed his mark on this century," she said. "He is a person who has moved history and contributed much to the fall of communism."

Despite his reticence to speak, B.B. King was coaxed into relating the story of how his guitar got its name. He told of how, in the winter of 1949, he was playing in an Arkansas club when two men got into a fist fight, knocking over a barrel of kerosene being used to heat the single room.

"It looked like a river of fire," he recalled.

In the rush to escape the crumbling wooden building, King ran off without his guitar. Realizing his mistake, he dashed back in among the flames and saved the instrument.

Later, he learned the men were scuffling over "a little lady ... called Lucille." He gave the name to his guitar to remind himself that he'd risked his neck for it.

Pressed by a reporter, King admitted that he owned 16 Lucilles. However, he said, he hoped the pope would "enjoy this guitar as much as I have."

King was to hit the stage about halfway through the show. His debut number from the hall where Pope John Paul holds his weekly general audience: "Merry Christmas, Baby."

That's a long way from having your act spoiled by a fight in a one-room firetrap in Arkansas.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Pro-Life Corner

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John Paul II, Oct. 4
Address in Rio de Janeiro

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 3
Mass and Reception
Knights and Dames of Malta
Charlotte

January 4 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

6 p.m.
Reception for Priests of Diocese
Charlotte

January 5-9
Region IV Bishops Annual Retreat

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Jesus' Life Shed Light on Meaning of History, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Dec. 17.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the jubilee, we reflect today on the incarnate life of the Son of God, which is the essential point of reference for our faith. The people living at the time of Jesus had the privilege of hearing and seeing him, but many did not recognize him as the Savior. Jesus helped his disciples to understand that in seeing him they saw the Father. Their witness is the basis of our faith, whereby we come into contact with the mystery of Christ's person.

The Gospel presents the earthly life of Jesus as a marriage of love between God and humanity. Although the wedding feast is essentially a time of joy, Jesus warns his disciples that the bridegroom will be taken from them. Already, before his entry into Jerusalem, Jesus had foretold that his life would be a redeeming sacrifice. Because of the sins of humanity the wedding feast is linked to the drama of the cross, in which Jesus enters into conflict with the power of evil. The time of earthly life of Jesus is the time of the paschal mystery of death and resurrection, from which the salvation of the human family flows.

I extend a special welcome to the young people from Sweden and to the Brighton School Choir from Adelaide in Australia. I greet the participants in the International Christian Conference on Praise and Worship. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors I cordially invoke the blessings of Almighty God. To all of you, a Happy Christmas!

Pope Declares Padre Pio Venerable, Advances Others

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II officially recognized the "heroic virtues" of Padre Pio da Pietrelcina, proclaiming him venerable.

The cause for the beatification of Padre Pio, a popular but controversial Italian Capuchin confessor, was one of 15 that took a step forward Dec. 18 with the promulgation of papal decrees.

Among the decrees was also a recognition of the heroic virtues of Sister Delia Tetrault, the Canadian founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

Padre Pio, who was born in 1887 and died in 1968, had been investigated several times during his lifetime by the Vatican for alleged immorality and financial irregularity.

But hundreds of people continued flocking to him, asking for his prayers and confessing their sins. Padre Pio allegedly had supernatural powers and bore the stigmata, the marks of Christ's crucifixion.

The proclamation that he lived a holy life worthy of imitation means that the only remaining hurdle to his beatification is the Vatican recognition of a miracle attributed to his intercession.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

My Lucky Day

At this time of year I enjoy looking back over the past 12 months and reflecting on events that really stood out — like July 1, the day my 15th grandchild was born, little John Peter, or the week in October when my two grandchildren from Colorado came to visit.

It occurred to me that a standout day was Dec. 18, the luckiest, most blessed day I could have had. That was the day a woman driving a van out of control ripped the side off a vehicle behind me and then, like a boomerang, crashed into the rear of my car, turning half of it into an accordion.

I was on a two-lane road on my way to the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Conn., a Benedictine monastery I frequently visit. This was to be an extra special visit, for I was bringing some Christmas gifts.

After the driver hit me she came to a stop about 50 feet ahead of me. She immediately got out of her van with, sad to see, two small children. I wanted to get out of my car right away to see if they needed help, since I am trained in CPR. But I couldn't open my door.

I tried the passenger door. That, too, wouldn't open, nor would the back doors. It suddenly occurred to me that I was mobile, that in spite of a terrific impact, I was not hurt. The seat belt, and probably my guardian angel, kept me from going through the windshield. I was thanking God over and over, but I was worried about the children, and I wanted to get out of my car.

There was only one way out, and that was through the window. Fortunately, no one was around with a camera. I would hate to see what I looked like as I eased my way out the window, feet first. I touched ground and ran to the woman and children. They were not physically hurt, thank God, though the woman was almost incoherent from the shock of the accident.

I then spoke with the woman driving the other vehicle. Fortunately, she was not hurt either and was a lovely, gentle person. She was able to call her husband, and when he arrived on the scene, he, too, was calm and caring. They offered to help me in any way they could. Well, as anyone ever involved in a motor vehicle accident knows, your day is messed up. I was towed to a garage, where they told me my '88 Honda Civic probably was totaled. I got a rental car, and many hours after the crash, I was back home.

That night I spoke with Mother Dolores Hart, my dearest friend at the abbey. I told her that after I climbed out the window, the state police officer asked me if I could get back into my car to move it off the road. I said, "Sure," and climbed back in through the window. The car started up and somehow dragged itself off the road. I then climbed out the window again.

Suddenly, we started to laugh. We had both gotten a visual image of this. Mother Hart said I should write this up.

In that moment, I saw it all clearly — what it meant to have survived without injuries. This truly had been my lucky, blessed day.

Antoinette Bosco is a Catholic News Service columnist. Your comments are welcome.

Please address them to:
Antoinette Bosco
c/o Catholic News Service
Fourth St. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

Returning Home By Another Route

"Wise men still seek Him" was the bumper sticker on the Winnebago crawling through the gridlock of Manhattan's traffic this week. I murmured to myself, "So do wise women and children."

In the great drama of the Nativity, the Magi were the first people of different color and culture, the first non-Jews to take the stage. In fact, the great feast of the Epiphany (which comes from the Greek "to reveal") has long been associated with the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men. It is a celebration of *all* people who seek the face of God.

Do you have a Nativity scene that you sēt up each Christmas? In my home as a child, the Magi were the very last to be placed in the Christmas drama. I can still hear my brother and myself inventing voices and dialogue for these regal characters, robed in colorful capes and crowned with gold. By the time I was 12, these beloved figurines arrived by the Lionel train that circled the créche at the base of the tree. But even this industrial achievement couldn't alter the basic script we had created through the years.

The only unchipped figurine was the old king with a flowing white beard whom we made move tentatively as he neared the stable. The middle-aged Magi, nicked from crown to sandal, was clearly our most popular "toy," for he stood erect and could be made to sit atop one of the camels. I still remember putting the black wise man on the cotton matting that served as the snowy foreground. His clear eyes seemed to take in the entire scene.

Their names are legendary — Kasper, Melchior and Balthazar. But I preferred the descriptions and titles that Sister Norberta, my seventh grade teacher at St. Joe's in Erie, Penn., gave us.

She said one Magi represented the Scientist, the second, the Statesman, and the last, the Philosopher. Sister explained that in every age there are wise women and men whose search for God is unending. They study the wisdom of those who have gone before them as well as their peers. They examine their own reason and test their own faith. And they learn that each discovery they make along the way offers a surprise.

To the Scientist who labors to understand nature's mysteries, God reveals his presence in the healing power of medicine, the wonders of the universe and the human touch.

To the Statesman who refuses to be cynical in the face of corruption or to give up before injustice, God reveals that striving for what is right is itself an act of faith.

To the Philosopher who concludes that God can never be fully known, God reveals that all knowledge, all wisdom is God's presence in the mind.

In time I began to understand the story of the Magi as an allegory of God's plan for salvation. Or to put it in terms of today's issues, our very desire for healing, justice and knowledge brings us face to face with God as the child with AIDS, the prisoner without hope, the dropout without an education or a future.

By the light of such revelations, the darkness of ignorance is scattered. The greatest surprise of the Epiphany comes at the story's end. The Magi are told by an angel to "return home by another route." My friend, every day you and I encounter the presence of God, and we too are turned around and sent home by another route — the way of truth and life itself — the Way which is Christ.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Notes, "Saints: Past, Present and Future," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

When a Young Woman Wants to Be a Priest

Q. *I know Pope John Paul says women cannot be ordained. But my problem is I really think I have a vocation to be a priest and help people the way priests can.*

One of my teachers said I shouldn't feel that way since the pope says no, but I do. I want to do what God wants, and I pray about this a lot. But what should I do?

I am 14 years old. My mother suggested I write and ask for your help.

A. You deserve congratulations for reflecting and praying so much, and looking for God's will about what you will do with your life. You and your parents should be happy about that.

I would suggest at least two important facts for you to think about.

First, there is nothing at all wrong with your wanting to be a priest. Other great and holy women have had the same desire. Surely you have heard of St. Therese of Lisieux, one of the most popular and influential women of modern times. It is well known that she wanted desperately to be a priest. She could never understand why that was not allowed.

According to her sister Celine, the source of much of our knowledge about her, even as Therese was dying (at the age of 24) she told her sister, "If I could have been a priest I would have been ordained at the June ordination.''

As she spoke of the "wonders we shall see in heaven," Therese said, "I have a feeling that those who desired to be priests on earth will be able to share in the honor of the priesthood in heaven.''

St. Therese, incidentally, was never shy about protesting laws and policies she thought were wrong. She disagreed strongly, for example, with church regulations of that time severely restricting reception of holy Communion.

Some years after she died, when Pope Pius X greatly relaxed those regulations and encouraged frequent and even daily Communion, he acknowledged St. Therese as the one who inspired and enlightened him to do so.

Second, it is important in our spiritual lives to remember that sometimes we may have strong desires, for really good and holy things, that for whatever reason are impossible to fulfill.

In those situations we simply have to bypass that desire, accept in love the hurt that results and go about our work of becoming a saint in other ways. There is nothing weak or second-rate in acting this way. We do what we can to change what we believe needs changing, but we don't let these limitations make us bitter or keep us from being useful and happy. Again, St. Therese is a perfect example. She made clear more than once her disagreement with the various restrictions placed on women, but she didn't let that stop her.

She went on doing what she could do and became a saint who accomplished more good during her life and after her death than most of the rest of us dream of. Late this past year, on the 100th an-

See **Dietzen**, page 8

Letters

Destruction of Society Starts With The Family

Dear Editor,

I heard this on an audio tape recently, and I believe it to be true:

"To destroy a society it is necessary to undermine the basic unit of society, the family. The family can be destroyed by destroying its foundation: stable marriage. Marriage is destroyed by loosening its glue: sexual fidelity. Sexual fidelity is destroyed by the sexual revolution. The sexual revolution is propagated by the media which is now massively in the hands of Satan."

Look at the movies; look at television programs. Read the fiction; read the lead articles in magazines — especially those aimed at women and female teens. Look at the clothing; be aware of the slant in "news" articles in magazines. And then watch how people behave.

It's wartime.

Sincerely,
A.J. Mackie, Highlands

Continue Meatless Fridays as Voluntary Effort

Dear Editor,

I can understand the motives and intentions for meatless Fridays as good. I encourage such as long as it is voluntary.

It is an option for individuals now, but I ask, please, that the church not require it. Certainly not with the coercion of eternal punishment if not followed.

We do not need to return to fear as motivation to stand for God's way. Love with concern for life is the spiritual power that will join in the salvation of the world.

In the old days in many homes, it was the cook's penance. Everyone else ate what was put before them. Today, as then, there are many who have little or no meat to give up. I recommend making fasting and abstinence from meat a national movement, not a mandate. Let those who have regular meat and meals forego some to offer the poor a chance to have better meals.

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Wharton, Asheville

Bishop Follows in Christ's Footsteps

Dear Editor,

I understand Bishop Curlin received a letter recently condemning him for attending and supporting the Cornerstone symposium, the AIDS ministry of our diocese.

Wasn't Christ criticized for his association with "those people," the prostitutes, tax collectors and lepers?

That puts Bishop Curlin in good company, doesn't it?

Where do you fit into this picture?

Sincerely,
Bill Tennant, Asheville

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Dominican Sister Joins Staff

Parish Welcomes New Director of Liturgy

GREENSBORO — Adrian Dominican Sister Mary Ellen Plummer comes with the New Year to St. Paul the Apostle Parish as the director of liturgy, the Greensboro parish announced recently.

A native of Detroit, Sister Mary Ellen is the second oldest of seven children, with parents living in retirement in northwest Montana.

She arrives to Greensboro with wide experience in liturgy and education. After entering her congregation in 1963, elementary education was her assignment, followed by seven years working with high school students, teaching French, history and theology, and working with student volunteers.

Liturgy has always been her interest. Following master's level study at St. John University in Collegeville, Minn., including three months in Israel, Sister Mary Ellen served as co-director of the Office of Liturgy in the Diocese of Orlando, Fla., for nine years. Her primary focus was liturgical education.

Sister Mary Ellen is a doctoral candidate at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. For the past three years she has worked toward her Doctor of Ministry in Preaching degree. Formal graduation takes place in May 1998 when she lines up with the second graduating class ever to receive this degree from Aquinas, which offers the only Catholic D.Min. in Preaching degree in the United States.

Coming to St. Paul the Apostle will be a great experience, Sister Mary Ellen predicts. "If the hospitality and faith and beautiful liturgy I experienced on my November visit are clues," she said, "the months ahead will be a joy."

Annual Martin Luther King Celebration Set for Jan. 17

CHARLOTTE — Participants will take part in something new when the African-American Affairs Ministry's hosts its 13th annual Martin Luther King Celebration on Jan. 17 at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

"In the past, we have had more of a workshop format with our presenters," explained Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice-chancellor and vicar for African-American Affairs Ministry. "This year, we will have three guest speakers and hope to have the feel of a community gathering."

Speakers will include U.S. Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C.; Elder Smith Turner IV of the AME Zion Church; and Phyllis Lynch, a long-time advocate of minorities and the disabled. Each will talk about the impact Dr. King's life and philosophy has had on their generation and in their profession.

The program begins at 9:30 a.m. and includes a meal, singing, and time for reflection. It concludes with a Mass at 3 p.m.

"We want to create more of a retreat atmosphere," Rev. Mr. Todd noted.

Registration fee is $10 for adults, and $5 for children under 12. The cost for a family of three or more is $15.

To register, fill out and return the accompanying form on this page. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Todd, (704) 370-3339.

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P.O. Box 36776 , Charlotte, NC 28236 (704) 370-3339
Or mail complete forms with appropriate fees
to address above by Jan 9.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Bishop Welcomes Polish Delegation

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin recently celebrated a Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral for an eight-person delegation from Wroclaw, Poland, who visited Charlotte via the Charlotte Sister Cities Committee. The committee is a non-profit organization coordinating exchanges between citizens of Charlotte and seven international cities that share official relationships formed by their municipal goverments.

The visit was administered by Charlotte Sister Cities through the U.S. State Department in conjunction with the police departments of Charlotte and Wroclaw.

Pictured from left are Marcin Brzezinski, Wroclaw's deputy police chief; Bishop Curlin; Dennis Nowicki, Charlotte's police chief; and Bart Nowotarski, Wroclaw's deputy mayor.

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Entertainment

Kevin Costner stars in and directed the futuristic epic film "The Postman." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

CNS photo from Warner Bros.

"Mouse Hunt" Isn't Brainy But It Is Definitely Zany

NEW YORK (CNS) — A house auction will bring two brothers millions — provided they can first succeed in their desperate "Mouse Hunt" (DreamWorks).

Creaky old papa (William Hickey) has gone on to his heavenly reward (although his body accidentally catapulted from the casket to a city sewer hole), leaving his hard-luck sons only a decrepit string factory — and a crumbling old mansion they assume is worthless.

But it turns out to be neither worthless or unoccupied. Brothers Ernie (Nathan Lane) and Lars (Lee Evans) discover the architect was the fabled LaRue, making the property worth seven figures, if they can just rid it of a ruinous resident rodent.

But the mouse likes its house and uses speed and cunning to escape annihilation and turns snapping mousetraps back on the beleaguered brothers.

Frustrated (and injured) at every turn, and with the auction looming just days away, Ernie and Lars turn to the experts for help.

Enter Catzilla, the meanest mouse mangler ever to set paw on prey. Surely the mouse will find its new home inside the ferocious feline. Not exactly: exit Catzilla, its mouse-trapped tail between its legs.

Next, the lads hail Caesar (Christopher Walken), animal assassin and exterminator extraordinaire, psychologically and technologically equipped to wage war, not merely murder mice. Too brutal for details, let's just say Caesar surrenders.

Back at the string factory, the workers are revolting, the brothers are strung out and the ever-resourceful mouse manages a brief vacation to Cuba before returning just as the auction — and action — commences in earnest.

There is fun to be had watching this madcap comedy as mere humans just don't measure up to a three-inch high mouse. Actually, it is more like 60 specialty-trained mice, aided and abetted by computer-generated images and an animatronic mouse for the close-ups.

The chase scenes look convincing, even if the critter seems to have an unusually high IQ ensuring his survival. No wonder Ernie despairs, "He's Hitler with a tail!"

Debut director Gore Verbinski films it all in too episodic a fashion; the subplots of the factory strike, and that of Lars' conniving wife (Vicki Lewis) out to snare a sugar daddy while Lars becomes bedazzled by a blonde with stringy hair just don't blend smoothly into the narrative. The same can be said for the Catzilla and Caesar segments, which are choppily inserted.

That said, the frantic physical performances of Evans and especially Lane tie it together, stringing along the audience for maximum comic mayhem. Only towards the end does it go a bit over the top, but then ends on an endearing note on inter-species amity.

The visual design is also eye-catching and effective, from the Victorian string factory to the rickety residence where the mouse gradually manages to bring the house down.

It's hard not to sympathize with both the racing rodent and the butchering brothers, who at times rival Norman Bates on speed as they go about their murderous mission.

It isn't very brainy, but it is definitely zany and "Mouse Hunt" might make a killing at the box office.

Due to much slapstick violence, mild toilet humor and fleeting sexual innuendo, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

MOVIE REVIEW LINE
1-800 311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Air Bud" (1997)

Thin but likable story of a lonely boy (Kevin Zegers) who befriends a stray dog he names Buddy, then discovers the dog's talent for putting a basketball through the hoop which is good enough for his team's coach (Bill Cobbs) to use Buddy as a substitute player in the big game. Directed by Charles Martin Smith, the proceedings are cheerfully manipulative in alternating heartwarming scenes with ones of slapstick silliness, though some threatening moments are provided by an abusive coach and the cruel master who wants his runaway dog back. Some scenes of menace and a few vulgarities. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Contact" (1997)

Visually impressive sci-fi movie based on Carl Sagan's 1985 novel about a radio astronomer (Jodie Foster) who receives an extraterrestrial communication with instructions for building a spacecraft capable of transporting one human to the aliens' distant habitat. Director Robert Zemeckis focuses on the obsessed astronomer's determination to be the one selected for the flight while also touching on the scientific and spiritual implications of intergalactic life. Some sexual innuendo and fleeting violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"For Roseanna" (1997)

Big-hearted comedy set in rural Italy where a devoted husband (Jean Reno) promises his sickly wife (Mercedes Ruehl) the last plot in the local cemetery alongside their little daughter, then goes to extremes trying to ensure that no one else dies first. Director Paul Weiland goes from pathos to screwball comedy in this implausible but poignantly funny tale of love, buried treasure and well-meaning deceit. Brief violence, fleeting bedroom scene, sexual references and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 —parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"187" (1997)

What begins as a fairly convincing picture of a dedicated high school science teacher (Samuel L. Jackson) confronting dangerously disruptive students and uncaring school administrators turns into a crudely melodramatic thriller when the harassed teacher goes haywire and begins killing his tormentors. Directed by Kevin Reynolds, the story of a good man being pushed too far loses credibility as well as sympathy when the script pushes the violence too far after he becomes a mad avenger. Intense violence, menacing situations, a flash of nudity, much rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"A Simple Wish" (1997)

Weak comic fantasy in which an inept male fairy godmother (Martin Short) has trouble granting the wish of a little girl (Mara Wilson) that her dad (Robert Pastorelli) win the lead in a Broadway musical. Directed by Michael Ritchie, the innocuous fun comes from the amusing special effects rather than the frantic antics of Short's klutzy character. Mild menace and a few crude words. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Spawn" (1997)

Clunky live-action cartoon in which the devil's emissary (John Leguizamo) orders the head (Martin Sheen) of a covert government agency to murder his top agent (Michael Jai White) who then is given superhuman powers to lead the forces of evil but instead joins the forces of good (led by Nicol Williamson). Directed by Mark Dippe from a comic book by Todd McFarlane, it's a flimsy fantasy at best, serving mainly as a vehicle for flashy but emotionally sterile special effects that grow tiresome long before movie's end. Considerable special-effects violence, menacing situations and some devilish vulgarity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Steel" (1997)

The comic-book exploits of an ex-Army officer (basketball star Shaquille O'Neal) who clads himself in an armored suit to battle criminals using powerful electronic weapons. Directed by Kenneth Johnson, the superhero proceedings are as ridiculously overdone as the destructive violence, though the action is paced with some good-natured humor. Much fantasy violence and coarse language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Parish Development Workshops Come to Charlotte Diocese

NEW YORK — The National Pastoral Life Center sponsors three training and information workshops in the Charlotte Diocese for "'Follow Me!' Disciples for the 21st Century," its parish development process for the millennium and beyond, done in partnership with St. Anthony Messenger Press.

The workshops will take place Jan. 23 at Holy Family Church in Clemmons from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Jan. 24 at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and Jan. 25 in Hickory at the Catholic Conference Center from 12:30-5:30 p.m. Dominican Sister Donna Ciango, project director, will lead the sessions.

Stressing that the parish is itself the process, "Follow Me!" focuses on Pope John Paul II's message to envision the next few years as a time for Christians to reaffirm their faith and celebrate the third millennium. The process has a threefold purpose — focusing on education, reflection and planning — for preparing parishes for the coming jubilee.

"Follow Me!" stresses the centrality of Jesus and the identity of Catholics as his disciples. It offers a short course on the basic fundamentals of faith through the Millennium Monthly and, in the Lenten reflection materials for parishioners and homilists, draws primarily from Scripture.

The process invites all parishioners to Lenten reflection in small groups specially formed for this purpose and in already existing parish groups, such as liturgy committees, pastoral and finance councils, and other liturgical and catechetical ministries.

The Lenten materials invite participants to deepen their faith and ground their service by linking reflection on Scripture to their lives as individuals, family members, parishioners, and Catholics in society at large.

"Follow Me!" includes simple guides for parish leaders, helping them improve the quality of parish worship, formation, pastoral care, evangelization, social ministry, and organization and leadership. The review of the parish's basic ministries helps to deepen and sharpen them in light of ongoing education and small-group Lenten faith reflection. The Lenten reflection participants contribute to the parish planning by evaluating the reflection experience and participating in the annual assembly held after Lent.

The cost of the Jan. 23 and 24 workshops is $20 per person, which includes lunch. A group discount is available for participants from the same office ($15 per person). The cost of the Jan. 25 workshop is $15, which includes snacks. All diocesan personnel, pastors, directors of religious education, parish leaders, and other interested persons are invited to attend.

For further information on registering, call Spiritan Father Ed Vilkauskas, diocesan director of evangelization, (704) 370-6299 or (704) 289-2773.

HONOREE — Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development, was honored recently as the Outstanding Fund Raising Executive by the Charlotte Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE). He is shown with his wife, Joan. The award is given to an executive who practices his/her profession in an exemplary manner and who abides by the Code of Ethics and Professional Practices. Kelley serves as executive director of the diocesan Foundation as well. A former board member, treasurer and president of the NSRFE, Kelley has also served on 24 non-profit boards since moving to Charlotte in 1978, including spending the past 15 years helping to improve the plight of the poor and homeless in the local community. He has helped raise $77 million for the diocese and its parishes since 1987.

Issues, from page 1

state's Health Division, those living in households with less than $10,000 annual income were eight times more likely to seriously consider suicide than those living in households with income of $35,000 or more.

According to the study, one in four people who said their mental health was not good for any of the last 30 days and one in five who judged their physical health not good in the same period have considered suicide.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death in Oregon in those age 65 or younger, behind injuries from accidents and cancer.

For nine of the past 10 years, the state's suicide rate has exceeded the nation's by at least 25 percent.

The new Oregon survey focused on voters' attitudes about the 1994 suicide law and Measure 51, the 1997 ballot effort to repeal it that was defeated Nov. 4.

The poll was conducted in November by Baselice and Associates of Austin, Texas, for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, which supports repeal. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 4.5 percent.

In 1994, the law allowing terminally ill patients to receive lethal prescriptions from their doctors was passed by a 2 percent margin. The 1997 repeal effort was defeated by a 20 percent margin.

Matters of morality held no importance for one in four voters, according to the survey. For those voters, seen as a major part of the previously undecided electorate, already having physician-assisted suicide on the books was enough to persuade them not to repeal it.

That meant the church's arguments about ethics and flaws in the law, as well as its long and costly campaign on behalf of repeal, fell on deaf and not necessarily hostile ears.

> ***"It is frightening that in Oregon today, a dying patient who tells a doctor, 'Please don't let me suffer,' will be taken as asking for a lethal injection — and those who kill the patient can expect courts and prosecutors to look the other way."***

The survey of 500 voters found that 86 percent without church affiliation voted to keep the suicide law in place. Only 6 percent of all voters who supported repeal were Catholics.

The decision not to prosecute Dr. James Gallant, a Corvallis, Ore., internist who prescribed a lethal injection for an unconscious patient, prompted criticism by a spokesman for the U.S. Catholic bishops.

"It is frightening that in Oregon today, a dying patient who tells a doctor, 'Please don't let me suffer,' will be taken as asking for a lethal injection — and those who kill the patient can expect courts and prosecutors to look the other way," said Richard Doerflinger of the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities in Washington.

Gallant had prescribed an injection of a strong muscle relaxant for a 78-year-old woman who had suffered a burst blood vessel in the brain; it was intended to stop her breathing.

Doerflinger said the law currently sees such cases as homicide or "nonvoluntary euthanasia," rather than "assisted suicide," because the legal drugs are administered by someone other than the patient.

But the local district attorney, who declined to bring charges, said a jury would probably refuse to convict Gallant of homicide, in part because he said he was following the wishes of the patient and her daughter.

In the new Gallup Poll, half of those surveyed said they could see themselves in a situation where they might want a doctor to end their lives in a painless way upon their request.

More than two-thirds of the 1,212 adult respondents also said it would be very important when facing a fatal illness to have a doctor who cares about them and to be at home when they are dying.

The May phone poll was commissioned by the Nathan Cummings foundation, a private foundation, and the Fetzer Institute, a nonprofit education and research organization. It has a sampling error of plus or minus 5 percent.

Dietzen, from page 5

niversary of her death, Pope John Paul declared Therese a doctor, a pre-eminent teacher and saint, of the church. So she is an excellent model. Be courageous for those things you believe are right.

And since this is the only life you have, keep exploring how to use your talents as best you can in every way open for you.

A free brochure, in English or Spanish, answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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Joseph's House Sponsors Lifestyle Simplification Lab

By SUSAN deGUZMAN

WINSTON-SALEM — Do you end each day wishing you had more time for yourself and your family? Do you feel caught up in a whirlwind of consumerism that is detracting from your financial security? Is your dwelling full of possessions that are more of a burden than a benefit? Do you seek more meaningful experiences in life?

These and other questions were addressed recently during the Lifestyle Simplification Lab held in Winston-Salem. A program of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), the lab was hosted by Joseph's House, a place of prayer associated with and adjacent to Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Joseph's House board members and facility directors Wendy Glen and Margaret O'Neil arranged this workshop for the second consecutive year.

Lif... Simplification Lab

Participants and facilitators of the Lifestyle Simplification Lab gather for this recent photo at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem.

The presenters of the Lifestyle Simplification Lab were Elaine and Nelson Stover of Greensboro, who developed the lab in 1993 in conjunction with ICA. They have presented it throughout the United States and in Australia, Belgium and India.

The one-day conversational workshop provided a framework for thought and discussion regarding anything in a person's life which he or she wishes to simplify. The key question was, "How much is enough in order for you to achieve a fulfilling and sustainable lifestyle?"

The Stovers explained that a common bond among many participants was a desire to eliminate the unnecessary components of life in pursuit of higher, more fulfilling values, such as faith, family, civic duty, artistic creativity and social service.

Eleven participants of varying ages and religious denominations attended. Some shared their frustrations and anxieties about time management; living with fixed incomes and maintaining clutter-free lives were other topics of concern.

The Stovers reported startling similarities in the current concerns of middle-class Americans and those of participants in other countries. Aside from varying dialects and merchandise brand names, issues are the same, they said. Media pressure to buy all sorts of products bombards us, and it bombards our children even more, they added, which leads to a society caught up in the economic and social impression that "more is better."

The problem, they said, is that more never seems to be enough.

A predominant theme of the workshop was the environmental ramifications of people's lifestyles. People share natural resources and pass on what's left to their children, grandchildren, and their children, the Stovers said. They defined a sustainable lifestyle as one where the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Stovers did not suggest a lifestyle so reduced that one is miserable and deprived. "Simplification is not about having nothing," said Elaine. Nor is simplification opposed to technology, they added; it's about acquiring with consideration for personal and global effects of consumerism.

The Stovers stressed that choice is the important component in determining needs. To make that realization, they said, people must first decide what is important and what is not in their lives.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a 30-year-old private, non-profit organization that acts as a catalyst for positive change in organizations' and individuals' lives throughout the United States and the world. Elaine and Nelson Stover are the co-directors of ICA at Greensboro.

The lab ended with small group presentations advertising the benefits of simplified lifestyles. The Stovers offered to help organize a follow-up self-help group for those interested.

For more information about the Lifestyle Simplification Lab, contact ICA at Greensboro, (910) 605-0143, or send e-mail to ICAGboro@igc.apc.org.

Susan deGuzman is a parishioner at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem.

Employment Opportunities

Principal:

St. Michael's Catholic School, located in Garden City, S.C., is seeking qualified applicants to serve as Principal of a new school beginning year 1998; Grades K-3 the first year, adding one grade yearly until Grade 8. Submit resume by January 23, 1998 or ASAP. Applicant must be available and participate in initiation process. Qualifications: A Master's Degree in School Administration, five years teaching experience, have, or be eligible for a S.C. elementary principal's certificate, or have certification from another state. Needs to be a practicing Catholic to carry on the mission of the Catholic school by modeling academic and religious leadership. Send resume to St. Michael's Church, P.O. Box 14357, Surfside Beach, S.C. 29587, Attention: Sr. Isabel Haughey, OSF.

Minister of Music / Pastoral Musician / Organist:

Established, growing downtown parish of 950 families desires a full-time minister of music / pastoral musician / organist. Wonderful opportunity to enhance present programs and vitalize new ones. Willingness to collaborate with present musicians and staff a must. Must be competent in organ / keyboard. Familiarity with pre- and post-Vatican II music and liturgical styles necessary. Responsibilities include: choir direction and development; cantor training, resourcing parish musical programs. Degree in music or liturgy or both a plus. Benefits and salary commensurate with experience and training. Resume and references to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA 24504 (804) 846-5245; Fax (804) 846-7022.

Casework Supervisor:

Needed in new Hispanic Program. BSW, bilingual English / Spanish, experience and computer skills required. Phone CSS, 370-6155.

Administrative Assistant:

Needed in new Hispanic Program. Fluent English / Spanish, computer knowledge Microsoft Office, comfortable working with public. Phone CSS, 370-6155.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Bible Study

ASHEVILLE — An introductory Bible study group meeting is Jan. 4 at 9:45 a.m. in the Dorothy Day Room at St. Joan of Arc Church. Please bring your Bible. For more information, call the parish office, (704) 252-3151.

Young Adults Group

ASHEVILLE — An Asheville young adults group, "CYAA," for single and married 20- to 40-year-olds, gathers on Saturdays after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Eugene Church. For details, call David Hill, (704) 252-7118.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church hosts a healing Mass sponsored by Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry every second Thursday at 7 p.m. Call (704) 252-3151 for more information.

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence provide free tours of the historic church following every weekend Mass. Mass schedule is as follows: Saturday, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. Spanish Mass is Sunday at 7 p.m.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be celebrated Jan. 11 at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams will gather at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows the Mass. For more information, call Josie, (704) 527-4676.

Bereavement Ministry Training

CHARLOTTE — A bereavement ministry training series is at St. Matthew Church Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The program is designed for individuals or congregations who wish to minister to or console those who have lost loved ones in death. For more information, call the parish office, (704) 543-7677.

Alzheimer Support

CHARLOTTE — The Alzheimer Support Group meets at St. Gabriel Church each second Sunday. For details call Suzanne Bach, (704) 370-3230.

CCHS News

CHARLOTTE — The CCHS Foundation Grand Prix Party and Auction is Jan. 24 in the school gymnasium and features a dinner buffet, music, and a live and silent auction. Tickets are $60 per person. Chances for the 1998 Grand Spree, a trip for two to London and Rome, are also on sale for $5 each or 6 for $25.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser benefit CCHS; tickets can be purchased by calling (704) 543-9118.

Knights Bingo

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus of St. Ann Parish host Bingo Mondays at 7 p.m. in the activity center. Call the parish office, (704) 523-4641, for more information.

Square Dance Club

CHARLOTTE — The Square Wheeler Square Dance Club from St. Ann Church hosts an introductory square dance class for beginners Jan. 8 in the parish activity center from 7:30-9:30 p.m. For details, call Lewises, (704) 523-1113.

50+ Club

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Parish meets Jan. 14 at 11 a.m. in the church hall. The guest speaker is Dr. Carol Rojas, a chiropractic physician, who will speak on osteoporosis. Coffee and dessert will be served. For further information, call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745.

Journey for Youth

GASTONIA — Journey is an experience of church and Christ in the warm context of a Christian community. The weekend retreat, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, is for youth in grades 10-12. It is peer ministered, involving a team of young people and adults who present talks, lead discussions, and plan prayer experiences and interaction with other participants.

The next Journey is scheduled for Feb. 27-March 1 at St. Michael Church. The cost is $47, which includes lodging, food, supplies and program expenses. A non-refundable deposit of $20 is required with each application, and deadline is two weeks before the retreat weekend. Each retreat is limited to the first 37 applicants.

For more information, call Carolyn Bergman, (704) 865-5537, or Chrissy Glisson, (704) 853-3620.

Post-New Year's Dance

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Parish hosts a post-New Year's Eve dance Jan. 10 from 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m., with music by the Scott Adair Band. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. Tickets are $15 per person and are available by calling Melissa Anetrella, (910) 288-3528.

Married Couples Social Group

GREENSBORO — The Young Married Couples Social Group of Our Lady of Grace Church meets Jan. 18 after the 10 a.m. Mass for an information session in the cafeteria. For details, call Dan and Mary Kate Farley, (910) 854-3635, or Rich and Tracey Campbell, (910) 273-9256.

Secular Franciscans

HICKORY — The Fraternity of Brother Francis meets the second Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m. Inquirers are welcome. Call Bill Brockhoff, (704) 464-5113, or Herman Thoni, (704) 294-0347, to confirm the date and location of the next meeting.

Catholic Daughters of America

LENOIR — The Catholic Daughters of America group at St. Francis of Assisi Church is eager to welcome new members. For details, call Gail Stewart, (704) 726-0701.

Spanish Rosary

NEWTON — A group rosary is prayed in Spanish every Friday at 6:30 p.m. in St. Joseph Church. Call (704) 464-9207 weekdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. for more information.

Silent Prayer

WINSTON-SALEM — Joseph's House, on the parish grounds of Our Lady of Mercy Church, offers a time for silent prayer Mondays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Call (910) 722-0028 for details.

Photo courtesy of St. Meinrad Archabbey

Three seminarians of the Charlotte Diocese attending St. Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Ind., chat with Father Eric Houseknecht, Charlotte diocesan vocation director, during a recent visit. From left are Bill Clark, Shawn O'Neil, Father Houseknecht and Ricardo Sanchez. Other students attending St. Meinrad from the Charlotte Diocese are Charlie Messler, Bryan Lamberson and Joseph Tran.

Around The Diocese

Bereavement Support

ARDEN — The Bereavement Support Group meets Mondays at 1:30 p.m. in the St. Francis Room at St. Barnabas Church for those with significant losses in their lives, no matter how recent or remote.

CHARLOTTE — The Grief Group meets at St. Gabriel Church Mondays from 7-8 p.m. in the Family Room. Anyone who has lost a loved one in death is invited. For more information, call B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047, ext. 212.

The Widow/Widowers Bereavement Group meets at St. Gabriel Church Mondays from 6-7 p.m. in the Family Room. Call B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047, ext. 212, for more information.

The Men's Bereavement Support Group meets the second Tuesday of each month. For details, call B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047, ext. 212.

WINSTON-SALEM — A grief support group meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at St. Leo the Great for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close to them. Contact Joanne Parcell, (910) 924-9478, for more information.

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence welcomes all to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m. For information call the parish office, (704) 252-6042.

BELMONT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Belmont Abbey Chapel, located behind the abbey church and monastery. For more information, call (704) 399-2701.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at St. Gabriel Church. Contact Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for more information.

Eucharistic adoration is at St. Matthew Church each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass and lasting until the 9 a.m. Saturday Mass. Call Pat Gundaker, (704) 366-9687, or Bernice Hansen, (704) 846-2958, for details.

Eucharistic adoration is at St. Thomas Aquinas Church each Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for details.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Joe or Mary Lanham, (910) 454-4551.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts eucharistic adoration from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church each Friday other than the first. First Friday adoration follows the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasts until 8 p.m. Call (704) 464-9207 for more information.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

World And National News Briefs

Filipino teens are among workers creating firecrackers in a makeshift factory in Santa Maria in the province of Bulacan. Revelers flocked to Bulacan to buy fireworks for New Year's celebrations despite the government's campaign against celebrating with explosives.

CNS photo from Reuters

Parental Consent Ballot Measure Postponed Until 2000

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — California pro-lifers working on a ballot measure to require parental consent for teen-agers' abortions have decided to target the June 2000 ballot rather than next November's ballot for their initiative. Brian Johnston of the California Pro-Life Council, based in Sacramento, said Dec. 9 the measure would be refiled with the state in January to give proponents more time to gather the 693,230 valid signatures needed to qualify the proposed constitutional amendment for the ballot. The constitutional amendment would require unmarried teen-agers seeking abortions to get permission from a parent, guardian or judge.

South Asia Jesuit Head Says Murders Will Not Deter Work

BANGALORE, India (CNS) — The Jesuit provincial for South Asia says the recent killings of two Jesuits will not deter the Society of Jesus from working among the poor. Expressing shock over the murder of American-born Jesuit Father Thomas Gafney, who was found Dec. 14 in Katmandu, Nepal, with his throat slit, Father Varkey Perekkatt, the provincial, said that this was the price of serving the weak of society. Father Perekkatt, who heads the more than 3,600 Jesuits in South Asia, noted that Father Gafney's killing occurred not long after Jesuit Father A.T. Thomas was beheaded in Bihar, India.

Auxiliary Bishop Ordained for Indiana Diocese

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — More than 1,000 people, including 31 bishops and about 200 priests, witnessed the Dec. 16 ordination of Holy Cross Father Daniel Jenky as an auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The principal celebrant of the Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral in South Bend was Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Concelebrants included Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pronuncio to the United States, and Archbishop Charles A. Schleck, a Milwaukee native who is adjunct secretary of the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and head of the Pontifical Missionary Works of the Propagation of the Faith.

Pro-Life Couple Cited for Work Against Abortion

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (CNS) — A couple who have dedicated themselves to pro-life causes were named recipients of Franciscan University of Steubenville's highest honor, the Poverello Medal. Chris Bell and Joan Andrews Bell of Hoboken, N.J., received the medal at the university after a special Mass. Chris Bell is a co-founder of Good Counsel, which since 1985 has provided nearly 2,500 pregnant women and unwed mothers with food, shelter, counseling, day care and job training. His Hoboken-based organization operates four homes for women and children in New York and will open a fifth in January in Norwalk, Conn. Joan Bell is a leader of Operation Rescue, which conducts what the group calls "rescues" outside of abortion clinics to persuade women not to have abortions.

Bishop Urges Compassion for Women Who Had Abortions

TUCSON, Ariz. (CNS) — Speak out about the evils of abortion, but show compassion and love for the women who suffer for having had them, wrote Bishop Manuel D. Moreno of Tucson. "I have heard there are women who suffer every time someone speaks against abortion, especially when that speaker is behind a pulpit," the bishop wrote in his column in the coming January issue of Catholic Vision, his monthly diocesan newspaper. At such times, he has been told, the pain for these women becomes so acute that some turn their anger toward themselves, the homilist, the Catholic Church or "even against God." "These women have done wrong, and they realize it, but who will help them cope with and resolve the pain, anger and guilt?" he asked.

Battle Looms Over GOP Funds For Partial-Birth Backers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A group of Republicans who support keeping abortion legal has vowed to fight efforts to penalize Republican candidates and incumbents who do not support a ban on partial-birth abortions. Susan R. Cullman, president of the Republican Coalition for Choice, announced that her group was "pulling out all the stops" to defeat a proposal to deny campaign funds to Republicans who fail to support the ban, which has twice been vetoed by President Clinton. If approved by the Republican National Committee's nine-member Resolutions Committee, the resolution would go before the full RNC for a vote Jan. 16 during its winter meeting in Palm Springs, Calif.

Worcester Diocese, Religious Order to Assist People With HIV

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — The Diocese of Worcester and the Order of St. Camillus have signed a declaration to establish a residence for people who are HIV positive. The declaration was signed by Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Worcester; Father Thomas Fleming, director of the diocesan Office of AIDS Ministry; and Father William Cronin, provincial of the North American Province of the Order of St. Camillus. Signed Dec. 12 at St. Paul's Cathedral during a service commemorating World AIDS Day, the declaration calls on society and especially Catholics to confront various issues associated with AIDS.

Tax Credit for Non-Public School Costs on Governor's Desk

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (CNS) — Illinois lawmakers have approved a bill that would allow thousands of families to defray the cost of sending their children to nonpublic schools. Catholic leaders see it as one of the most significant pieces of legislation in the country for parents of Catholic schoolchildren. In rare bipartisan agreement on a contentious education issue, both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly passed House Bill 999, which would allow parents a maximum $500 tax credit for reimbursement of tuition, book and lab fees at qualified schools. The measure was sent to Republican Gov. Jim Edgar, who has 60 days to either sign or veto the bill, allow it to become law without his signature, or send it back to the Legislature for amendments.

Notre Dame Law Dean Says Legal System Has Hit Bottom

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (CNS) — The dean of the University of Notre Dame Law School said the legal profession has hit bottom in the United States. His solution: Get rid of the adversarial system in which lawyers fight only to win for their client, regardless of truth. "The adversarial system is not about justice but about winning," said David T. Link, law dean at Notre Dame for 22 years, one of the longest such terms in the nation.

Irish Bishops To Issue Document On Eucharistic Sharing

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The Irish bishops' conference has announced that it will publish a document on eucharistic sharing before Easter. The announcement follows new concerns among Irish bishops at the numbers of Catholics taking Communion at Protestant and Anglican churches and the confusion among lay Catholics about the issue. Archbishop Desmond Connell of Dublin, Ireland, said in a radio program broadcast that Catholics receiving Communion at Anglican eucharistic services are taking part in a "sham." His remark deepened the controversy involving Irish President Mary McAleese, a practicing Catholic, who received Holy Communion at an Anglican service in Dublin's Christ Church Cathedral.

Catholics, Jews Join In First Lighting of Menorah At Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican and Israeli officials observed Hanukkah together when they lit a menorah for the first time in the Vatican. The ceremony, which started with speeches and ended in song, took place just after sundown Dec. 23 at the foot of St. John's Tower in the northwest corner of the Vatican Gardens. Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, led the church delegation for the event, which included Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, responsible for foreign relations at the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Late Comic Actor Remembered For Deep Devotion To Church

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Comic actor Chris Farley was a Catholic who had an ongoing devotion to his faith, according to those who knew the actor. One Chicago brother said Farley stopped by his parish church for novenas in addition to Mass. Farley, who was buried Dec. 23 in his hometown of Madison, Wis., also gave generously to the Catholic high school that educated him. Farley, best known for his years on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" and subsequent starring roles in the movies "Tommy Boy," "Black Sheep" and "Beverly Hills Ninja," died Dec. 18 in a Chicago apartment. He was 33.

Survey Finds Surge In Americans' Belief In Prayer Miracles

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More Americans believe in miracles and rely on prayer today than at any time in the past 10 years, according to a new survey released by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. The center asked a series of questions about religious beliefs and practices as part of a survey conducted on a variety of issues. The results showed that "strong religious faith soared" in 1997, the center said. "While Americans are said to be more cynical than ever, a series of questions about Americans' faith in God, the role of prayer in their lives and belief in miracles all show substantial increases in nearly every demographic group over the past decade," the survey report said.

Parish Profile

Immaculate Conception Church

CANTON — Immaculate Conception Church traces its beginnings back to the 1940s, when Catholics in the area gathered for Mass in private homes. Father Ambrose Rohrbacker, pastor of St. John Church in Waynesville, celebrated those liturgies; later a mission was established in Canton.

During the gasoline-rationed World War II years, a school bus transported Canton Catholics through the mountains to Waynesville for Mass. The local Catholic population increased when veterans, Catholics among them, returned home after the war. Catholics were also included in the work force who gained employment at a new paper mill in town.

Through the 1950s, the clergy of St. John Church began ministering to more and more Catholics throughout North Carolina's westernmost counties. From 1951, St. John Church became responsible for missions in Fontana, Murphy, Franklin, Canton and Sylva. Several became parishes in later years, with Immaculate Conception Church staying on as the Waynesville church's only mission.

In Canton, Mass was celebrated in the YMCA building during the early '50s. A sanctuary was set up on a bare floor, and parishioners sat on slatted wooden chairs. A hallway served as the confessional before liturgies. The visiting priest brought a makeshift altar: a suitcase containing vestments and altar furnishings, which folded out and was propped on legs.

Father Lawrence Newman, who later became a monsignor, was pastor of St. John Church when one of his parishioners, Mrs. R.E. Davis, informed him that suitable property for a church in Canton was for sale. The lot was purchased, the house on it was torn down, and a parking lot was constructed.

All this activity made way for construction of the new Immaculate Conception Church to begin. On the lower level of the new building, a church hall and kitchen were added. The red-brick structure is simple in design, with a native pine ceiling and ornate stained-glass windows highlighting the church's nave.

In 1954, the 54 members of the Canton mission gathered with Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh, Father Newman and more than 20 other priests during the dedication service. The event had added significance for one group of parishioners, who received the sacrament of confirmation during the Mass as well.

Immaculate Conception Church celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1979 with a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Michael J. Begley, the Charlotte diocese's founding bishop, and a dozen priests who have served the area's Catholics.

Registered membership in the mountain mission has both declined and swelled since those early years. Retirees make up a significant percentage of today's parishioners, and Mass attendance goes up each summer as Catholic visitors flock to the area to take in Haywood County's cool mountain air and slow-paced lifestyle.

Immaculate Conception Church continues to maintain a close relationship with St. John Church in Waynesville. Father Ray Hourihan is pastor of the two congregations and offers Sunday Mass each week to the 50 registered parishioners of the Canton church.

Immaculate Conception Church

Newfound Road & Oak Street
Canton, N.C.
Mail: c/o St. John Church
234 Church St.
Waynesville, N.C. 28786
(704) 456-6707

Vicariate: Smoky Mountain

Pastor: Father Ray Hourihan

Mass Schedule: Sunday — 8:30 a.m.

Number of parishioners: 50

Number of households: 27

Italy

March 23 - April 1, 1998

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Florence
Venice

The Most Reverend William G. Curlin will celebrate Mass for our pilgrims in Rome. The tour continues through the Italian villages accompanied by Father Anthony Marcaccio

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NOVEMBER 1 THROUGH 10

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Information mailed January 1998

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THE CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 18 • January 9, 1998

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

A young Lahu child plays the tambourine during a New Year's celebration at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory. Children and adults dress in new costumes to bring in the new year.

Lahu People Join Together To Celebrate New Year

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — On New Year's Eve, many families scatter about, securing baby-sisters as they prepare for their own festivities. For the Lahu people, it is a time when family members young and old join to celebrate the coming of a new year. Their strong desire to be together is culturally grounded in a heroic history where many Lahu men and women risked their lives to preserve their family, religion and culture.

The Lahu See, which means Yellow Lahu, is the particular Lahu subgroup rooted in Asia who recently settled in the North Carolina foothills. These newest residents of Hickory broke new ground on Jan. 1 at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Hickory with their traditional New Year's celebration, an ancient tradition that includes exotic food, dancing, music and games. It was the first time such an event has taken place on the East Coast, said Father Bill Tanguay, director of the diocesan Hmong Ministry whose duties have expanded to assist the Lahu community.

Father Tanguay was instrumental in coordinating the event. On New Year's, he was given the honor of saying the blessing over the food and people. "May all the bad go out with the old year and may the new year bring many blessings," he said, wishing the Lahu prosperity, good health and well-being. In Morganton on Dec. 21, Father Tanguay also had a special Mass for the Catholic Lahu and Hmong, bringing the two hill tribes of Southeast Asia together.

On New Year's Day, hundreds of Lahu came to St. Aloysius parish hall. This event marked the end of their week-long festivities. Parishioners at St. Aloysius and other faith communities in Hickory who attended the event were able to experience firsthand the hospitality and warmth of the Lahu people.

In keeping with their tradition, Lahu women made new clothes for every fam-

See **Lahu,** page 3

Optimism About Spiritual Renewal, Peace Greet 1998

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As 1998 began, there was reason for optimism about spiritual renewal in Rome, Hong Kong and anywhere people of good will resolve to do better.

And in Israel, where peace talks currently are stalled, the country's president reiterated his optimism in the peace process during an annual greeting to Christian leaders.

With a "Te Deum," or song of thanksgiving to God, Pope John Paul II praised God for what he termed a religious reawakening in the city of Rome.

In a Dec. 31 prayer service at the Jesuit Church of St. Ignatius in downtown Rome, the pope said he thought recent efforts to carry the Gospel message door-to-door in the Eternal City were working. He particularly commended some 12,000 lay Catholics — a "citizens' mission" — who distributed copies of St. Mark's Gospel to Roman families throughout 1997.

"This gesture of entering homes with the Gospel and the generally warm reception given the missionaries is highly significant: Romans, even those who don't attend church very often, are waiting to meet the Lord," he said.

Across the world in Hong Kong, Catholic leaders were planning a number of programs to focus on 1998 as the year of the Holy Spirit, following the pope's dedication in his 1994 apostolic letter "Tertio Millennio Adveniente" ("As the Third Millennium Draws Near").

A major goal is to deepen the laity's understanding of the Holy Spirit, according to Father Ferdinand Lok Hung-cheong, who is responsible for preparations for the Jubilee of the Year 2000 in the Hong Kong Diocese.

Father Thomas Law Kwok-fai, director of the Hong Kong Diocesan Liturgy Commission, said there were to be several talks on the Holy Spirit during January. In addition, the commission is publishing books on confirmation and parish worship of the Holy Spirit, and arranging evening prayer meetings on the feasts of the Holy Trinity and the Holy Cross.

Both priests spoke with UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Other Catholic organizations in Hong Kong also were planning youth retreats on renewal and love of the Holy Spirit and camps for local laity organized around specific religious topics.

At his annual reception Dec. 30, Israeli President Ezer Weizman told Christian leaders, "Despite the fact that we are now in a bit of a crisis (with the Palestinians) I believe we shall overcome (this)."

He said both sides in the peace talks "know they will not get 100 percent of what they want."

But he said the question now is how to share. "I think we should find a solution," he added, "because to go back on what we have achieved after so many years of battles and so many years of blood would be, to put it mildly, stupid."

Weizman also congratulated the Latin-rite and Russian Orthodox patriarchates on the 150th anniversary of their re-establishment and establishment, respectively, in Jerusalem.

"I am sure we all can find a way to live together, worship together, understand each other, respect each other and ... love each other," he said.

Meanwhile, ministers in the Diocese of Marquette, Mich., suggested that spiritual fitness is within anyone's reach in 1998.

To have sound spiritual lives people must commit to spending time with God, said Sister of St. Joseph Jean Junak, whose focus is adult spirituality.

She counseled prayer, both speaking to God one on one and listening for God's response, and recommended setting up a quiet place and using holy cards, statues or candles to keep the focus on God.

Msgr. Timothy Desrochers, director of the Marygrove Retreat Center in the Marquette Diocese, offered the following tips for spiritual growth:

— Live and do in a spirit of thanksgiving. Try to be positive in thought and action.

— Do good works for others, especially those at hand.

— The way to live cannot be learned by rote, but is found in practice. Operate out of your own personal convictions.

— Count your blessings and forget the wants and needs pushed by advertisements.

— Make time each day for silence, even when praying and meditating.

— Cultivate humility.

— Realize that everything in life is on loan and manage all gifts prudently.

— Worship and take advantage of the sacrament of reconciliation regularly in your parish community. Make an annual retreat.

"When we are spiritually fit," Msgr. Desrochers told The U.P. Catholic diocesan newspaper, "we will know it because our attitudes will be positive and our internal machinery will be slowed down to a peaceful stride."

Holy Angels, Bishop Dedicate New Home for Maria Morrow

Photo by Mike Krokos

Mercy Sister Rosalind Picot and Maria Morrow officially cut the ribbon on the Gary home. Also shown are Regina Moody, Holy Angels president and chief executive officer; Bill Gary; and Lynn Leonard, chair of the Holy Angels board of directors.

BELMONT — Maria Morrow turned 42 on Dec. 20, and the Holy Angels resident gathered with Bishop William G. Curlin and 100 of her closest friends that day for a special celebration: the dedication of her new home on the Holy Angels campus.

"I don't know too many people who have gotten a house for their birthday," said Holy Angels president and chief executive officer Regina Moody.

"This dedication marks a new chapter in the life of the littlest angel, Maria Morrow," added Bill Gary, son of the late Kays Gary, noted newspaper columnist and a long-time friend of Morrow. The home is called the Gary home in Kays' memory.

As an infant, Maria was brought to the day care operated by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont. It was then that Mother Mary Benignus Hoban helped lay the cornerstone for Holy Angels, an outreach to children and adults with severe mental retardation and physical handicaps.

With Mercy Sister Marie Patrice Manley, director of the day care center, Mother Benignus and the Mercy Sisters took little Maria in, nursed her with the medical care that was available, and despite doctors' odds watched her flourish.

Construction on the home began in October, and Morrow met the move with enthusiasm, helping to select furniture, paint colors, carpet and wallpaper. The house features four bedrooms and is wheelchair accessible. Morrow will live there with Mercy Sister Jill Katherine Weber and an 8-year-old Holy Angels resident.

A porch connects the Gary home with a second new facility, the Carrabaun home. It will open in January to three adults with mild to moderate mental retardation and a live-in staff member. Carrabaun is the Gaelic name of Mother Benignus' home in Ireland.

During the ceremony, both homes were blessed by Bishop Curlin and Sister Rosalind Picot, regional president of the Sisters of Mercy.

The Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina and Mother Benignus contributed funds for construction along with several private donors. Additional donations and services were provided by Ron Krueger, president of First Value Homes in Gastonia, and Eric Anderson, president of Anderson Construction in Charlotte.

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1955, Holy Angels is a private, non-profit corporation. Sixty-seven children and adults currently live in one of four Holy Angels models of residential services.

Pope Ordains Nine New Bishops On Feast Of Epiphany

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II ordained nine new bishops Jan. 6, telling them to spread the light of Christ throughout the world.

Celebrating a two-and-a-half-hour Mass on the feast of the Epiphany, the pope prayed that the light of Christ would guide the world toward the new millennium as the star guided the Three Kings to the birthplace of Jesus.

"Share with all men and women this light which shines in the darkness," Pope John Paul said, addressing all the faithful. "Share this light which shines in you, share it with all men and women, with all the nations of the earth."

The newly ordained bishops included five Italians and one each from Ghana, Poland, the Philippines and Chile. Three of the Italians hold Vatican posts, one was ordained for the Diocese of Ischia, Italy, and the fifth was named the first bishop of Juina, Brazil.

The four non-Italians are all in their 40s. They included 41-year-old Bishop Peter Kwaku Atuahene, the first bishop of Goaso, Ghana; 42-year-old Auxiliary Bishop Tomislav Koljatic Maroevic of Santiago, Chile; 47-year-old Bishop Angelito R. Lampon, apostolic vicar of Jolo, Philippines; and 49-year-old Bishop Wiktor Skworc of Tarnow, Poland.

During the Mass, the pope paid homage to Bishop Lampon's predecessor, Bishop Benjamin de Jesus, who was murdered in February 1997 outside the Jolo cathedral.

According to Vatican Radio, counting the nine newly ordained, there are 4,375 bishops in the world, 2,465 of whom head dioceses. The radio said Pope John Paul — in his 19 years as pope — has nominated 54 percent of those who lead dioceses and 84 percent of the "titular" bishops, which include auxiliary bishops, those who work at the Vatican and those are members of the Vatican diplomatic corps.

After the Mass, Pope John Paul recited the Angelus with thousands of people gathered to celebrate Epiphany in St. Peter's Square.

The celebrations began with a parade into the square organized by "Viva la Befana," a group that promotes the traditional Italian celebration of Epiphany featuring a witch, la Befana, who brings toys and candy to good children and coal to those who have been naughty.

The parade, led by mounted police officers, included brass bands, flag twirlers in medieval costumes and several women carrying brooms and wearing long, crooked fake noses.

Pope John Paul told the crowd that the newborn king whom the Three Wise Men sought revealed himself as "the authentic king of justice and peace" through his death and resurrection.

The pope also used the occasion to wish a Merry Christmas to Orthodox and Eastern-rite Catholics who were celebrating the birth of Christ according to the Julian calendar, Jan. 7.

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

For more information:
Rev. Eric Houseknecht
St. Margaret Church
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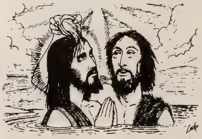
Maggie Valley, NC 28751
704-926-0106

Baptism of Christ



After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17)

Saints & Scripture

Scripture

Readings for the week of January 11-17, 1998

Sunday
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10: 34-38
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday
1 Samuel 1:1-8
Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday
1 Samuel 1:9-20
Mark 1:21b-28

Wednesday
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday
1 Samuel 4:1-11
Mark 1:40-45

Friday
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday
1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a
Mark 2:13-17

Lahu, from page 1

ily member to wear in the new year. The decorations on the native dress tell much about the wearer, most notably their marital status, the tribe or subgroup they belong to, and even their financial status (the more silver ornamentation, the wealthier the person is).

On New Year's Eve, the Lahu men also performed their role of preparing the animals, which would be used for the spicy pork and chicken dishes served the next day. The rice exchange on Dec. 30, followed by the exchange of the rice cakes, were two events which preceded New Year's Day. The tradition calls for combining one's own rice with another's to make rice cakes that will be shared with other families in the Lahu community. This act symbolizes unity and a connection between all Lahu people.

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Clothed in Lahu attire, Father Bill Tanguay offers the New Year's Day blessing. Father Tanguay was instrumental in coordinating the Lahu New Year's celebration.

Another custom was the sweeping dance around the Christmas tree, which represents "the Tree of Life." Dating back to the Lahu's original animistic beliefs, beliefs with a central supreme being and good and bad spirits, the pine tree is a symbol of new life because of its new growth every year. (Today, the Lahu See are mostly Christians with Catholicism as the predominant denomination.)

A tribal leader began the dancing with a sound from his gourd-bamboo pipe. Women of all ages danced gracefully to the hypnotizing beat of the drum on the outside circle, while the men formed an inside ring. This formation is a symbol of the importance of both men and women in the community.

Other traditional practices followed included the traditional ball toss. The original courting ritual seemed to be more popular with the younger children as the teens and young adults stood watching in the background.

Behind the Lahu festivities and their content and happy disposition is a past far from joyous. In the late 1800s many Lahu tribes fled oppression in China and settled in the mountainous southwest region of Laos. During the communist takeover in the 1970s and '80s, the Lahu again met great oppression, forcing many to seek exile in Thailand.

Aikham Seasee, a new parishioner at St. Aloysius, spoke of the night escapes from Laos. "No one tried to escape during the day because if caught, you would be tortured then killed," he explained.

Luckily, his entire family managed to make their way to the United States. "There are many in this room today who have painful stories about family members and friends killed as they attempted to escape to Thailand," he added.

There was also great religious persecution in Laos. Aikham remembered how Catholic priests were killed by the communist regime. Any Lahu man, woman or child caught attending a Christian service was brutally tortured, then killed to scare others from practicing their faith as well.

Because their Christian religion had become such an integral part of their lives, many Lahu would not be hindered by the fear of death and ending up martyred for their strong beliefs. Others practiced secretly, praying for the day, like this one in Hickory, where they could freely practice their religion and be without oppression.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

St. Gabriel School kindergartners Catherine Bishop, Savannah Lowder and Grace Flanagan present Christmas gifts to Patricia Lavoie of Room at the Inn.

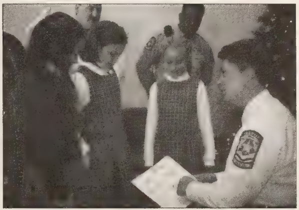


Photo by Jimmy Rostar

From left, Michelle Flemming, Jeni Marinello and Ginny Kramer, second-graders at St. Gabriel School, are thanked by Major Carol Chavis, administrator of Mecklenburg County Jail North.

Students Bring Holiday Cheer to Charlotte

By **JIMMY ROSTAR**
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Students attending St. Gabriel School in Charlotte started their Christmas celebration early last month with outreach projects touching hundreds of people in the metropolitan area.

The school's three kindergarten classes made soup and Christmas ornaments for the residents of Room at the Inn, a transitional home in Charlotte for single mothers and their children. They also gave candy canes and toy NASCAR racing cars to the children currently living at the home.

Patricia Lavoie, Room at the Inn's director of residential services, accepted the gifts at the school and answered students' questions about the home, which ranged from "What do the little children eat?" to "Can we put our money together and give it to you for the people living there?"

Another project, the idea of second-grader Jeni Marinello, involved the entire student body. Students made and signed Christmas cards for all 540 inmates of Mecklenburg County Jail North. In a presentation at the jail, Marinello and classmates Ginny Kramer and Michelle Flemming offered the cards, along with candy canes and hand-made ornaments, to jail officials.

The three were given gifts in return, including honorary keys to the jail and a promise by jail officials of the gratitude the inmates would feel at Christmas thanks to the concern of all St. Gabriel School's students.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East ✝ Charlotte, NC 28203 ✝ (704)334-2283

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

1998 Rally for Life

The rally will be held on ***Saturday, January 17th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*** *Contact Jan Rogers, 825-5277 at Queen of the Apostles, or 827-7593 at home.*

Memorial Mass

January 22, 1998 marks the 25th anniversary of our Supreme Court ruling in Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton legalizing abortion.

St. Matthew Catholic Church will host a Memorial Mass offered for the end to abortion at ***3:00 p.m., Sunday, January 18****.*

Please join us in remembering the over 36 million babies who have lost their lives in the past 25 years.

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 5-9
Region IV Bishops Annual Retreat

January 11
11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick's Cathedral
Charlotte

January 13
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center
Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Encourages Homeless in Quake-Damaged Towns

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — On a one-day visit to Assisi and other earthquake-damaged towns in central Italy, Pope John Paul II brought words of encouragement to the homeless and prodded the government to embark quickly on reconstruction efforts.

Standing on a porch of the partly ruined Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi Jan. 3, the pope prayed for the four men killed when a section of the church's ceiling collapsed in a tremor last September. Then he urged people of the region to look ahead and work together on a rebuilding program.

"Now that the emergency phase is over, the reconstruction phase begins," he said to applause from thousands who packed a square in front of the Franciscan monastery.

"I hope it can all be completed in a short time, so that this panorama of cities and towns which today is marked by rubble and ruined roads can return to its suggestive beauty," he said.

Standing at his side was Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, whose government has promised that rebuilding will begin in spring throughout the region. Some $30 million in government funds has been earmarked for the Assisi basilica, but Franciscan officials said the upper church, noted for its 13th- and 14th-century frescoes, was unlikely to reopen before the fall of 1999.

The pope began his visit in the hillside village of Annifo, which was leveled by the twin quakes last fall. The 77-year-old pontiff, who looked and sounded good on a sunny day, spent more than half an hour moving slowly through the crowd of townspeople, shaking hands, offering a blessing and kissing the heads of children.

He told the crowd that he wanted to come to the region as soon as he heard of the quake, but he was afraid he would disturb relief efforts. After touring the area by helicopter and on the ground, he said he was amazed at the "spectacle of houses, churches and historic palaces that were reduced to piles of debris in a few moments."

Pope Condemns Mexican Massacre, Prays for Justice in Chiapas

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS)—Pope John Paul II condemned the massacre of 45 Mexican peasants and called for continued dialogue to resolve the social tensions in the southern Chiapas state. Authorities charged a mayor and some 40 others in the Dec. 22 attack on the village of Acteal. Men, women and children were slain by gunfire and their bodies disfigured afterward with machetes. "The joy of this Christmas holiday has been distrubed by a cruel episode in a church of the San Cristobal de las Casas Diocese in Mexico, where a number of people gathered in prayer were massacred,"the pope said at a noon blessing.

Coming of Age

Amy Welborn

What Teens Can Do to Prepare for Marriage

A few years ago — not so long, it seems — Lauren sat in the front row of theology class watching me teach, her pen poised above the clean pages of an open notebook, a disapproving glance ready to shoot back to her misbehaving classmates.

Yesterday my former student and I switched places, so to speak. I sat watching her this time, but I wasn't in a classroom. I was seated in a church pew, watching Lauren get married.

It was a strange feeling. It didn't seem as if she should be old enough to get married, but she is, just graduated from college, off with her new husband to graduate school.

All around me were her friends from that class, several of whom are getting married over the next few months. Joey and Susan next summer, Annie next May, and even Lauren's own sister, a year younger, a girl whom I also taught and who, incidentally, sat in the front row with the same disapproving glance in her arsenal.

She's getting married next August.

There's a part of me that wants to scream out at these young adults: "Don't do it! You're way too young!" But they're not asking my opinion, although I did have my chance in the days I taught them their course in Christian lifestyles, the traditional senior religion course.

Often when I'm teaching that course, I stand there thinking: "This is dumb. Why are we sitting here discussing marriage when it's so far off for these kids?! Shouldn't I be teaching something more pertinent to their immediate lives?''

Of course, that's what I was doing, as I realized yesterday.

Those of us who teach and minister to teens like to think we are preparing them for the future, intellectually, socially, spiritually and emotionally. Oddly enough, the ideas and issues we discuss with them when they're in high school do indeed point toward the days when they'll be taking huge steps like Lauren did yesterday.

So, though it seems an eternity away, what are some things a teen can do today to improve the chances of embarking on a successful happy marriage?

First, know yourself and be honest about yourself. Be aware of your strengths and weaknesses, your desires and needs. Act out of confidence and appreciation of yourself, not out of the need for others' approval.

Too many young people fall into relationships, not because they are happy with who they are and want to share that contented life with another, but rather because they feel bad about themselves and have a need to be affirmed. Those relationships don't last and aren't healthy.

Second, focus on other people as friends, not possible romantic partners. View them as people first, individuals on their own life journeys, worthy of respect — not potential possessions only important in their relation to you.

Third, use your sexuality responsibly. The less respect you have for your own sexuality and that of others, the more you see sexuality as a meaningless game, the less chance you will have of being faithful in a relationship.

The habits you form now are powerful. Treat others with respect and see your own life as a precious gift from God worth sharing intimately only with people who offer respect in turn. Destructive behavioral habits won't be broken just by taking a marriage vow.

Most of you will indeed marry, and one of the keys to success in marriage is developing, right now, into the very best person you can be.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

Human Time, Spiritual Light

A couple of months ago I wrote about the experience of a friend and his family who waited at the deathbed of his mother, or what was supposed to be her deathbed.

After consulting with doctors who saw virtually no reason to hope for any significant recovery, the family had made the difficult decision to let Pat Wilhelm, my friend Jim's mom, be disconnected from the machines that were keeping her alive. Shortly after her body was cleared of all these "extraordinary means," she woke up.

Enveloped by her family's caring concern, she spoke to the hearts of all when she told Jim: "You sure do love your family!" Everyone involved was amazed, delighted and bewildered. They had all been given a gift. They had been given time.

Mrs. Wilhelm rebounded with a determination to bring to closure some unfinished business. Among other issues, she used this graced period of final strength to plan her funeral, asking that some of her favorite music be included in the resurrection Mass. After she died in a nursing home three weeks later, all her choices were included and the service became that much more a celebration of her life.

I received many deeply felt and thoughtful responses to my column about Pat Wilhelm's unexpected recovery. They shared a common thread — the deathbed is the best view of life that we can get anywhere. There in that moment everything is crystal clear and in perspective.

One of the letters that gave me so much to think about came from a doctor who specializes in critical care. He wrote that as someone who "considers patient care a vocation, my inability to predict a patient's course is always humbling for me. The wonder of God in such 'miracles' is an important daily consideration." He has seen people become "exceptions to the rule" by improving against all odds. But I was most touched by his reminder about those who do not pull through.

"God is no less present during the waning hours of the majority of similarly ill patients in whom the removal of life support leads to a more peaceful and less 'prolonged' death," he wrote. "Often the peace that God brings can be heard best in the silence of buzzers, alarms and machines as they are removed from our severely ill loved ones on the last day that they are with us."

The doctor concluded with this story: "As an intern years ago, I was examining a comatose patient much as I had done for the previous two weeks. Never considering that she might have any ability to understand questions or communicate, I was shocked to hear her mumble some words. As a I drew nearer to her, I noticed that the nurse had just opened the window curtains and a ray of sun was shining on her face. I shielded her eyes from the sun and listened closely as she whispered to me, "Remember, doctor, all that is light is Jesus Christ."

Those close to death are in contact with mystery — a mystery so intimate that words and ritual fail to express it. A mystery close as your own breath. However death comes to your loved ones or to you, it brings not the darkness of a grave, but the light of God's eternity.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Out of the Ordinary—God in the Here and Now," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

A Spouse's Verbal Abuse

***Q.** Scripture says we should forgive others 70 times seven times. Does the other person have to ask forgiveness first, as we do in confession?*

Specifically, if a husband continually and cruelly abuses his wife and children verbally, and she tells him how hurt they are but he ignores their feelings, continues his behavior and never apologizes, must she still forgive him?

How can she have feelings for a man who treats his family this way? Can't this affect a marriage?

A. Of course it can. Deliberately living a pattern of abuse toward one's family demonstrates at very least a disrespect and disregard for the feelings of the victims. It eats away at any relationship.

Your comparison with the sacrament of penance is helpful. For forgiveness to be real, the person who did the offending must "own" the sin, admit that he or she did wrong and be committed to try to heal the hurt and not repeat it.

One of love's responsibilities is to help the other come to a conscious awareness of the consequences of hurtful actions and motivate a change.

Beyond saying that, it is difficult to be specific about what you might do. Many factors need to be considered: the nature of the abuse, its causes, its effects on you and the other victims, ages and reactions of the children, and so on.

There is, however, no virtuous forgiveness or goodness in deliberately continuing a situation that is seriously demeaning and emotionally destructive, if not even physically dangerous.

Our love for everyone involved, including the person doing the hurt, requires that we do everything we can to change the circumstances.

Does the individual require medical or psychological help? How can space be made between the victims and the abuser? Do the victims have the guidance they need to deal with the problem in a healthy way? These types of questions are important for you.

Marriage vows are meant to be kept, and that includes forgiveness. If your spouse is deliberately abusive and hurtful, however, part of keeping those vows is to do whatever you can to change the circumstances that are hurting him and everyone else.

As I said, you will want to weigh many concerns. Pray for the wisdom to do that well.

Divorce and Communion

***Q.** I have been a Catholic all my life. Many years ago I married a divorced Lutheran man. It was by a justice of the peace because I felt the relationship was unstable. We divorced two years later. I've been married now for many years to another divorced man. This was before a judge.*

Articles I have read about my rights to receive Communion are contradictory. One priest told me I'm still married to my first (Lutheran) husband.

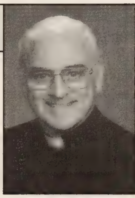
What should I do to receive Communion? I know I'm missing something important when I attend Mass, which I do regularly.

A. From the information you give, it seems some action relating to your present marriage will probably be needed by your diocesan tribunal.

See **Dietzen,** page 6

Spirituality for Today

Father John Catoir



A Prayer You'll Want to Keep

As the New Year begins I think it is a good time to make some prayerful resolutions. We all want to be holy. Why not pray for the grace to do the holy things we would not ordinarily be able to do without God's grace?

There is one prayer in particular which you have heard before, but probably not in its entirety. Miracles of healing and transformation have flowed from it.

The prayer is attributed to the Rev. Reinhold Niebuhr, and it is commonly called the Serenity Prayer: "God grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference.''

It is the prayer of the recovering alcoholic, drug addict, gambler and all others with single or multiple addictions. This includes sexual addicts, compulsive eaters, credit-card junkies, etc., etc.

The prayer in its entirety is as follows:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference — living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking as he did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that he will make all things right if I surrender to his will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with him forever.''

It is a thoroughly Christian prayer, though it leaves people free to turn to their higher power in whatever way they choose. The concept of a higher power is kept as neutral as possible so people can find their own higher power, side-stepping all the theological issues that sometimes get in the way of surrender.

For the Christian the entire prayer is based on faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Everyone can pray it, whether or not they ever have had a problem with addictive behavior. The prayer captures the essential spiritual truth that we must "surrender" in order to be free. That is the central truth of the spiritual life.

Surrender is a word that gives us all a good bit of trouble. It presupposes that there is a loving God who will do for us what we are unable to do for ourselves. All we have to do is surrender in a spirit of trust.

No one can really explain how this prayer achieves such miraculous results, but countless people have been delivered from ruin by praying it. Those who hit bottom know that all their gifts of intelligence and will-power were of no use to them during their time of bondage.

The idea of surrendering to an invisible power seems foolish at first, but is far from foolish. Millions of lives have been transformed by walking on the water of faith. For the Christian this faith is placed in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sisters of Mercy Foundation Awards 15 Grants

CHARLOTTE — The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation last month announced grant awards totaling more than $431,000 to 15 nonprofit organizations located in Mecklenburg, Union, Gaston, Moore, Brunswick, Henderson and Cabarrus counties in North Carolina. The awards are being made following the close of the Foundation's Aug. 1, 1997, grant-making cycle.

The grant funds will be used for a wide variety of purposes by the organizations. Supported programs include education for children, health care, housing, job training and support for various agency services to the unserved and under-served.

The Sisters of Mercy Foundation was established in 1995 and operates from a mission to support nonprofit health care, educational and social service organizations in the Charlotte metropolitan area and in the Carolinas. Its program focus is on services benefiting women, children, the elderly and the economically poor.

The Foundation is particularly interested in promoting systemic change and the quality of life for needy populations.

The following are the 15 organizations that will benefit from the Foundation's grant-making activities.

• **Advocates for Healthy Citizens**, Bessemer City, will receive $20,000 to help with start-up costs for the Bessemer City Health Care Center, a school-based clinic. The clinic will provide accessible and affordable primary health care services, concentrating on the needs of children, adolescents, senior citizens and the medically under-served and uninsured.

• **BRIDGE Jobs Program**, Charlotte, will receive $36,000 over a three-year period. The program assists at-risk men and women, primarily ages 18-24 who have dropped out of school, in obtaining and holding long-term career-enhancing employment. The grant will be used for general operating expenses.

• **Cabarrus County Health Alliance**, Concord, will receive $10,000. This organization provides primary medical and dental public health services in Cabarrus County. The grant will help secure a mobile van to provide dental screening and treatment services to the Medicaid-eligible and indigent population of Cabarrus County.

• **Charlotte Rescue Mission**, Charlotte, will receive $31,380. Formerly called Rebound, Charlotte Rescue Mission was founded to serve the addicted and homeless by providing food, shelter and religious services. The grant will be used to purchase a van for transporting donated merchandise.

• **Communities in Schools of Cabarrus County**, Concord, will receive $24,000 over a three-year period. This organization provides programs that support children whose environments place them at risk for dropping out of school, assists 3- to 5-year-old children in developing school readiness skills, and provides middle-school students from low-income areas with a structured summer program. The grant will be used for operating costs.

• **The Family Emergency Teen Shelter**, Southport, will receive $10,000 to provide start-up funding for the Teen Shelter, providing a short-term haven for Brunswick County youth between the ages of 10 and 17 who, due to an emergency, high risk, or other crisis situations, cannot remain with their families.

• **Friendship Trays**, Charlotte, will receive a grant of $10,000. Friendship Trays is a home-delivered meal program providing hot meals on a daily basis to those who are unable to safely or adequately prepare meals for themselves. The grant will be used to create a new meal delivery route that will serve 12 additional people.

• **Henderson County Hunger Coalition**, Hendersonville, will receive $2,500. The Hunger Coalition provides food and fuel to needy persons facing crisis situations. The funds will help purchase a new truck to be used for collecting and delivering firewood to families without central heating systems.

• **Hospice at Charlotte**, Charlotte, will receive a grant of $75,000 over a two-year period. Hospice at Charlotte allows persons with life-threatening illnesses and their families to remain at home by providing quality, compassionate health care and support services. The funds will be used to expand the health maintenance care programs to serve more children and their families.

• **Learning How, Inc.**, Charlotte, will receive $90,000 over a three-year period. Learning How fosters personal growth and societal inclusion for the disabled through education, training, employment services and involvement in the community at large. The funds will be used to expand the employment services component and to purchase assisitive technology to adapt computers for use by clients with disabilities.

• **Nevins Foundation**, Charlotte, will receive $24,000 to assist in general operating support for the follow-along component of the Business Mentors Program. This activity pairs clients with job coaches who help them assimilate successfully into the private workplace through monitoring, counseling, job coaching and assistance in developing adequate social and living skills which help the clients maintain employment.

• **Seigle Avenue Preschool Cooperative**, Charlotte, will receive $31,225. The cooperative prepares children ages 2 to 5, whose environments place them at risk of school failure, for successful entry and performance in public school. The funds will help equip the playground at the new Seigle Avenue Preschool Center.

• **St. Joseph of the Pines**, Southern Pines, will receive $23,350. This North Carolina nonprofit organization provides long-term care for the elderly, home health care, hospice programs, adult day care, housing for the elderly and disabled, and an Alzheimer's center. The funds will help develop a six-bed transitional housing program for persons living with HIV.

• **Turning Point of Union County, Inc.**, Monroe, will receive $25,000. This organization provides safety and assistance to battered women and their children. The grant will help establish a children's program at Turning Point which will counsel and educate children about domestic violence, instruct them in safety planning, conflict resolution, anger management and self-esteem. A cooperative program will also be offered in the Union County public schools.

• **Union County Community Action**, Monroe, will receive $18,905. This organization provides services to people who are economically disadvantaged by operating programs that address their needs and enhance opportunities to improve their status. The grant will be used to provide services to an expanded number of clients.

Since announcing in October 1996 that it was ready to begin receiving grant applications, the Foundation has awarded 48 grants totaling more than $2.2 million to organizations serving populations with specific needs.

The Foundation is completing its Dec. 1, 1997, grant-making cycle with decisions being made in February. The next cycle will be April 1, with decisions being made in June.

For information concerning the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation, call (704) 366-0087.

Dietzen,
from page 5

It will not help to go into detail here, but please go to your parish priest or one of the others in your area (there are several), explain the situation and ask him to help you.

A free brochure, in English or Spanish, outlining marriage regulations in the Catholic Church and explaining the promises in an interfaith marriage, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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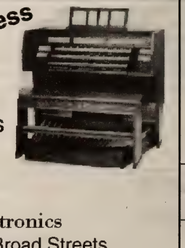
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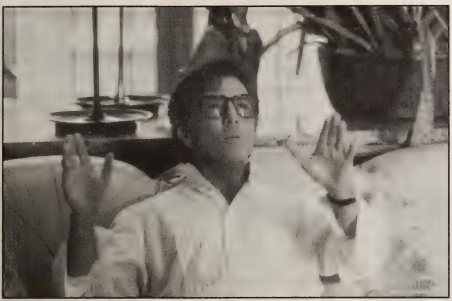

CNS photo from New Line Cinema

Dustin Hoffman stars as a Hollywood producer hired to stage a fake war to divert public attention from a White House scandal in "Wag the Dog." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Wag the Dog" Is A Quietly Hilarious Comedy

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Dustin Hoffman and Robert De Niro join forces to get an incumbent president reelected despite a sex scandal, in the quietly hilarious "Wag the Dog" (New Line).

Director Barry Levinson turns in a quickly made but carefully put together political satire that skewers the media, Hollywood and Washington with deliciously sly wit.

And in Hoffman and De Niro he has two actors who don't need to chew scenery to get their characters across effectively.

It seems it's only two weeks before Election Day and the incumbent president is sweating, having been accused of fondling a teen-age girl in the White House.

The scandal is sure to cost him the election, so his trusty assistant, Winifred (Anne Heche), hires spin doctor Conrad (De Niro) to focus attention on something else — anything else — that will put her boss in a more favorable light.

And the light bulb goes off in Conrad's crafty noggin: Why not create a nonexistent little war for the commander-in-chief to win and make the public rally behind him? With enough money, they can manufacture the appearance of war, with a little expert help.

To this end, Conrad enlists Hollywood producer Stanley (Hoffman) to put together some footage and gather talent for a rousing patriotic song that will uplift the populace after planting rumors about a B-3 bomber and "the problem" in Albania, which naturally the media greedily eats up.

Throw in heart-tugging images of an endangered little girl, a kitten and a brave American soldier (Woody Harrelson) left behind enemy lines and the president looks to be a shoo-in. Even the fact that the soldier turns out to be a violent lunatic can't undo the winning team of Conrad and Stanley — until Stanley wants to claim credit for his part in reelecting the president once it is a fait accompli.

Hoffman truly steals the show, giving a dead-on portrayal of the ultimate insecure Hollywood egomaniac (many will immediately think Robert Evans when they see Hoffman's hair, glasses and showy attire).

The chief problem with the movie is that it still remains far-fetched that such a hoax can be put over on the public, what with the voracious media prying into every aspect of such a big story. It's a little too easy for Conrad to simply convince Stanley by saying, "We want you to produce a pageant, a theme, a song, the visuals."

But by suspending disbelief, viewers are in for a biting political satire not short on insights about how public opinion can be readily manipulated and shaped. The narrative eventually goes over the top, but along the way the dialogue is striking by its casual but deepgrained cynicism.

David Mamet and Hilary Henkin's screenplay is machine-gunpaced as the spin doctors race to cover their tracks and invent new and appeal-

See **"Wag the Dog"**, page 13

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The Best Films of 1997

By HENRY HERX

NEW YORK (CNS) — These movies were the top 10 films of 1997, according to the U.S. Catholic Conference's Office for Film and Broadcasting:

— "Amistad" (USCC: A-III — adults; Motion Picture Association of America: R — restricted) dramatizes an 1839 historical incident involving a group of Africans who, after massacring the crew of a slave ship, are captured in American waters and put on trial for murder and piracy in a case that ultimately reaches the Supreme Court.

Despite some turgid courtroom scenes and preachy dialogue, director Steven Spielberg makes an ambitious attempt to re-create the horrors of slavery and the deep divisions it caused in American society before the Civil War.

— "The Apostle" (USCC: A-III — adults; MPAA: PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) is the story of a Pentecostal preacher trying to find redemption after committing a serious crime.

Robert Duvall gives a compelling performance as the preacher, a man whose personal failings are almost as great as his religious zeal.

The picture was also written and directed by Duvall, and the result is a richly human portrait not only of an individual but of his Southern community.

— "The Ice Storm" (USCC: A-IV — adults, with reservations; MPAA: R — restricted) is a somber drama about the painful consequences of infidelity and parental neglect.

Set in an affluent suburb during the 1973 Thanksgiving weekend, the story concerns a husband's joyless affair with a neighbor's wife, while their neglected adolescent offspring furtively explore their own sexuality.

Director Ang Lee uses the discontents of the 1970s to reflect the disordered emotional lives of characters suddenly forced to reckon with a sobering tragedy.

— "Koyla" (A-II — adults and adolescents; PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) is a heartwarming Czech drama that won the Oscar as best foreign film and was released in the United States in 1997.

It follows the hard-won transformation of a womanizing, middle-aged cellist into a caring stepfather of an abandoned 5-year-old Russian boy.

The sensitive tale carefully captures the gradual trust and real love that develops between man and child, which enable the musician to become more fully human as he makes great personal sacrifices for the boy's welfare.

It was a father-son relationship behind the camera as well. The movie was written by and stars Zdenek Sverak as the father figure. It was directed by his own son, Jan Sverak.

— "Kundun" (USCC: A-II — adults and adolescents; MPAA: PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) dramatizes the early life of Tibet's 14th dalai lama.

The story is also about the injustice of Red China's occupation of the country in 1950 and how the growing repression of its people forces the Dalai Lama into exile in 1959 at age 24.

The result is a picture of spectacular beauty, some spiritual tranquility and a reminder of the continuing plight of the Tibetan people, though director Martin Scorsese never grapples very deeply with the Buddhist principle of nonviolence.

— "L.A. Confidential" (A-IV — adults, with reservations; R — restricted) is a striking film noir that dissects layers of corruption in the police department and tabloid press of 1950s Los Angeles.

Director Curtis Hanson unreels an increasingly intricate and Byzantine plot, brought to life by a fine ensemble cast that offers up a number of shady characters whose flawed souls wreak havoc on the unsuspecting.

— "Shall We Dance?" (A-II — adults and adolescents; PG — parental guidance suggested) is a charming Japanese film in which a restless married man takes ballroom dancing lessons to get close to the beautiful instructor. Unexpectedly, the art of the dance moves him to revive romance with his worried wife.

Writer-director Masayuki Suo uses much gentle humor to explore how Japanese culture frowns on emotional displays by males, but he also communicates how the social nature of dancing allows the students and teachers to develop mutually supportive friendships.

— "Ulee's Gold" (USCC: A-III — adults; MPAA: R —restricted) is a finely detailed character study of an aging Florida beekeeper (Peter Fonda) which turns into a suspenseful melodrama about murderous thugs threatening to harm his family.

Writer-director Victor Nunez has created a small picture of ordinary people and everyday life which has real human substance, especially in Fonda's performance as a simple man whose down-home virtues are tested by violence from the world outside.

— "The Wind in the Willows" (A-I — general patronage; G — general audiences) is based on Kenneth Grahame's 1908 children's classic set in the bucolic English countryside.

In this live-action story, comic actors portray a mousey mole, kindly rat and bold badger, each trying to rein in the disastrous excesses of a reckless toad endangering their meadow.

In director Terry Jones' creative

See **Best of 1997**, page 12

FAITH alive!

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“Pardon our progress”

By Father Robert L. Kinast
Catholic News Service

The main street in the area where I live is torn up in preparation for an expanded four-lane bridge that will connect the mainland with the beaches. All along the road are large signs with the message, “Pardon Our Progress.”

The wider bridge is intended to bring more tourism to the area. Business owners and city council members see this as an opportunity for growth and profit, but many long-time residents fear that the bridge will lead to more congestion and change the beach community’s character.

CNS photo above by J. Michael Fitzgerald; top right by Aurturo Mari

One person’s progress is another person’s problem.

When people want to change how things are, they usually argue that:

—The change is inevitable (implying that nothing can be done to stop it), or

—It ultimately will improve the quality of life (implying that no reasonable person would oppose it).

Unfortunately the same argument has been used to wage war as well as conquer disease, to pollute the environment as well as enact civil rights legislation.

■ ■ ■

How should a Christian view these claims to progress?

When I asked a Latin American missionary that same question a few years ago, he gave me a very helpful answer. When considering any social change and the claims people make for its value, ask three questions:

—Who benefits?

—What are the benefits?

—Does it advance the reign of God?

Those are not easy questions to answer, given the frequency and complexity of change in our society. But from a Christian perspective, those questions focus on three essential values.

The primary beneficiaries of any social change should be the poor. The U.S. bishops took this position in their 1986 statement, *Economic Justice for All,* when they said, “Decisions must be judged in light of what they do for the poor, what they do to the poor and what they enable the poor to do for themselves” (No. 24).

Consider the computer age, especially access to the Internet. Many advocates have argued that the Internet is a great equalizer, giving all people regardless of their social or economic status the same access to information and resources.

This is true once a person has a computer with enough memory, adequate software and an on-line service. But that is exactly what the poor often do not have.

> **“When considering any social change and the claims people make for its value, ask three questions: Who benefits? What are the benefits? Does it advance the reign of God?... The primary beneficiaries of any social change should be the poor.”**

The result is that many poor people are once again being left out of the latest technological advance.

If the primary beneficiaries are not benefiting, it is not yet progress from a Christian perspective.

In addition to asking who benefits from new developments, a Christian should also consider the benefits themselves. Do they harmonize with the principles and values of the Christian life?

Consider the unprecedented breakthroughs in modern medicine. It is easy to assume that medical advances are an unqualified benefit for everybody.

However, medical services are tied to health insurance, and not everyone can afford adequate coverage. In addition, one might ask whether our “progress” is sufficient if we keep people alive through modern medicine, only to treat them afterward as a burden, thus complicating their last years instead of simplifying them.

Obviously these questions only can be answered on a person-by-person basis, but they are the substantive questions a Christian must ask. If the benefits of something labeled “progress” are not beneficial in Gospel terms, they are neither beneficial nor progressive.

The third question is whether a development advances the reign of God. Does it strengthen the bonds of union between people and deepen their sense of belonging to one family embraced by God’s love or does it alienate people from one another, increase their competitiveness, and drive them toward isolation and selfishness?

Consider the high standard of material comfort which has become the pride of many people’s lives since World War II. Does pursuit of this comfort bring people closer together, enrich their relationships, and make them more conscious of God in their lives?

Studies in recent years indicate that Americans are working harder and longer with less satisfying results. The self-help and self-fulfillment industries are booming, filling an apparent void in people’s personal lives.

Everyone laments the breakdown of the family and the instability of modern marriages. Job-switching and relocating make it difficult to establish roots and sustain friendships. Furthermore, the desire for early retirement and leisure living creates anxiety about financial security and takes precedence over other, more human, concerns.

None of that advances the reign of God.

As I sat in traffic one day recently, contemplating the sign by the side of the road — “Pardon Our Progress” — I wondered whether I should pardon its claim.

But if the poor benefit, if the benefits harmonize with Gospel values and if the reign of God’s love drawing people together is advanced, then the change is indeed progress, and from a Christian perspective it should not just be pardoned but promoted.

(Father Kinast is the director of the Center for Theological Reflection, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“Globalization” was the word heard over and over in the late fall when the special Synod of Bishops for America took place in Rome. The word refers to processes pulling our globe’s far corners closer together — the shrinking of planet Earth.

Some synod participants said that globalization’s driving force is economics and that globalization and exploitation often go hand in hand. Others said globalization increases the possibilities for distant peoples to interact and cooperate in positive ways.

Globalization highlights the mystery of human progress. Sometimes it seems that as humanity takes one step forward it takes another step back.

The world seemed positioned for peace when the iron curtain fell. But we were to witness wars of unprecedented bloodiness in the former Yugoslavia or the Great Lakes region of Africa.

We inhabit a world of contrasts. Astonishing communications breakthroughs contrast starkly with the loneliness, depression and abuse of human beings reported daily by communicators.

Globalization creates new opportunities for human beings to be in closer contact with each other. But does globalization represent progress?

Maybe the answer is that human beings must decide whether they want their breakthroughs and discoveries to be all to the good.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

45

Awaiting the future in joyful hope

By Father Lawrence E. Mick
Catholic News Service

Let's play a quick word association game. When I say "end of the world," what image first comes to mind?

For many people, it is probably a picture of a cartoon prophet carrying a sign that reads, "The end is coming soon."

Others may picture the kind of cataclysmic scene described in a few Scripture passages, with the sun and the stars falling, and the earth being destroyed by fire.

Many people share this view of the end of the world. Some also link it with the end of the millennium, so they view the coming turn of the century as a time of fear and dread, often claiming the Bible as the source of their predictions of doom.

Taken as a whole, however, the Bible does not support this view of the future. The coming of the Lord is an event to be anticipated with longing by those who live according to God's law.

The images of doom are addressed to those who oppose God's law. For those who seek to serve the Lord, on the other hand, the day of the Lord will be a time of rejoicing. This is the view reflected most often in the church's liturgy.

It is true that some Scripture passages that issue a warning to be prepared for the day of judgment find a place in the liturgy. But the real point is to set a tone — a tone of anticipation and longing for the second coming of the Lord.

"When I say 'end of the world,' what image first comes to mind? For many people, it is probably a picture of a cartoon prophet carrying a sign that reads, 'The end is coming soon.'"

In every Eucharist we remind ourselves of this positive view of the future in the prayer that follows the Lord's Prayer during the Communion rite. This prayer is called the "embolism," a word from the Greek that means "something interjected."

The prayer is an expansion of the final petition of the Lord's Prayer: "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." The presider adds these words:

"Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Those who celebrate the Eucharist regularly have heard this prayer so often that they can probably say it from memory. If not, it would not take much effort to commit it to memory. It would make a good daily prayer for each of us as we approach the end of the millennium.

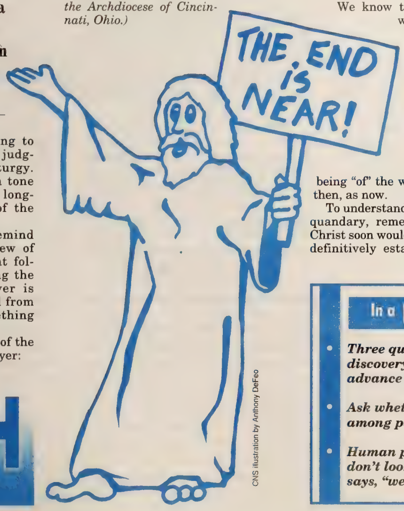
This brief prayer, like the liturgy as a whole, does not ignore the existence of evil and danger in our world. It acknowledges that evil exists and that it can threaten us.

But the liturgy also expresses our faith that God is stronger than evil, and that God will protect us and deliver us from evil.

With that confidence, the liturgy takes a very optimistic view of the future. The prayers of the liturgy speak of the coming day of the Lord as a great and glorious day, a time of rejoicing for the just and of salvation for God's holy people.

With so many people facing the future with fear and anxiety, the world could certainly use the witness of people of faith, people who know that God is in charge of the present and the future, people who "wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio.)


THE END IS NEAR!

CNS illustration by Anthony DeFeo

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FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What is your greatest hope for people — for the world — in the new millennium?

"Peace, no violence and that all have the necessities of life: like food, clothing and a place to sleep." — Mary Tucker, El Paso, Texas

"To move toward choosing ... life instead of abortion or war or the euthanasia of our sick and dying." — Erin Muldoon, Boston, Mass.

"I would hope that we would all learn to live by the law of love, by Christ's law, instead of the legalistic approach we have now to solving the world's problems." — Mary Ellen Johns, Orwigsburg, Pa.

"Equality among people and greater understanding of others' needs and realities and beliefs so that we could eventually live in peace." — Colleen Curry, Chicago, Ill.

An upcoming edition asks: How has faith made a difference for an important decision you faced on the job? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Juggling our dual citizenship

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Christians always have lived in a state of tension between the "already" and the "not yet." It is like having dual citizenship, with allegiance to two different countries: Christians are obliged to be citizens in this life but with their hearts set on another.

Like us, the early Christians had to try to figure out what this meant for their lives. Should they care about this world? Should they try to make the world better? Should they find a way to live "apart" from the world as much as possible?

Does it sound like they had a lot to juggle there? Remember that we are talking about living within the world at a time when it was going to be illegal — against the law — to be a Christian.

We know that early Christians wrestled with some problems we wrestle with today. For example, many early Christians had a hard time holding to their ethics. There was a temptation to become Roman.

How to live "in" the world without being "of" the world was a challenge then, as now.

To understand the early Christians' quandary, remember that they felt Christ soon would come again in glory, definitively establishing an eternal kingdom and gathering them into it.

Paul advised the Corinthians: "The world in its present form is passing away" (1 Corinthians 7:31). This set up an awkward situation. Being normal members of society, with inescapable obligations to it, how could the early Christians fulfill those obligations, convinced as they were that society itself was ending?

Should they even pay taxes? In the Letter to the Romans, Paul clearly set out the responsibilities of the early Christians toward the authority of the Roman Empire:

"Pay ... taxes to whom taxes are due, ... respect to whom respect is due" (Romans 13:11-12).

Practically, this was not easy. As long as they were perceived as a Jewish sect, they were protected by Roman law. But soon they would stand on their own feet as the illegal Christian religion, subject to Roman law's harsh penalties. Must they obey their destroyers?

It was not easy being a Christian within the world in those ancient days. It is not easy today.

But we do not share Paul's urgency that the world as we know it is passing away. The future seems to stretch out ahead, with all that it holds in store in terms of "progress" on the one hand and "man's inhumanity to man" on the other.

What does the tension between the "already" and the "not yet" mean for people following the Gospel's law of love on the eve of the 21st century?

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

In a Nutshell

- ***Three questions help identify "progress" in a breakthrough or discovery: Who benefits? What are the benefits? Does it advance God's reign?***
- ***Ask whether a human advance strengthens bonds of union among people.***
- ***Human progress is not automatic, yet Catholic-Christians don't look to the future with gloom and doom. As each Mass says, "we wait in joyful hope."***

People In The News

Rising Star Skater Looks To St. Therese Of Lisieux For Inspiration

By DARCI SMITH

DETROIT (CNS) — For years, ice skating champion Tara Lipinski and her mother have been praying to St. Therese of Lisieux, and they believe the "Little Flower" has answered their prayers with her trademark shower of roses.

Tara wears a St. Therese medal around her neck and she and her mother, Pat, make the five-day novena rose prayer before each competition and in times of trouble.

"With everything going on, with what people think about me and my skating, I feel at ease because I think that she's with me," said Tara, 15. "I'm not worrying as much as I used to about things. I'm just thinking about skating, and I believe that she'll help me and make me happy."

It was in Budapest, Hungary, that the Lipinski family first felt St. Therese's guidance. It was 1994, and Tara had just finished fourth at the World Junior Championships. She had been skating for a while, and Lipinski recalled wanting her daughter to quit so the family could return to their normal life.

"I just didn't want really to continue this," Lipinski said. "I didn't feel at all this is what we wanted for our family."

She stood on their hotel room's terrace with her husband, Jack, who was very upset at the thought of their daughter leaving the sport. But as she turned to talk to him, "St. Therese with the roses in her arms was ... right in front of me" in the facade of a nearby Catholic church.

The two walked to the church that night and confirmed it was St. Therese. It was a needy, rundown church, and she prayed for guidance in front of the St. Therese statue.

"For some reason, I just felt there was somebody pushing us for Tara to skate, because just none of it made sense," Lipinski said. "We weren't a sports family, we didn't really want this, but every time we tried to get out of it, we could never get out of it for some reason.

"It sounds silly, but ... every time we made a decision, fate just stopped us," she continued. "And that's when we started praying and just saying, 'Well look, we'll leave it in your hands, just tell us what to do. When you say it's over, it's over.'"

According to Tara, an only child, skating "takes up your whole life." She began roller skating at 3, switching to ice skating at 6. At 12, she was a national medalist.

The lifestyle has been particularly hard on her family. Tara and her mom relocated first to Delaware, and then to Bloomfield Twp., a suburb of Detroit, two-and-a-half years ago so she could train with coach Richard Callaghan at the Detroit Skating Club.

Her father, an oil executive, continues to live in the family home in the Houston suburb of Sugar Land. Tara talks to her father on the phone each night, and he tries to visit his wife and daughter on weekends.

"It is unbearable," the elder Lipinski added.

That suffocating pressure had mounted again in 1995, when Tara skated fifth at the World Junior Championships in Australia. Lipinski and her husband took a walk to sort things out, and ended up at a local church.

The two walked in during Mass, Lipinski said, and made their way up to the front pew, where they saw a beautiful stained-glass window of St. Therese. "I turned to Jack, and I (said), 'I cannot believe this,' and again, again the feeling of wait, wait, wait," Lipinski recalled.

Tara sees similarities between her life and that of her favorite saint. St. Therese was not allowed into the convent, the world of which she so desperately wanted to be a part, until she was 15. "She was 14, and nobody wanted her," Tara said. "And I was 14, and (the skating world) didn't want me, either."

Believing in St. Therese has helped her skating immensely, she added. "When I go out there, I think of her. When I'm competing, it helps me because I know — I say — she's with me, she wants me to do this. It makes me feel calmer, and I go for everything."

And Tara went for everything this past year. In 1997, at age 14, she became the youngest U.S. and world champion in history.

In January, Tara competes in Philadelphia at the national championships, which will also serve as the Olympic trials. The 1998 Winter Olympics will be held in February in Nagano, Japan.

An Olympic gold medal is her ultimate goal, Tara said.

Lipinski said she and Tara realize that St. Therese's main concern isn't whether or not Tara will win the Olympics.

"There's too much sickness out there, there's too much death," she said. "I really believe that she's trying to help Tara, so that Tara in turn will help her somehow."

Not only do Tara and her mother visit hospitals before competitions, Tara donated some winnings to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, for a playroom. Tara had the playroom dedicated in honor of St. Therese with a plaque outside the door, Lipinski said.

Tara and her mother attend both St. Owen and St. Hugo of the Hills parishes in suburban Bloomfield Hills.

Attending Mass each Sunday is only one way Lipinski strives to give her daughter a somewhat normal life. With skating, tutors and homework each day, Tara has the weekends free (aside from a two-hour skate on Saturday) to be a normal teen-ager.

"She has sleepovers, she goes to the mall, she goes to the movies," Lipinski said. "Basically, from Friday night through Sunday, it's hers with her friends."

Lately, the months have been filled with incredible pressure and stress for the 4-foot-10 1/2-inch, 81-pound Tara and her mother. The year a skater is world champion is full of expectations, which are often hard to live up to, Lipinski said.

A few Sundays ago, she recounted, she and Tara sat in St. Owen Church, dwelling on their troubles. Suddenly, a part of the song caught their attention, Lipinski recalled. "They had just finished (a) verse," she said. "(It was) 'the rose is on its way.'"

CNS photo

U.S. and world figure skating champion Tara Lipinski believes St. Therese of Lisieux has been showering her — and her ice skating career — with roses.

Couple Opposed To Gulf War Sanctions Wins Peace Prize

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — Jim and Shelley Douglass, activists opposing sanctions against Iraq, have received the 1997 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award. The couple is the first husband-wife team to receive the award, created by the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council in 1964 to honor individuals who exemplified the teachings of Pope John XXIII in his 1963 encyclical, "Pacem in Terris," which called for peace among all nations. In 1976, the award was taken over by the Quad Cities Pacem in Terris Coalition after the Interracial Council disbanded. The 1997 coalition includes the Davenport Diocese, St. Ambrose University, Augustana College and the Stanley Foundation.

New Missionaries of Charity Welcomed by Sister Nirmala

NEW YORK (CNS) — Mother Teresa's successor as head of the Missionaries of Charity returned to the United States in mid-December to accept the vows of new members of the order. Sister Nirmala Joshi visited New York, Washington and San Francisco to accept the vows. In the South Bronx, New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor said contemplative nuns are "at the heart of the church," not the periphery. Five of the six sisters who professed vows in New York will live as contemplatives.

Jesuit Honored As One Of 1997's Outstanding Filipinos

NAGA CITY, Philippines (CNS) — Jesuit Father Raul Bonoan has been honored as one of 1997's outstanding Filipinos for his work in education and community development in Bicol, one of the Philippine's poorer regions. "The education of the poor has remained close to (Father Bonoan's) heart, for which he tirelessly solicits support," read the citation of the Philippine Jaycees Senate, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "His dynamic leadership in educational associations has challenged Bicol schools to achieve academic excellence," it also said. Father Bonoan, 62, was the only religious among six men and women honored in early December.

Indiana Catholic Conference Honors Pro-Life Law-Makers

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — The Indiana Catholic Conference observed its 30th anniversary by honoring two lawmakers for their pro-life efforts. U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, a Republican, and State Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, a Democrat, were recognized by the group at an anniversary dinner in Indianapolis. Coats, in his address, said there is a public responsibility to promote "the common good, which will never be truly common until it is shared by the poor."

Brevard Parishioner Installed Into Order of St. Gregory

By NANCY MEANIX

BREVARD — There's a papal knight in Brevard.

Thomas W. Mahan, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church, was among a group honored by the pope in April 1997 who received their awards at a Nov. 30 ceremony at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston.

Mahan is one of eight people from the Carolinas installed into the Order of St. Gregory the Great, established by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831 to honor citizens of the papal states who came to his defense. Today, this honor is given to laypeople distinguished by character, reputation and noble accomplishments.

Mahan and the seven others each received a medal from Bishop David B. Thompson of Charleston during the ceremony.

Bishop Thompson called Mahan's work as Charleston's diocesan director of Synod Implementation and Planning "key in shaping the future of the Diocese of Charleston." The bishop noted Mahan's key role in drafting the document "Enthusiasm for the Faith: A Plan for Implementing the Vision of the Synod of Charleston."

Mahan said the best of the assignment was "the challenge of taking a concept or vision and figuring out how to bring it to reality, and then sell it to 114 parishes throughout the state. I enjoy the building, the teamwork to bring something to be."

Mahan also served as Charleston diocesan director of Christian Formation, where he was superintendent of 27 schools, supervisor of religious education in all 114 parishes, director of evangelization and organizer and supervisor of campus ministries. He headed a committee that formed the new Charleston Catholic School, grades pre-K through eight, and planned the relocation and design of Charleston's Catholic high school, expected to be completed early this year.

When it comes to faith, Mahan credits his parents for bringing him up as a strong Catholic. "They were devout Catholics who followed all the rules," he said. "But they also taught me to think things through for myself."

Mahan, who will be 69 on Jan. 28, was born in Pittsfield, Mass., and attended Norwich Free Academy in Norwich, Conn. As a 10th grader, he entered St. Thomas Seminary in nearby Bloomfield for four years and became valedictorian, sacristan, class vice-president and editor of the quarterly Stella Matutina.

He continued seminary education for three more years at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., where he received a double degree in philosophy and English and later a master's degree in philosophy. His theological education ended shortly after he received tenure.

Mahan later earned a master's degree in educational psychology and a doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Connecticut.

Photo by Paul Barra, The New Catholic Miscellany

Bishop David B. Thompson of the Charleston Diocese places a papal medal on Thomas W. Mahan of Brevard during a special ceremony at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist Nov. 30.

He taught English and French at Fairfield College Preparatory school; English at Norwich Free Academy, where he later served as school psychologist; school psychology at the University of Connecticut, where he met his future wife, Aline; special education and psychology at Boston University; and education and psychology at the Citadel.

At the University of Hartford, Mahan taught psychology, and served as associate dean and director of graduate students.

He also directed the Greater Hartford Desegregation Project, which brought randomly selected non-white children out of city schools into upper-middle-class suburban schools.

Bishop Thompson praised Mahan's "Catholicity, his sensitivity and ability to overcome many difficult hurdles."

"People respect his wisdom and admire his goodness," the bishop added. "He has a deep Catholic faith and is a man who very much thinks with the church."

Nancy Meanix is a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church, Brevard.

Knights of Columbus Insurance Receives Superior "AAA" Rating

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Standard & Poor's once again has rated Knights of Columbus insurance "AAA" (Superior). Insurers rated "AAA" by Standard & Poor's, according to the report, "offer superior financial security on an absolute and relative basis. Capacity to meet policyholder obligations is overwhelming under a variety of economic and underwriting conditions."

This is the sixth consecutive year that Knights' insurance has earned the top rating.

The A.M. Best Co. also gave the Knights its highest rating of A++ (Superior) for the 22nd consecutive year in 1997.

The Knights of Columbus offers insurance to its members and their families. The sale of insurance has been a part of the organization's program since its founding in 1882.

Standard & Poor's said its rating "reflects the society's competitive advantage in the Catholic market, its superior capitalization, its superior operating performance, its superior liquidity, and its excellent portfolio."

The report noted the Knights' "very strong business position" resulting from its "distinct competitive advantage in the Catholic market" and a strong agency force. "This advantage," said Standard & Poor's, "translates into a long track record of sales growth in a variety of sales environments in the industry."

Commenting on the ratings, Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant said, "Standard & Poor's rating and A.M. Best's confirm our belief in the excellence of our insurance products and in our agency force."

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization, with nearly 1.6 million members and their families in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines and the Caribbean. It was founded by a Catholic priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, at St. Mary Church in New Haven in 1882. In 1996 the Knights at all levels of the organization raised and donated $105 million to charitable programs and volunteered nearly 49 million hours of service.

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New Mood, New Approaches For 25th Anniversary of Row vs. Wade Ruling

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A particularly gruesome form of abortion and a particularly ardent supporter of legal abortion in the White House may have changed the face of the pro-life movement forever.

"There's a different mood in the pro-life movement" as the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton decisions approaches, according to Bishop James T. McHugh of Camden, N.J., who was there at the beginning as director of what was then called the U.S. bishops' Family Life Division.

"At 25, the pro-life movement is more convinced that it has to go for the long, long road," Bishop McHugh said. Even five years ago, the movement "didn't have such a clear vision" and was plagued with "competing approaches," he said.

He attributed the changes to a number of factors, including President Clinton's "determined, resolute pro-abortion effort," which he said has been "a bracing factor for the pro-life movement," and the education of Congress and the U.S. people about the realities of partial-birth abortion.

Clinton's efforts against any restrictions on abortion — even partial-birth abortions — has "pulled the pro-life movement together" by showing "how powerful and how obstructionist presidential power can be when applied" to a single issue, he added.

Also crucial to the change, Bishop McHugh said, is the looming threat of assisted suicide, once considered by many just a theoretical part of the "slippery slope" but now a real danger to the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable populations.

In its twin rulings on Jan. 22, 1973 — Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton — the Supreme Court declared the abortion statutes of Texas and Georgia unconstitutional, effectively throwing out similar laws of 44 other states in the process.

On the 25th anniversary, the March for Life in Washington will have a new look, courtesy of the national Knights of Columbus, who have paid for 15,000 new placards to be carried by the marchers and for two 10-foot-by-20-foot billboards along the march route.

The placards and billboards bear such slogans as "Pro-life: Here until no more children die, no more women cry," Mother Teresa's description of abortion as "the greatest destroyer of peace and love," and "Abortion kills. It's that simple."

Helen Alvare, who helped to develop the placards and billboards in her role as director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said the new materials are aimed at two audiences — "the pro-life people themselves in D.C. for the march and the public watching the pro-life activities at home and wondering, 'Who are these people?'"

Although Jan. 22 will be "a day to mourn" the 25-year-old decisions legalizing abortion, Alvare said, it is also "a day to thank the pro-life people for all that they have accomplished."

One accomplishment of the pro-life community has been to put the lie to various claims about abortion put forth by those who want it to remain legal, she said. One of those lies is that women who have abortions feel only relief — and perhaps a tiny twinge of regret — after it is over.

An exhibit on the 25th anniversary put together by the pro-life secretariat quotes an unnamed woman after an abortion. "Everything I read on abortion before I experienced it told me that women who have abortions do not suffer from depression or regret afterward. ... I could expect to feel relieved," she says. "Where did they get that from? I will never be the same again."

As awareness of post-abortion trauma continues to grow, Alvare said, there will be greater efforts to reach the women who have failed to deal with that pain and have repeat abortions.

With statistics showing that half of all abortions are performed on women who have had abortions before, the growing outreach to women after abortions "could be a tremendous way to affect 50 percent of all abortions," she said.

The pro-life movement's efforts to confront lies about partial-birth abortion got a boost from an unexpected source shortly after the 24th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade when Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, admitted that he had lied on national television about the number of such abortions and when they were performed.

Fitzsimmons' admission "changed the perception" of the abortion issue and showed that "there is nothing they (abortion advocates) won't defend," Alvare said.

She expressed hope that the 25th anniversary would prompt more soul-searching throughout the nation on "whether abortion has accomplished for women what it was supposed to" and how it has affected U.S. society at large.

In a nationwide ad campaign, the National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund gives its own answer.

"Rather than being the predicted 'cure' for social problems like teen pregnancy and child abuse, legalized abortion has not only failed to solve these problems but led to many other societal evils no one would have imagined in 1973," the ad says, citing partial-birth abortions and assisted suicide.

"The bottom line," Alvare said, "is always that we cannot condone killing and hope to get good results from it."

Best of 1997

from page 7

hands, the movie becomes a highly imaginative tale filled with whimsy which children can enjoy even as adults see in it a satire of the English class structure.

— "The Wings of the Dove" (A-II — adults and adolescents; PG — parental guidance suggested) is a visually lush and beautifully crafted tale based on Henry James' 1902 novel.

The story involves a dying American heiress, who is reluctantly wooed by an impoverished English journalist at the insistence of his true love, a socially ambitious Englishwoman determined for him to inherit the fortune at stake.

Set in the drawing rooms of London and on the moonlit canals of Venice, director Iain Softley's period piece delicately explores themes of love, greed and manipulation as the dynamics of the romantic triangle are tragically played out.

"Rally for Life" Bus To Head For Raleigh

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont has chartered a bus to the 1998 Rally for Life in Raleigh on Jan. 17. The bus will make stops at 8:00a.m. at St. Michael Church in Gastonia, at Queen of the Apostles Church at 8:30 a.m., at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Charlotte at 9:00 a.m., and at Northside Baptist Church in Charlotte at 9:30 a.m. The rally is from 1-3 p.m.

For more information, call Jan Rogers at work, (704) 825-5277, or at home, (704) 827-7593.

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"Wag the Dog" from page 7

ing wrinkles for the media to position the president as worthy of a Nobel Peace Prize.

Hoffman's incisive performance and the sharply written dialogue are the satire's strongest points in a dark comedy that knows how to lance its subjects with style, if not complete credibility.

Due to sexual references, an offscreen homicide, recurring rough language and occasional profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Employment Opportunities

Principal:
St. Michael's Catholic School, located in Garden City, S.C., is seeking qualified applicants to serve as Principal of a new school beginning year 1998; Grades K-3 the first year, adding one grade yearly until Grade 8. Submit resume by January 23, 1998 or ASAP. Applicant must be available and participate in initiation process. Qualifications: A Master's Degree in School Administration, five years teaching experience, have, or be eligible for a S.C. elementary principal's certificate, or have certification from another state. Needs to be a practicing Catholic to carry on the mission of the Catholic school by modeling academic and religious leadership. Send resume to St. Michael's Church, P.O. Box 14357, Surfside Beach, S.C. 29587, Attention: Sr. Isabel Haughey, OSF.

Minister of Music / Pastoral Musician / Organist:
Established, growing downtown parish of 950 families desires a full-time minister of music / pastoral musician / organist. Wonderful opportunity to enhance present programs and vitalize new ones. Willingness to collaborate with present musicians and staff a must. Must be competent in organ / keyboard. Familiarity with pre- and post-Vatican II music and liturgical styles necessary. Responsibilities include: choir direction and development; cantor training, resourcing parish musical programs. Degree in music or liturgy or both a plus. Benefits and salary commensurate with experience and training. Resume and references to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA 24504 (804) 846-5245; Fax (804) 846-7022.

Director of Music:
1500 family parish seeks part-time professional with liturgical music experience. Potential grows to full-time. Requires organ, keyboard and vocal skills, working with youth and adult choirs. Send or fax resume to: St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Charlotte, NC 28227. Fax: (704) 536-3147

Director of Development:
Cardinal Gibbons High School, a private Catholic four year college preparatory school located in Raleigh, is searching for an experienced Development Director to administer the school's development activities. The Director of Development will implement and complete the school's on-going Capital Campaign; coordinate the activities of the Alumni Association; and will also be responsible for grant writing. The qualified candidate will have a Bachelor's Degree; minimum five years development experience with an emphasis on individual giving; and extensive experience in volunteer management. Please send resume and salary requirements by Feb. 15, 1998 to: James Boyle, Chair-Board of Trustees, Cardinal Gibbons High School, 2401 Crusader Drive, Raleigh, NC, or Fax: (919) 834-9771.

Language Arts Teacher, Middle School (Grades 6-8):
Sacred Heart Catholic School—Salisbury, NC. Opening first of February 1998. Contact Mrs. Kathleen Miller at (704) 633-2841 for information.

Diocesan Regional Coordinators:
Charlotte Diocese has two openings: Northern Vicariates and Southern Vicariates. Diocese seeks persons with Master's degree in Rel. Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris V. Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee. Inquiries: (704) 370-3244. Deadline: February 27, 1998 or when filled.

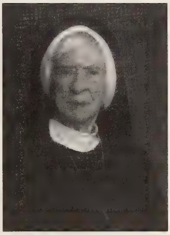
Project Assistant Position:
Full-time position needed immediately. Responsibilities include: conducting newcomer orientation and vocational ESL classes for newly arrived refugees; coordinating refugee health education and crime prevention activities. Experience in refugee resettlement services is required. A degree in Human Services/Social Work with bilingual ability is preferred. Computer literacy a must. ESL teaching skill is a plus. Submit resume with references to: Refugee Resettlement Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 by January 19, 1998.

Bilingual Case Aide:
Full-time, temporary position needed immediately. Duties include translation/interpretation; coordinating needed refugee services, and transporting clients to appointments. Must be fluent in Vietnamese and English. High school education or equivalent. Valid NC driver license. Submit resume with references to: Refugee Resettlement Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Duo Marks 74 Years of Mercy

BELMONT — Like most days, Mercy Sisters Mary Evangelist Nixon and Mary Vincent Spencer spent Dec. 8, 1997, together.

For the last 75 years they have shared many significant moments: Both attended Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and both ministered as supervisors at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville and at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte.



Sister Mary Evangelist Nixon, RSM

They've shared special anniversaries, too, both having entered the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina on Dec. 8, 1922, and professed their first vows on July 19, 1925. They shared their silver, golden and diamond anniversaries together. And in 1997, the pair shared the celebration of their 74th anniversaries of reception into the Sisters of Mercy.

Sisters Mary Evangelist and Mary Vincent were honored Nov. 8 in Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. Surrounded by their families, friends, Mercy Associates and members of the regional community, they were praised for generously sharing their support and their medical and educational expertise.

During her ministerial career, Sister Mary Evangelist served as an operating room supervisor, night-shift supervisor, supervisor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, supervisor of the medical and surgical floors, hospital supervisor and director of Nursing Education and Nursing Services.

Additionally, she has served as program chairperson for Mercy alumni, a member of the nominating committee for the N.C. State Nurses' Association, and vice-chairperson for the E.A.C.T. Section of District No. 5 of the State Nurses' Association. In 1966, she assisted with the achievement tests for the National League of Nurses.

Sister Mary Vincent Spencer, RSM

Sister Mary Vincent has served primarily in the surgical units of Mercy and St. Joseph's hospitals. Prior to her retirement, she was operating room supervisor at Mercy Hospital.

Catholic Heritage Society

Could You Be Eligible For Membership?

The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.

For information on the Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207. Telephone 704-331-1709 or 377-6871.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Bereavement Support

ARDEN — The Bereavement Support Group meets Mondays at 1:30 p.m. in the St. Francis Room at St. Barnabas Church for those with significant losses in their lives, no matter how recent or remote.

Family Educators Support

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, western North Carolina's Catholic home school support group, meets each third Friday in the Laurentine Hall of St. Lawrence Basilica for a potluck dinner. For more information, call Sheryl Oligny, (704) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (704) 645-6990.

Young Adults Group

ASHEVILLE — An Asheville young adults group, "CYAA," for single and married 20- to 40-year-olds, gathers on Saturdays after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Eugene Church. For details, call David Hill, (704) 252-7118.

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence provide free tours of the historic church following every weekend Mass. Mass schedule is as follows: Saturday, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. Spanish Mass is Sunday at 7 p.m.

Bible Study

BREVARD — Sacred Heart Church hosts a Monday morning Bible study each week at 9:30 a.m. in the gathering area. A study of Luke begins this month. For more information, call Elaine Walker, (704) 884-7549.

Adult Education Series

CHARLOTTE — The Rev. Rowan Greer of St. Peter Episcopal Church in Charlotte leads a reflection on "The Common Life in the Body of Christ: Redeeming St. Paul for Catholic Spirituality," a scriptural reflection, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Catholic Church. Call (704) 332-2901 for more information.

Separated, Divorced, Remarried Support

CHARLOTTE — A support group for those separated, divorced, and remarried "outside the church" meets every second and fourth Wednesday from 6:15-7:30 p.m. at St. Ann Church. For details, call Kathy Wooley, (704) 376-1503.

Bereavement Ministry Training

CHARLOTTE — A bereavement ministry training series continues at St. Matthew Church Jan. 15, 22 and 29 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The program is designed for individuals or congregations who wish to minister to or console those who have lost loved ones in death. For more information, call the parish office, (704) 543-7677.

CCHS News

CHARLOTTE — The CCHS Foundation Grand Prix Party and Auction is Jan. 24 in the school gymnasium and features a dinner buffet, music, and a live and silent auction. Tickets are $60 per person. Chances for the 1998 Grand Spree, a trip for two to London and Rome, are also on sale for $5 each or 6 for $25.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser benefit CCHS; tickets can be purchased by calling (704) 543-9118.

Knights Bingo

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus of St. Ann Parish host Bingo Mondays at 7 p.m. in the activity center. Call the parish office, (704) 523-4641, for more information.

50+ Club

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Parish meets Jan. 14 at 11 a.m. in the church hall. The guest speaker is Dr. Carol Rojas, a chiropractic physician, who will speak on osteoporosis. Coffee and dessert will be served. For further information, call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745.

Married Couples Social Group

GREENSBORO — The Young Married Couples Social Group of Our Lady of Grace Church meets Jan. 18 after the 10 a.m. Mass for an information session in the cafeteria. For details, call Dan and Mary Kate Farley, (910) 854-3635, or Rich and Tracey Campbell, (910) 273-9256.

Catholic Daughters of America

LENOIR — The Catholic Daughters of America group at St. Francis of Assisi Church is eager to welcome new members. For details, call Gail Stewart, (704) 726-0701.

Valentine's Ball

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Catholic School presents its Annual Valentine's Ball Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at Country Club of Salibury. The event includes dinner, dancing and a silent and live auction. The cost is $25 per person, and advanced reservations are required. Call Phyllis Tonseth, (704) 637-7886, by Jan. 31. Proceeds benefit school facilities and materials.

Widowed, Separated, Divorced Support

SYLVA — The Catholic churches of the Smoky Mountain area have formed a support group for those who are widowed, separated, divorced, and with new or unresolved grief. Meetings are held every third Friday in the fellowship hall of St. Mary Church in Sylva. For more information, call the church office, (704) 586-9496, or Mary and Church Brogan, (704) 497-9452.

Silent Prayer

WINSTON-SALEM — Joseph's House, on the parish grounds of Our Lady of Mercy Church, offers a time for silent prayer Mondays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Call (910) 722-0028 for details.

The diocesan office of faith formation recently received a $30,000 grant from the Catholic Extension Society to implement Family Cluster Faith Formation in eight "clusters" in the western and central regions of the diocese. Each cluster is headed by a cluster leader and transitional leader, the latter of whom is mentored for a year before becoming a cluster leader the following year. Pictured from left are leadership team members Neil Mogenson, program co-director, St. Barnabas Church, Arden; Linda Schlensker, St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill; Gene Schweizer and Gloria Schweizer, both of St. Mary Church, Sylva; Jim Taylor, St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa; Lissette Westover, St. Michael Church, Gastonia; Barbara Hudson and Michelle Davis, both of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Morganton; Violeta V. Rivera and Sandy Holland, St. Michael Church, Gastonia; Joanne Taylor, Pauline Fitzgibbons and John Fitzgibbons, all of St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa; and Dr. Cris Villapando, program co-director, diocesan director of faith formation.

Around The Diocese

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence welcomes all to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m. For information call the parish office, (704) 252-6042.

BELMONT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Belmont Abbey Chapel, located behind the abbey church and monastery. For more information, call (704) 399-2701.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at St. Gabriel Church. Contact Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for more information.

Eucharistic adoration is at St. Matthew Church each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass and lasting until the 9 a.m. Saturday Mass. Call Pat Gundaker, (704) 366-9687, or Bernice Hansen, (704) 846-2958, for details.

Eucharistic adoration is at St. Thomas Aquinas Church each Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for details.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Joe or Mary Lanham, (910) 454-4551.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts eucharistic adoration from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church each Friday other than the first. First Friday adoration follows the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasts until 8 p.m. Call (704) 464-9207 for more information.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be celebrated Jan. 11 at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams will gather at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows the Mass. For more information, call Josie, (704) 527-4676.

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated every third Thursday at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel at 7:30 p.m.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

World And National News Briefs

New Religion Curriculum Offered For Mentally Retarded

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — Religious educators around the country are learning about a new tool aimed at helping parish catechists better communicate the faith to those with mental retardation. Grace Harding, director of the Office for Persons with Disabilities in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, met 39 catechists, most from the Diocese of San Diego, for a workshop this fall to promote The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Mental Retardation. Although the group which developed the new program had planned to carry out only 13 training seminars to introduce it to catechists, demand has been so high that in the first year, they have already given 37 training sessions around the nation, Harding said.

Americans Giving Less of Income to Churches

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (CNS) — Americans gave slightly less of their income to their churches in 1995 than they did in 1994, says a new national study. Their total giving actually rose somewhat, but it did not keep pace with the growth in their disposable income, said the report, "The State of Church Giving Through 1995," by John and Sylvia Ronsvalle. The Ronsvalles are founders of Empty Tomb, a nonprofit research and service organization in Champaign.

Finances Of Youngstown Diocese Show Dramatic Turn-Around

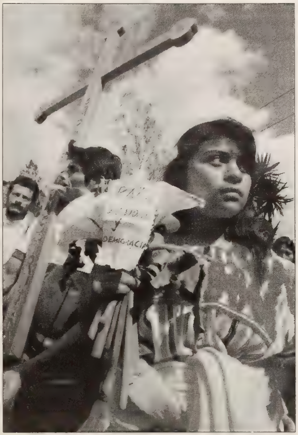
YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (CNS) — The financial health of the Diocese of Youngstown, which had a deficit of $1.3 million in 1996, improved dramatically in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, according to the annual diocesan financial report. Significant personnel reductions and budget cuts helped erase the deficit, said the report, which was released in December. The report showed an income over the previous 12 months of about $4,675,000. Said Robert A. Hoffman, executive director of the diocesan Department of Financial Services: "This year, we had a slight surplus of $50,000. In anyone's eyes, that's dramatic."

Health Care Venture Seeks To Improve Children's Health

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — Catholic Charities USA, Daughters of Charity National Health System and Carondelet Health System have announced a strategic partnership to make quality health care more accessible to disadvantaged children. The unprecedented collaboration, a program called "Children's Health Matters," aims to reduce the number of uninsured children in the United States by enrolling them in Medicaid, which provides comprehensive health care including immunizations, hearing and vision screening, and dental and hospital care. "At least 3 million children whose parents work, but cannot afford health insurance, are eligible for Medicaid," said Sharon Daly, deputy to the president for social policy at the Alexandria-based Catholic Charities USA.

Chiapas Church Official Says Massacre Impedes Church Efforts

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (CNS) — The pre-Christmas massacre of 45 Tzotzil Indians in Mexico's Chiapas state makes church efforts to develop a "culture of peace" more difficult, said a church official in the diocese where the killings took place. The massacre also is a major roadblock to resuming stalled peace talks between the federal government and Zapatista rebels, said Father Felipe Toussaint, vicar general of the Diocese of San Cristobal de las Casas. Church-mediated talks between the government and the Zapatistas, who say they are fighting for better political and economic rights for Indians, were halted over a year ago. Both sides disagreed as to whether the government was complying with accords, especially the withdrawal of its military presence in the region.



CNS photo by Reuters

A Mayan Indian girl holds a banner that reads, "Peace with dignity and justice," in a pilgrimage to Acteal, the site of the Dec. 22 killing of 45 villagers in the Mexican state of Chiapas. Pilgrimages and protests by outraged people throughout Mexico continued into January.

Early Abortion Technique Said To Minimize Human Life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new technique that makes abortions possible as early as eight days after conception was criticized as "Planned Parenthood's attempt to minimize the moral significance of abortion." Helen Alvare, spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said that by describing the new procedure as less noisy, less costly and quicker than the more common type of abortion, its advocates are trying to downplay that the technique still ends a human life. The technique was described in news stories just a few days before Christmas. Its inventor, Dr. Jerry Edwards, medical director at Planned Parenthood in Houston, said he has been using the procedure since about 1989 in his private practice. The procedure uses a hand-held syringe to remove the embryo, rather than the vacuum pump used in more typical abortions.

Briggs & Stratton Withdraws From Suit Against Catholic Paper

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — Briggs & Stratton Corp. and two of its officials have withdrawn from a $30 million federal lawsuit in Milwaukee against the National Catholic Reporter, but the company's media spokesman was continuing to pursue the complaint. U.S. District Judge Charles N. Clevert approved the motion for withdrawal from the suit by the corporation and by President John Shiely and Attorney Thomas P. Krukowski a few days after they filed it Dec. 9. George Thompson III, Briggs & Stratton's director of corporate communications and community relations, was continuing to press the suit, which is scheduled to go to trial in March. The original lawsuit, filed in mid-1996, alleged that the Kansas City-based weekly national newspaper invaded the privacy of the three officials and defamed them and the corporation with a 1994 story and editorial. The paper wrote about the impact of extensive layoffs at unionized Briggs & Stratton plants in Milwaukee while the company opened new plants in cheaper labor markets in the South.

In First Denver Pastoral, Prelate Urges New Evangelization

DENVER (CNS) — As the Catholic Church prepares for the third Christian millennium, evangelization must be its primary mission, said Denver Archbishop Charles J. Chaput in a Christmas Eve pastoral letter. And this evangelization must be animated by the "passionate missionary zeal" of Jesus' first disciples, he said. The archbishop, who was installed in Denver April 7, released his first pastoral letter to Denver Catholics — titled "Good News of Great Joy" — in the Dec. 24 issue of the Denver Catholic Register archdiocesan newspaper.

Priest Urges Prayer, Dialogue Following Northern Ireland Murders

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — At the funeral of a Catholic man killed in Northern Ireland in retaliation for a loyalist paramilitary leader's murder, the priest urged mourners to pray and dialogue for peace. "The way forward for all of us is through prayer and dialogue. We gain nothing by opposing things, we gain nothing by condemning things. I am appealing for prayer and forgiveness," said Father Seamus Rice at the funeral of Seamus Dillon, former prisoner and member of the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

In New Year Message, Israeli President Optimistic About Peace

JERUSALEM (CNS) — In his annual New Year greeting to Christian leaders, Israeli President Ezer Weizman once again expressed his optimism in the peace process despite the current stall in the talks. "Despite the fact that we are now in a bit of a crisis (with the Palestinians) I believe we shall overcome (this)," he said to Christian leaders at the annual presidential reception Dec. 30.

Catholic Council of India Decries Minus Side Of Globalization

BANGALORE, India (CNS) — The Catholic Council of India has decried the negative effects of globalization, saying that opening the country's economy to foreign investments and markets has further impoverished the poor. The Catholic council, a national body representing all sections of the church, says globalization has widened the gap between the rich and the poor, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. At its mid-December meeting in Bangalore, the council urged the church to go beyond material development, to help people "discover their own capacities for development and liberation," and to call people to greater responsibility in society.

Cardinal Keeler Says Papal Visit Is Becoming Real for Cubans

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The reality of Pope John Paul II's upcoming visit to Cuba is finally sinking in for Cubans, said Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore. At a Jan. 2 press conference in Baltimore, the cardinal said he and representatives of Catholic Relief Services had "a very brief but event-filled visit ... where we saw the momentum building dramatically" for the pope's visit. "There is extraordinary hope," the cardinal said. He said someone told him that the reality of the pope's Jan. 21-25 visit "only began to sink in for a vast number of people" when at Christmas the pope's message was read on state-run television.

Church-Run Workshops Aim To Heal After Apartheid

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (CNS) — In South Africa, victims and perpetrators of apartheid are listening to each other. As they participate in church-run workshops, South Africans of a mix of races and ages are making each other aware of how different people lived through the apartheid era. "Every South African has been hurt and damaged by apartheid and, because of that, perpetrators as well as victims need to be healed," said Holy Family Sister Shelagh Mary Waspe, a counselor at the "Healing of the Memories" workshops in which church workers counsel people from different backgrounds. "Healing memories helps us hold the horrors of the past in a way that helps us build a fruitful future," the nun told Catholic News Service.

Parish Profile

Saint Mary Catholic Church

St. Mary Catholic Church
22 Bartlett St.
Sylva, N.C. 28779
(704) 586-9496

Vicariate: Smoky Mountain

Pastor:
Father James P. Cahill

Permanent Deacon:
Rev. Mr. Gerry Herbers

Mass Schedule:
Sunday — 9, 11 a.m.

Number of parishioners: 396

Number of households: 195

SYLVA — The history of St. Mary Catholic Church involves the missionary zeal of a number of diocesan and Glenmary priests who have served in western North Carolina's mountain towns. But it was a layman also known for missionary efforts who was instrumental in giving the Sylva church its start.

Prior to the mid-1950s, Catholics in Sylva gathered for Masses in private homes, the local American Legion building and a downtown hotel.

Meanwhile, Michael William Murphy, who as a young businessman living in Detroit came to know Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh, had taken an interest in the missionary territory of western North Carolina. Murphy moved to North Carolina after his mother's death, and made a name for himself as a church builder in the Tar Heel hills.

After assisting in the construction of St. William Church in Murphy, the missionary went to Sylva, where he met with Father (later Msgr.) Lawrence Newman. For several years in the 1950s, Father Newman served as pastor of St. John parish in Waynesville, which ministered to Catholic communities throughout North Carolina's westernmost counties at the time. With Murphy's financial assistance and Father Newman's foresight and direction, construction of a Catholic church in Sylva was underway.

Bishop Waters dedicated the new St. Mary Church, built in memory of Murphy's parents, in August 1955 and conferred the sacrament of confirmation to a group of parishioners that same day. Murphy's work was done in Sylva for the time being, but his name would have a familiar ring in western North Carolina for years to come: In May 1972, at St. Mary Church, he was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 80. He later became pastor of Maggie Valley's St. Margaret Church, another Catholic facility he helped build.

In June 1955, Bishop Waters had entered an agreement with the Glenmary Missioners of Cincinnati, Ohio, who would come to serve the missionary territory in the mountains west of Waynesville.

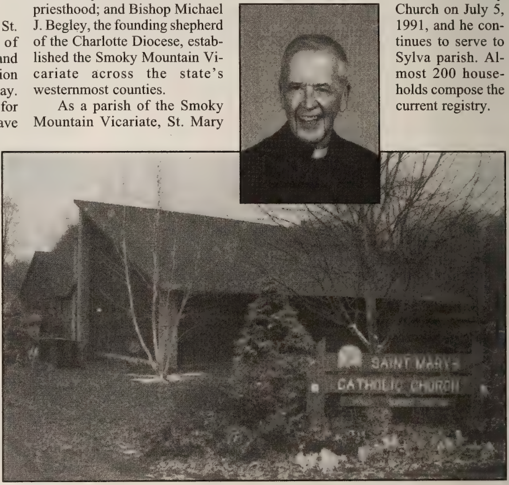
Two Glenmarys, Fathers Robert Healy and Francis Schenk, were appointed to the pastorate of the region and shared duties in Franklin, Bryson City, Cherokee, Sylva and Cullowhee, where the Catholic students attending Western Carolina University were served at the local Newman Center — yet another product of Michael Murphy's benevolence.

St. Mary Church functioned as a mission of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin until 1972, when the Diocese of Charlotte was formed and Sylva became a parish. Glenmary Father John Loftus was appointed the first pastor and also served at the Newman Center in Cullowhee.

Catholics in North Carolina made news several times in 1972: The Diocese of Charlotte was created, as were several new parishes therein; an 80-year-old missionary was ordained to the priesthood; and Bishop Michael J. Begley, the founding shepherd of the Charlotte Diocese, established the Smoky Mountain Vicariate across the state's westernmost counties.

As a parish of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, St. Mary Church has served the needs of Sylva parishioners for more than four decades. With that service has come growth and change. In July 1983, a three-phase building program was devised that led to the construction of a new parish hall, sanctuary and rectory over the next few years. The Glenmarys' pastorate ended in Sylva during the summer of 1988, and Father William Evans, a diocesan priest, was appointed administrator. The church has been staffed with diocesan clergy since then.

Father James Cahill became pastor of St. Mary Church on July 5, 1991, and he continues to serve to Sylva parish. Almost 200 households compose the current registry.



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In Visit To Cuba, Pope Hopes To Encourage Church Resurgence

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II aims to bring encouragement to a resurgent church and moral guidance to a society at a political crossroads when he travels to Cuba Jan. 21-25.

His visit to the Caribbean island comes after a year of pastoral preparation that has church leaders talking optimistically of a religious "comeback." The recent restoration of Christmas as a public holiday was one tangible sign of this new confidence among Catholics.

The pope's arrival also follows months of intense media attention on the political potential of the visit. For five days, the pontiff who helped bring down European communism will hold center stage in one of the last bastions of state socialism, and that formula has generated a sense of drama.

Addressing diplomats at the Vatican Jan. 10, the pope said he wanted to strengthen Cuba's "courageous Catholics" and support all Cubans' efforts to build an "ever more just and united homeland, where all individuals can find their rightful place and see their legitimate aspirations realized."

Although slowed by age and infirmity in recent years, the pope will crisscross Cuba to visit four major dioceses in a country that was once 85 percent Catholic. He'll celebrate Masses in Santa Clara, Camaguey and Santiago de Cuba, while meeting in Havana with political and cultural leaders, the sick, bishops and other pastoral personnel.

The visit will culminate in an open-air Mass Jan. 25 in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution, a place reserved solely for government assemblies, where prayer will replace the shouted slogans of communist rallies.

Vatican officials outlined three basic goals for the pope in Cuba: preaching the Gospel, strengthening the church's role in society and helping to ease Cuba's isolation in the world community.

The first task — preaching Christian conversion — might be overlooked by the media as a "merely" spiritual side of this trip, but it is a priority for Pope John Paul. Drawing on his experience in Eastern Europe, the pope believes it is essential for him to bring a message of Gospel hope, one that transcends ideology and politics, to the many Cubans who are disillusioned with both.

After a year of pastoral preparation

See **Pope Prepares For Visit,** page 2

CNS photo from Reuters

JERUSALEM SNOW — Nuns of the Sisters of St. Joseph play in the snow in the Old City of Jerusalem Jan. 12. The city was covered with 6 inches of snow overnight from an unusual weather pattern.

Cloning Proposal Criticized, Draws Call For Ban

WASHINGTON (CNS) — News that a U.S. researcher intends to attempt cloning of human beings brought warnings that the effort breaches ethical, scientific and theological standards.

Ethicists, church leaders and President Clinton were among those who said Chicago scientist Richard Seed should not proceed with his plans to treat infertility by impregnating a woman with an embryo created from cloned genetic material.

Seed said he hoped to have a viable pregnancy started in one of four volunteer couples within 18 months. A physicist, Seed said he was seeking financial backers and physicians to participate.

Seed's plans were announced Jan. 6, and he reiterated his intentions in interviews the following weekend, saying he would move the project to Tijuana, Mexico, if Congress were to outlaw human cloning research.

Clinton said in his Jan. 10 radio address that Congress should impose such a ban because the techniques involved are "untested and unsafe and morally unacceptable."

Two days later, 19 European nations signed an agreement to prohibit genetic replication of human beings.

The members of the Council of Europe signed a protocol committing their countries to banning "any intervention seeking to create human beings genetically identical to another human being, whether living or dead."

A human clone would be created in the image and likeness of man, not God, a Vatican authority said.

Bishop Elio Sgreccia, vice president of the Pontifical Academy for Life and director of the Bioethics Institute at Rome's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, told Vatican Radio human cloning would be "the most serious" violation of natural and divine laws regarding procreation.

"In a formal way, it was already declared seriously illicit in 1987" in a document on the dignity of human procreation issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Bishop Sgreccia told Vatican Radio Jan. 8.

Cloning takes place "outside the exercise of sexuality and is agamic, that is, without the contribution of a man and a woman," said Bishop Sgreccia. "It uses only the genes of one individual to make a photocopy of this individual," he said.

The bishop said cloning "represents a dominion by man over man and includes a kind of desire to replace God's plans in an arbitrary and complete way, creating man in man's image and likeness."

To attempt cloning a human being would be "a serious sin," said Franciscan Father Gino Concetti, a moral theologian who writes for the Vatican newspaper.

If Seed does try to clone a human being it would be "an affront to Almighty God and to the laws on the transmission of human life," Father Concetti told the newspaper Avvenire.

The Franciscan priest said Seed's plans would be "an affront not only to nature but to reason and good sense: Human cloning cannot be accepted even in cases in which a couple is sterile and has no other possibility for overcoming infertility."

Moral theologian John Haas, president of the Pope John Center for the Study of Ethics in Health Care, said Seed's plans are more about making money than helping infertile couples.

"He's an entrepreneur who wants to make money from exploiting people who aren't able to have children," Haas said. "It's part of the trend toward commercialization of everything, including human life," he continued.

From the perspective of scientific progress alone, LeRoy Walters, director of Georgetown University's Kennedy Institute of Ethics, said Seed's goal of cloning a human being by 1999 "is just so premature as to be an outrageous proposal."

See **Cloning Criticized,** page 12

VOCATIONS AWARENESS

4-page special insert in this issue

Pope Prepares For Visit, from page 1

that has included outdoor Masses, processions and conferences on justice issues, Cuban Catholic leaders are convinced the island is undergoing a gradual religious awakening, and they want to nurse this revival carefully.

"The church in Cuba is experiencing a revitalization: in the greater number of faithful who participate in liturgical and sacramental life, in the growing number of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and in the apostolic commitment of the laity," Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino said recently.

Salesian Father Miguel Angel Moral, a pastor in Havana, confirmed this trend and cited two especially successful pre-visit initiatives: taking the Gospel door-to-door to more than a million Cubans, and the Cuba-wide processions of statue of the Virgin of Charity of Cobre.

"Our communities have felt the enthusiasm of the faith. Many Christians have reawakened, and groups have been meeting again in the churches. ... We feel much more free to practice our faith," Father Moral said in a Jan. 12 interview with Fides, the news agency of the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

The pope recognizes that Cubans' Christian faith has been tested by decades of political and economic hardship under the 39-year-old regime of President Fidel Castro. The moral fatigue experienced under communism cannot be turned around overnight, but a papal visit offers an unprecedented platform for the church's message.

The pope's second goal is to promote a higher-profile role for the church in Cuban society. On the one hand, he will stress that the church — through its pastoral and social programs — is working for justice and the common good. His aim is to convince Castro and his possible successors to accept the church as a partner on ethical and social issues.

The pope will also remind the government of the principles of religious freedom. He is likely to highlight, as he did in this year's World Peace Day message, the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the need for states to abide by those internationally accepted standards.

The pope's approach will be more nudging than confrontational, Vatican officials say. He wants Cuban leaders to know that recent state concessions on religion are welcome, but still fall short of church expectations.

On the plus side have been the government's issuing of more visas for missionaries, its generally cooperative attitude during the trip planning stages, Castro's first meeting with the Cuban church hierarchy, the restoration of Christmas and the publication — in the Communist Party newspaper — of the pope's Christmas message.

But on long-term issues, such as church requests for wider media access and a revival of the Catholic school system, no progress has been made. Vatican officials have privately expressed disappointment at this, and Cardinal Ortega echoed those misgivings in an interview published early this year by the fledgling Cuban Catholic magazine, Verdad y Esperanza.

The cardinal said real dialogue with the state "still has to start seriously" and has not advanced during the year of preparation for the papal visit. By real dialogue, Cardinal Ortega said he meant one that focuses on the rights and duties involved in the church's mission.

Vatican officials have said the main problem in Cuba is that the relaxation of some religious restrictions are still seen as concessions, not as human rights. That's a point the pope is expected to touch upon in talks and sermons that will be broadcast throughout the country.

In a wider sense, the pope hopes his visit will favor Cuba's reintegration into the world community. The pontiff favors democratic reforms in Cuba, and he opposes the U.S. embargo of the island nation.

How directly he deals with each of these issues will be of great interest to those inside and outside Cuba's borders. One Vatican official said the pope wants political "evolution, not revolution," and his remarks will reflect that.

But beyond the papal speeches, the pope knows that his presence can help break down the walls of isolation around Cuba. More than 1,000 journalists are expected in Cuba for his visit, ensuring that the world will have an unprecedented look at the island's people, their problems and their hopes.

Some of the most interested observers will be from the United States, home to more than a million Cubans who left after Castro came to power. The fact that the papal visit has prompted the U.S. government to temporarily ease restrictions on travel to Cuba is already seen as a plus by Vatican officials.

CNS photo

Cuban Catholics gather for a Bible study session in front of an image of St. Vincent de Paul at a church in Havana. Pope John Paul II will travel to Cuba Jan. 21-25 bringing encouragement to a resurgent church.

Correction

A page 9 article by Susan deGuzman in the Jan. 2 issue of The Catholic News & Herald incorrectly identified the author as a parishioner of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem. She is a parishioner of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Miracle of Cana

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. When the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first.... but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee. (John 2:5-12)

Saints & Scripture

© 1998 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of January 18-24, 1998

Sunday
Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11
Monday
1 Samuel 15:16-23
Mark 2:18-22
Tuesday
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Mark 2:23-28
Wednesday
1 Samuel 17:32-33,37,40-51
Mark 3:1-6
Thursday
1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7
Mark 3:7-12
Friday
1 Samuel 24:3-21
Mark 3:13-19
Saturday
2 Samuel 1:1-4,11-12,19,23-27
Mark 3:20-21

Parishioners To March For Life In State, National Capitals

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Parishioners across the Diocese of Charlotte plan to march for life in the upcoming weeks as the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton decisions draws near.

In addition to the variety of local events sponsored by parish Respect Life commissions throughout the diocese, a number of western Carolina Catholics will attend state and national events as well.

With issues such as partial-birth abortion and euthanasia making the news on a regular basis of late, the events have a special poignancy in 1998, said Maggi Nadol, director of the diocesan Respect Life office. She voiced hope that, despite 25 years of "disregard for the vulnerable," pro-life campaigns like the march "will mobilize people" to effect change.

A bus is scheduled to travel through Gastonia, Belmont and Charlotte to downtown Raleigh on Jan. 17, where western North Carolinians will join other Tar Heels for the state Rally and March for Life '98 in front of the state legislative building.

In Lincolnton, almost 50 parishioners of St. Dorothy Church will join Father Richard Farwell, pastor, for the Raleigh march. Joan Jobin, parish Respect Life coordinator, said the event is one of many efforts "to take the stance, to make the public aware" of the pro-life movement's efforts to educate and inform.

The Lincolnton bus trip is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus council and the parish Respect Life committee.

At the rally, a symbolic "life tree," hung with pairs of baby booties, will memorialize the 4,400 babies who lose their lives in abortion every day in the United States.

Bishop William G. Curlin is one of the scheduled special speakers for the Raleigh event, which begins at 1 p.m. and lasts until 3 p.m. Also addressing the participants are Olivia Gans, national director of American Victims of Abortion, and Arlene Helderman, the 1996 National Right to Life Oratorical Contest winner.

The rally and march will end at Sacred Heart Cathedral, the cathedral church of the Diocese of Raleigh.

Next week, busses from Charlotte and Asheville will bring respect life proponents to Washington, D.C., for the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life and March For Life on Jan. 21-22. At the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Curlin will concelebrate the annual "Mass of Thanksgiving for Life" with fellow bishops and clergy on Jan. 21 at 8 p.m. The principal celebrant is Cardinal Bernard Law, Archbishop of Boston and chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

Bishop Curlin also plans to take part in the march itself Jan. 22, which begins at 12 p.m. with a rally on the Ellipse, a large park south of the White House. The march proceeds to Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court. Afterward, participants are encouraged to lobby their legislators in congressional offices.

Two busses from Asheville, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus council of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, plan departure from River Ridge Marketplace parking lot on Fairview Road at 5:45 a.m. Jan. 21. The group will stop in Hickory to pick up additional participants at the McDonald's restaurant at Exit 128 along Interstate 40 about 7:30 a.m.

The Charlotte bus is scheduled to depart from St. Vincent de Paul Church on Old Reid Road Jan. 21 at 7 a.m., traveling to Greensboro to add more to the group. The trip is co-sponsored by the diocesan Respect Life office and the Respect Life committee of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

The busses will return to western North Carolina early Friday morning.

As in marches of recent years, coordinators in the diocese are emphasizing teen-agers' commitment to the pro-life movement. "In the past four or five years, I have noticed a greatly increasing participation by youth," said Jack Sweeney, parishioner and Respect Life committee member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. He added that the "outspoken and enthusiastic" involvement of young people "has been a very significant evolution in the nature of the march."

Elizabeth Girton, Basilica of St. Lawrence's faith formation director and Respect Life committee member, hopes that this year's march will evidence 25 years of achieving awareness. "More people are seeing that they need to be involved in this issue," she said. "More people are seeing it as a part of their faith, and that they have to be involved in order to change public opinion."

To reserve a spot or get more information on Asheville's national March for Life bus trip, call Elizabeth Girton, (704) 251-2593. For details on the Charlotte bus, call Jack Sweeney, (704) 543-0016.

For details on diocesan participation in the upcoming marches and other pro-life activities, call Maggi Nadol, (704) 370-3229.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

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1998 Collection for the Church in Latin America

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE, P.O. BOX 36776, CHARLOTTE, NC 28236
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January 16, 1998

Dear Friends in Christ:

Esperanza is the Spanish word for hope, and in spite of the reality of increasing poverty and human suffering in Latin America, hope is something the Church there offers to all people. Meeting adversity alone can be challenging and oppressive, but within communities of faith, Catholics throughout Latin America have found the spiritual resources to build fulfilling lives for themselves and their families. Perhaps by reaching out to each other with what they do have — faith, love and commitment — our brothers and sisters in Latin America are able to find hope and joy where others may see only a lack of resources and opportunity. The faithful in the United States have shared in this miraculous process through prayer and contributions to programs that create strong communities of faith where hope can be nurtured.

The weekend of January 24-25 has been designated for the 1998 Collection for the Church in Latin America in our diocese. Our contributions, combined with those nationwide, add up to sums that can create significant change for thousands of people in Latin America. Even modest grants can provide much needed resources that we might take for granted, such as paper, books or even a meeting place. For the Church to continue as a source of hope in this region, leadership training is essential. Each year, grants from this collection support such leadership training programs for catechists, lay leaders, seminarians, priests and religious in Latin America, where there is an average of one priest for every 12,000 Catholics.

Since hope is a virtue and a gift from God, it is not surprising that the Holy Father has called Latin America "the continent of hope." It is a paradox that as we do all we can to relieve the needs of our brothers and sisters in Latin America, we find our own hope and faith renewed. Let us give generously to the Collection for the Church in Latin America.

Wishing you and yours a New Year filled with many blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Rev. Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

Our nation stands in judgement now, as it did more than a century ago: Are we to be a nation that honors its commitments to the right to life, or not? And if not, then just what does our nation stand for?

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 17, 1 p.m.
Speaker—"Rally for Life" rally, Raleigh

January 18
Spiritual Renewal Workshop for prospective candidates for Knights and Dames of Malta Order
Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, Charlotte

January 21, 8 p.m.
Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Life
The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

January 22, 12 noon
Annual "March for Life", Washington, D.C.

January 24, 11 a.m.
Reconciliation Service for First Holy Communicants
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

January 25, 2 p.m.
Mass—Vietnamese New Year
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

January 27, 12:10 p.m.
Speaker—Bishops' Pastoral Letter
Franciscan Center, Greensboro

January 27, 7:30 p.m.
Respect Life Mass
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

January 28, 9:30 a.m.
Catholic Schools Week Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Baptizes 19 Infants From Various Countries During Mass in Sistine Chapel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With Michelangelo's massive "Last Judgment" as a backdrop, Pope John Paul II baptized 19 infants from four countries during a Jan. 11 Mass in the Sistine Chapel.

"We thank the Lord for these new creatures and for every new life," the pope said later, reciting the Angelus with a crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square.

While the Vatican usually leaves its Christmas tree and Nativity scene in the square until early February, the Mass on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord officially closed Pope John Paul's Christmas-season appointments.

"Every baby who comes into the world is an 'epiphany' of God, a gift of life, of hope and of joy," the pope told the crowds in the square.

"In every newly baptized," he said, "the church sees its self-renewal together with the gift of life and the wonder of the faith; it sees its perennial reflowering in its sons and daughters and perceives the mystery of salvation which is for all men and women."

Pope John Paul offered a special prayer for every unborn and newborn child in the world: "May each of them find a welcome and love."

In addition, he prayed for adult catechumens around the world who are preparing for their own baptism at Easter: "May they assume with courage and fidelity their baptismal commitments and be examples of uprightness and evangelical generosity."

During the Mass, the pope baptized 10 baby boys and nine baby girls from Italy, Poland, Mexico and Brazil. Their big brothers and sisters carried the offertory gifts up to the altar in one of the most intimate annual Masses celebrated by the pope.

The pope momentarily lost his balance at the beginning of the liturgy and was steadied by his master of ceremonies. However, the Mass continued as planned.

During his homily, the pope told the parents and godparents that the initiation of children into the life of the church should make the adults reflect on their own baptism and commitment to the faith.

The celebration of a baby's baptism, he said, is a time "to renew our decision to keep the flame of faith always lighted in order to become ever more beloved children of the Father." He asked the babies' parents, with the help of their parishes and the godparents, to educate "your children in the faith and guide them in the journey toward the fullness of Christian maturity. May the Holy Family of Nazareth always assist you in this most important mission."

Pope Decries Violence, Sanctions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II decried renewed violence in Algeria, hardships imposed by economic sanctions on Iraq and other afflictions around the globe in an annual message to diplomats. The pontiff also warned against letting technology and economic interests replace morality in his speech to representatives of 168 countries to the Holy See. "We know from experience that man is unfortunately capable of betraying his humanity," he said. "He must then be enlightened and accompanied so that, in his wanderings, he can always find again the sources of life and order which the Creator has inscribed in the most intimate part of his being."

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

A Ministry to Women

Arlene Goetz never planned to start a ministry for women or the bimonthly newspaper Catholic Women's Network. But the California mother of seven told me that, in a way, her life was a preparation for the work that now dominates her days. She mentioned a strong urge to write, her years serving as the director of communications for the Diocese of San Jose and extensive graduate courses in spirituality at Santa Clara University.

All this came together back in 1987 when she and a number of other women were "struggling to find our place in the church," as she put it. Several of them decided to hold a meeting on the empowerment of women. When an unexpected 100 women attended, a decision was made to publish a report on what came out of their meetings.

And thus was born the newspaper Goetz calls "a forum for women to express their spirituality.'' It is funded by ads and subscriptions, and produced by Goetz, savvy in desktop publishing.

Catholic Women's Network, which has a 10,000-copy run, now is sent to subscribers coast to coast and distributed free to many churches, libraries and bookstores in the San Jose, Calif., area.

Though it has the reputation for being a Catholic women's ministry, the newspaper covers a range of themes such as prayer and healing, the environment, money issues and mysticism. The women's stories in these issues are truly models of how we can approach God.

"We are not out to be reactive against the church, but to build something positive, as women share their wisdom and spiritual concerns,'' says Goetz. "Our focus is always to be in search of knowing God better, establishing a stronger relationship with God.

"We're exploring how to access God better, and so we study such topics as dreams, friendship, intuition, forgiveness. We try to look at the spirituality of everything common in our life. Our focus is to grow, to be open to let God — the Spirit — move within us.''

I became familiar with the Catholic Women's Network when Goetz called me last year and asked me to write an article on forgiveness for her publication. She sent me some sample copies, and when I saw them I was more than impressed.

There is more to this ministry than the newspaper. Each year Catholic Women's Network sponsors a gathering of women who come together to savor a menu of spirituality. About 20 percent of those attending are not Catholic. "These elements make us a ministry of evangelization and ecumenism,'' says Goetz. Catholic Women's Network also has funded a series of programs for women in jail. Two of Goetz's columnists are women serving life sentences in prison.

Not everyone is pleased with the network. Some, who mistrust a women's ministry or view it as some kind of anti-church radical feminism, have complained to bishops about the use of the word "Catholic" in the organization's name.

But as the network begins its 11th year, Goetz looks back and says: "I'm flabbergasted. It has evolved, with so much positive response. I actually couldn't have planned anything better to help raise the consciousness of God's involvement in our lives.''

Antoinette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

Alexander Graham Bell: Breaking the Sound Barrier

As we stride into the millennium rigged with cellular phones and beepers, remember that long before there was Steve Jobs and Bill Gates, there was the singular genius of Alexander Graham Bell.

A century after he bellowed into that first crude telephone, Bell's invention is still the basis of today's faxes, modems and interactive television. Every time our e-mail or answering machine clicks on, there is Bell speaking to us. To many in the digital world, Bell has become a "techno-saint." Not only did he invent the phone, but he also developed a fax machine and worked on an early form of fiber optics. But beyond his considerable abilities there was another reason he kept experimenting.

His background provides fertile material for understanding what spurs genius to create. You may have seen the movie classic "The Story of Alexander Graham Bell" starring Don Ameche. It shows the perspiration Bell poured into his work. But any portrait is incomplete unless it reveals Bell's passion as ultimately and abundantly humane. "Certainly no one can have a higher incentive," he wrote, "than the hope of relieving suffering and saving a life."

In a new book "Alexander Graham Bell: The Life and Times of the Man Who Invented the Telephone," written by Bell's great-grandson Edwin Grosvenor and by Morgan Wesson) we learn that Bell was a teacher of the deaf in Boston and married one of his students. What fueled his interest in sound production was the hope of helping the hearing impaired.

With the money he received from Thomas Edison for his patent on beeswax recording cylinders, he established the Volta Bureau (known today as the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf) to teach the hearing impaired ways they might cope with a sound-oriented world. In her biography, which she dedicated to Bell, Helen Keller wrote after meeting him: "Child as I was, I at once felt the tenderness and empathy which endeared Dr. Bell to so many hearts. That interview would be the door through which I should pass from darkness to light." It was through Bell's recommendations that the deaf and blind Keller's parents hired her life-changing teacher, Annie Sullivan.

His efforts were motivated by others as well. When his second son died of a collapsed lung, Bell set about developing a "vacuum jacket" that would help people breathe — 40 years before the iron lung. When president James Garfield lay dying from an assassin's bullet in 1881, Bell was summoned by the surgeons to locate the bullet that they could not find. He had been working on a metal detector which would eventually save many lives in later wars. But it failed in Garfield's case because the President's bed had metal springs that set up a buzzing which thwarted all efforts. Bell was devastated.

For Bell, "new" technology was an instrument for touching and healing others. But the use of technology is always a double-edged sword. If his creative descendants look at the world's afflictions and see not darkness, but opportunity to do good, we will be fortunate, indeed.

In these times when many moral questions are raised, but few are easily answered, it might be well to realize that the very impulse to create is evidence of being made in God's image. And that gift carries a burden: How do we think, make decisions and, ultimately, act — with our Creator's wisdom?

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "A Matter of Conscience," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

A Baby Boomer's Questions About Confession

Q. I am 40 years old and during Advent made my first attempt at the sacrament of reconciliation in about 20 years.

I was baptized as an infant and made my first Communion, but had little involvement with the church or the sacraments after that.

The night before my wedding the priest informed me I was to go to confession. I had no idea what to do, and in addition believed at the time, from my Protestant friends, that I only needed to go to God for forgiveness.

My husband, also Catholic, never told me anything about this sacrament either.

Recently, at a nondenominational Bible group I attend, while discussing confessing our sins, I felt the Holy Spirit urging me to make the necessary steps to this sacrament.

Finally, on the last weekend of Advent, I went to see my priest. But I couldn't remember anything I wanted to say so I didn't confess anything in particular.

I need to know, am I absolved of all sins prior to that? Should I go back with some sort of list in my hand? Is there any literature out there to help me understand confession better?

Please answer. I would like to go again possibly during Lent.

A. I quote your letter at some length because many "boomer generation'' Catholics have experiences much like yours.

First, I'm happy you believe this sacrament is important for you. It can be the source of enormous spiritual benefits in our lives.

The simplest and most honest advice I can give is this. Either make an appointment with a priest for confession (many Catholics do this today), or go during a regular confession schedule at your parish, tell the priest just what you told me and ask him to help you.

In spite of our trepidation, it really is not that complicated or difficult. And there's no need to make a list. If you give some thought to it beforehand, any sins so serious that they need to be confessed will quickly come to mind.

By far most priests will just be happy you came, trust that your desire for forgiveness and doing good have brought you there, and guide you gently through this experience of God's mercy in your life.

It is essential, by the way, to remember what I just said. The focus of the sacrament of penance is not on me or my sins, but on the faithful tenderness and compassion of God, who desperately desires that we grow in awareness of his presence and power in us.

Whatever we have done, good or bad, is past. It is part of our history, and not even God can change that. Thus, it is also valuable to keep in mind that, while we place our sins in God's hands for forgiveness, the grace, love, life and strength of reconciliation is to equip us to turn our lives for the better from here on.

See **Dietzen,** page 6

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Our family pet, a two-year-old mixed-breed dog known as "Buddy," probably gets more affection than anyone in the family. No matter the mood of any family member, Buddy is always the recipient of strokes, hugs and sweet-talk.

Never does Buddy ever mope and brood when he wants affection. He always asks for it without reservation. And he gets it in abundance.

He lets you know he wants to be petted by literally extending either paw to you. In his statuesque sitting pose, he places his paw on your knee, tilts his head to the side and looks at you with sad eyes as if to say, "Love me!"

If that doesn't work, he nuzzles his pointed nose under your hand to force the issue. And when he gets what he wants, he shows his pleasure by lying on his back, his feet up, his tongue drooping to the side of his mouth that stretches open to what looks very much like a smile. His brazen show of ecstacy appears hedonistic. He never gets enough.

Buddy's openness to affection goes both ways. He gives as much as he receives, and nothing seems to make him want to hold back. When anyone comes into our home, family, friend or stranger, no one is happier to greet that person than Buddy. Whoever the person is that's with him is the most important person in the world for the moment.

Something we noticed about Buddy's asking for what he wants and his ability to give back even more in return is the change we experience in ourselves after spending time with him. If you're feeling dispirited, Buddy will pull you out of it. It's hard to feel depressed while giving affection or receiving it.

These times with Buddy are often reminders of how we are to be with each other as a family. We need to freely ask for affection, and just as freely give it to each other. The times it is most difficult to ask for affection are the times when we need it most.

However, expressing our needs for affection reveals our vulnerabilities. As our adolescent children grow, they become more sophisticated and complex, and more guarded about expressing their needs for affection. Trust and a sense of safety are utmost important to freely ask for affection.

Again taking a lesson from Buddy, we encourage our children to be proactive in expressing their needs for affection through our own examples. We try to be free with our affection with each other and with the kids.

Knowing what pleases each other helps us to give of ourselves. Though we don't have to lie on our backs wagging our tongues in delight, showing appreciation of the strokes we get from each other makes it easier for us to respond in kind for the affection we need.

Buddy isn't a perfect pet. To the contrary, he raids the garbage, chews wallpaper off the walls and barks incessantly. How easy it is to put that aside when exchanging strokes with him. So it is also with us and our children. None of us are perfect. However, those many imperfections seem minor as we ask for and give affection to each other.

"Of One Heart and One Mind" Pastoral Letter Offers Hope To Less Fortunate

By JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER

Maureen, mother of a four-year-old son, earning $6.25 per hour at a fast food restaurant, cannot afford to buy the medical insurance offered by her employer. Kathy and Andy, parents of four children, working full-time — she as a motel housekeeper at $5.40 per hour, he as a maintenance worker earning $7 per hour — are barely scraping by with help from food stamps. Janet, with a two-year-old daughter, working two part-time jobs at minimum wages and no benefits, lives with the reality that after paying for food, rent, public transportation and child care she is only one paycheck from homelessness.

If you work, you should not be poor — you should earn enough to cover your family's basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter and medical care. If you are able to work, there should be jobs at a living wage available. And if you need training to move into the labor market, it should be accessible.

These are the themes of the Nov. 24th joint pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," written by the leaders of the Roman Catholic community in North Carolina, Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of the Diocese of Raleigh.

Taking the pastoral's title from the Christian scriptures, Acts 4, the bishops apply a modern translation: "We must pray for, hope for, expect that God's Holy Spirit will embolden us to act as one body in building the reign of God, where, because we share from our livelihood, each one among us will have access to that which is necessary to live a life of dignity."

Expressing concern for the poor, the working poor, and the growing disparities between the haves and have nots, the bishops note that though the American economy has expanded dramatically in the past several years and while many have prospered, "...we are still haunted by how the least among us are faring." They remind their followers, "Our faith tradition as Catholics calls us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable before all else. In our job-oriented economy, this tradition is expressed in the security of gainful employment."

The bishops ask the 250,000 Catholics in North Carolina to join with others to work at resolving the root causes of poverty as well as the effects. Pointing out that they do not have all the answers, Bishops Curlin and Gossman are relying on the creativity and commitment of the business community, the government, and persons in every community to take action on behalf of the poor, the vulnerable and the working poor. Lifting up the ethical and human dimensions of economic life in our state, they provide a moral framework based on principles of Catholic social teaching, especially as it applies to human dignity, productive work, and wage standards.

Acknowledging that private programs do play a vital role in fighting poverty, "they cannot, and should not, take the place of government." According to the long tradition of Catholic social teaching, the government must ensure a foundation of justice in pursuing the common good. Cautioning that "people cannot succeed if the system lacks adequate opportunities for success," the pastoral poses questions about whether there will be enough jobs for those moving from welfare to work, whether those jobs will provide a family's basic needs, and whether job training opportunities will be adequate.

What is the church's role? To continue serving the poor as it has always done. But today it must also "work to change societal conditions and public policy to be more responsive to human needs." Catholics are called by their faith to address the systemic and structural nature of poverty.

The bishops pledge their continued involvement in addressing issues of poverty and the living wage. And they ask the business community to form alliances and work with government to assure that those able to work receive the assistance they need. Parishes are asked to engage their entire membership in education and analysis of local issues in order to move into action for justice and advocacy.

"Pray," they tell their followers, "to discern God's will for us as disciples on how we are to influence societal structures and institutions for the good of the poor."

For copies of the pastoral, call the Catholic Pastoral Center at (704)370-6299. It is also available on the internet at www.raldioc.org.

A four-part discussion guide will be available in February. Call the Office of Justice and Peace at (704)370-3225.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer is director of the Diocesan Office of Justice and Peace.

Williams-Dearborn

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Dietzen,
from page 5

The church's Rite of Penance (7, 13) recommends that this sacrament be celebrated "frequently," especially during the season of Lent. Thus, several times a year, perhaps including Advent as another appropriate occasion, would be good.

Finally, next time try to avoid the last week of Advent or of Lent. Because of larger numbers, priests sometimes feel pressured to hurry confessions along more than they otherwise would like.

You can find lots of books or pamphlets to read, and that's good. But the important thing is just to do it.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or to this Catholic paper.

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VOCATIONS AWARENESS
The Diocese of Charlotte

SPECIAL to The Catholic News & Herald • January 16, 1998

SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Diocese of Charlotte is currently blessed with 28 young men studying for the priesthood. This blessing comes as good news, especially at a time when a critical shortage of vocations to the priesthood is lamented throughout the United States. This June we will celebrate the ordination of four new priests, who will accept the joys and challenges of serving God and the people of Western North Carolina.

The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Charlotte is alive, vibrant and growing. I am grateful for these dedicated seminarians that will meet the future needs of this growing Church, and I thank you for your generous and prayerful support of their ministry.

Prayerfully yours in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

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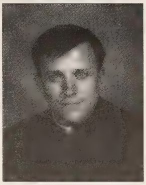
Responding To God's Call

By FATHER ERIC HOUSEKNECHT
Director of Vocations



"Am I being called to priesthood, diaconate or religious life?"

Perhaps you heard this question in high school and it continued through college and even, after a few years, in the work place.

Some people have a profound experience of God's call and a radical conversion story; others experience God gradually. Those who consider a vocation to religious life, diaconate or priesthood are people striving to be of service to their community and they work to develop a deeper relationship with God.

Such a vocation is centered on the love of God and of others. The question becomes, "How can I respond to God's call?" In today's world, more than ever before, we need people who are excited about God, life and serving others. Understanding the call or vocation comes through listening to God with one's heart and talking to others who are happy in their lives of service. What follows is a period of time or discernment—a time when a person can sift answers, speak about his or her abilities and talents and begin to investigate various forms of religious life, diaconate, or priesthood.

Priesthood

Priesthood in today's society requires men who can draw from their own intellectual, pastoral and spiritual resources and develop ways to nurture and allow these skills to grow. John Paul II, in his apostolic exhortation "Pastores Dabo Vobis—I Will Give You Shepherds," states:

> *15c,d. ... "priests are called to prolong the presence of Christ, the one high priest, embodying his way of life and making him visible in the midst of the flock entrusted to their care. We find this clearly and precisely stated in the first letter of Peter: "I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is to be revealed. Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory" (1 Pt. 5;1-4).*

In the Church and on behalf of the Church, priests are a sacramental representation of Jesus Christ—the head and shepherd—authoritatively proclaiming his word, repeating his acts of forgiveness and his offer of salvation—particularly in baptism, penance and the Eucharist, showing his loving concern to the point of a total gift of self for the flock, which they gather into unity and lead to the Father through Christ and in the Spirit. In a word, priests exist and act in order to proclaim the Gospel to the world and to build up the Church in the name and person of Christ the head and shepherd.

Seminarians

"Should I be doing something else with my life?" How can I better serve God in the Church and in this world?" "Could God be calling me to be a priest?" "Can I meet the challenges of priestly life?"

Men who pursue these questions come together in an atmosphere of prayer, worship, education and community life to discern the answers. These men are brought together in a seminary—a place where the Spirit of God joins together men with a shared vision and a common goal—to discern God's will in their lives.

Meet the Seminarians For The Diocese Of Charlotte

Our seminarians are men with a variety of interests, talents, hobbies and skills. They come from large and from small families and live in cities or in small towns. They are alumni of a variety of high schools, colleges, professions and occupations. Some are young, some are older, and they come to a seminary with a variety of academic talents and spiritual gifts. They enjoy good times, sports, music, hobbies and the company of other people.

Class of 1998

Rev. Mr. Dean Cesa
02/25/59
St. Vincent Seminary

Dean's vocation to the priesthood was realized while participating in parish life at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte, along with involvement in Catholic Singles of Charlotte, at various prayer groups and choirs. He has a professional background in computers and engineering.

Rev. Mr. Christopher Davis
03/18/71
St. Mary Seminary

Chris is a convert to the church, having been baptized at St. Benedict Church during his college years at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he studied music. He has a broad range of interests including extensive studies in Spanish.

Rev. Mr. Matthew Leonard
07/23/62
St. Mary Seminary

Matt's calling came during a 10-year career in the culinary arts. He was a cook in the Navy four years and six years for the Fraternal Order of Police in Washington, D.C. He earned degrees in theology and philosophy at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

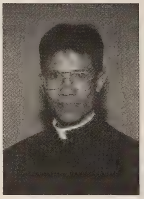
Rev. Mr. Peter Pham
04/10/62
St. Vincent Seminary

Peter is a man whose faith has been tested and vocation strengthened through his experience in and escape from Vietnam. He responded to the call of living a life of priestly service as a teenager. In the midst of political turmoil, escape attempts, and refugee settlement camps, that calling remained constant. He has attended St. Joseph Seminary College in Louisiana and Belmont Abbey College.

Class of 1999

Ricardo Sanchez
03/03/68
St. Meinrad Seminary

A native of San Jose, Costa Rica, Ricardo was professed as a member of the Congregaciôn de Missioneros de San José, until his decision to join the Diocese of Charlotte. Ricardo is spending a year in priesthood formation at St. Meinrad Seminary and will serve in our diocese as a deacon for a year prior to his ordination to the priesthood.



Joseph Long Dinh
12/20/58
St. Mary Seminary

Joseph is a native of Vietnam, and he began his vocation to priesthood in a minor seminary there. He responded to the call of living a life of priestly service as a teen-ager. His calling remained constant despite much turmoil in his home country. He attended college prior to seminary at Divine Word College, Iowa.

Class of 2000

Shawn O'Neal
07/13/69
St. Meinrad Seminary

Shawn obtained his undergraduate degree in history from Appalachian State University and then enrolled in graduate school at UNC-Charlotte. The question of priesthood followed him through college and into graduate school, where he decided to enter the seminary.

David Brzoska
09/28/62
St. Vincent's Seminary

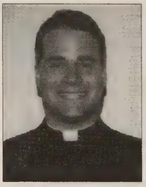
David graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Biochemistry. He worked for a German based company in Newton, N.C. He first thought of priesthood at the age of 12, but only as an adult did he seriously consider it.

Christopher Gober
04/20/74
Theological College

Chris graduated from St. Charles Borromeo College with a degree in philosophy. Chris began considering a vocation his freshman year in college while pursuing a career in physical therapy and sports medicine. After a trip to Rome, he felt called to do something deeper and more spiritual.

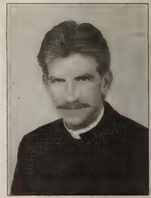
Brad Jones
04/20/71
North American College, Vatican City State

Brad was received into the Catholic Church during his senior year of high school. He graduated from UNC Greensboro, where he concentrated in Classical Studies and secondary education. Brad first began to entertain the thoughts about priesthood in college.



Matthew Kauth
10/04/73
Theological College

Matt attended St. Mary College, Winona, Mich. and Illinois Central College and completed his undergraduate studies at St. Charles Borromeo with a degree in Philosophy. Matt thought about priesthood even as a youngster, and is anxious to serve the people of God in Charlotte.



Bryan Lamberson
03/01/54
St. Meinrad Seminary

Bryan grew up in New York and attended Catholic Schools. He attended the State University of N.Y., the University of South Florida and St. John Vianney Seminary in Tampa, Fla. Between his studies, Bryan served in the Navy. Bryan has a degree in communication and has worked as a counselor in treatment centers for addictions. Bryan has felt God's presence throughout his life's journey and desires to show the love God has shown him to others.

Charles Messler
01/27/48
St. Meinrad Seminary

Charles is a lifelong Catholic from Hibernia, N.J. He has taught in Catholic schools and has been involved in renovation and restoration projects as a general contractor. As a young man, Charles spent one year in seminary, left to complete college, married, was widowed, and again heard the call to priesthood.

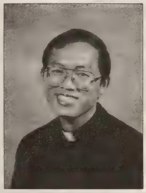
Luis Ososrio
01/24/58
St. Vincent Seminary

Luis grew up in Colombia, South America, where he graduated from the Libre of Pereira University with a degree in economics. He has a variety of work experiences including visiting North Carolina as a volunteer for the Hispanic Ministry in Statesville, where he first considered priesthood. He enjoys people and is anxious to help with the growing Hispanic ministry along with the rapidly growing need for more priests in our diocese.

Joseph Tran
02/01/73
St. Meinrad Seminary

Born in Vietnam, Joe completed his high school education in Philadelphia. He became active in youth ministry and graduated from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary with a degree in philosophy. Joe first thought about priesthood at the age of 7. The desire to serve in a growing diocese brought Joe to Charlotte.

Class of 2001



Tien Duong
10/21/63
St. Vincent Seminary

Tien is a native of Vietnam, and began his vocation to priesthood in a minor seminary there. He responded to the call of living a life of priestly service as a teen-ager. In the midst of political turmoil, escape attempts, and refugee settlement camps, that calling remained constant. He attended Central Piedmont Community College and St. Joseph Seminary, Covington, La.

Duc Duong
09/21/61
Theological College

Duc is a native of Vietnam, and the older brother to Tien. He began his vocation to priesthood in a minor seminary there. Like his brother, he felt a calling to a vocation as a young man, and that calling persisted in the face of great obstacles he faced in his native country. He attended Central Piedmont Community College and St. Joseph Seminary, Covington, La.

Robert Ferris
09/01/38
Pope John XXIII National Seminary

Bob has a Ph.D. in biochemistry and was vice-president of research and development at Cato Research. In his parish, he was a eucharistic minister and active in the Legion of Mary. He is widowed with six children.

Rev. Mr. Kurt Fohn
04/12/35
Pope John XXIII National Seminary

Kurt has a degree in textile chemistry from Textile Engineering Schule, M. Gladbach, Germany. He worked for 37 years for BASF. In 1989, Kurt was ordained a permanent deacon. He is widowed with two children.

Frank Seabo
05/01/58
Theological College

Frank graduated from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa. with an undergraduate degree in Finances and Marketing and a graduate degree in Business Administration. He loves the classroom environment and helping others. Frank served as the Grand Knight for Council 2546 in the Raleigh area.

Class of 2002

Stephen Doering
12/21/71
St. Vincent Seminary

Stephen attended Catholic schools in his hometown of Baton Rouge, La. He graduated from Elon College in Burlington, N.C. and worked for a year teaching and couseling troubled adolescent boys. Through his studying the history of the Roman Catholic Church and its significant place in civilization, he rediscovered his life's calling.

Johnathan Hanic
12/17/67
St. Mary Seminary

Johnathan attended Winston-Salem State University, UNC-Greensboro and graduated from Holy Apostles College and Seminary with a degree in philosophy. Johnathan first thought about priesthood as a teen-ager. He enjoys working with people and loves North Carolina.

Larry LoMonaco
04/20/62
St. Mary Seminary

Larry grew up in New York State and graduated from N.Y. State University in Buffalo with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He served in the Air Force in the U.S. and Japan, where he completed his MBA through Chapman University in Japan. It was while in Japan that Larry first considered priesthood. He worked in New England after leaving the service and eventually found his way to Charlotte where he became involved in R.C.I.A. at St. Vincent de Paul parish and the Catholic Singles of Charlotte.

Matthew Ritter
08/15/75
St. Vincent Seminary

Matt grew up in Wilmington, Del. and Albermarle, N.C. Matt attended Stanley Community College and graduated from Belmont Abbey College with a degree in philosophy. He began thinking of priesthood as a teen-ager and has always enjoyed serving in his parish church.

Dennis Seavers
09/29/75
Theological College

Dennis graduated from Davidson College with a degree in philosophy. He is an avid reader and is keenly interested in working with inner city problems. Dennis began thinking about priesthood in high school.

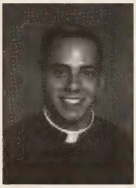
William Clark
12/31/61
St. Meinrad Seminary

Bill grew up in Pennsylvania. He moved to Maryland to attend the University of Maryland where he received both his bachelor's and master's degree in biochemistry. Bill came into the Roman Catholic Church through R.C.I.A. He enjoys science and has a great love of music, especially pipe organs.

Christopher Roux
08-09-63
St. Vincent Seminary

Chris graduated with a degree in philosophy from the College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C. He first considered priesthood as a small child. He enjoys history and science and loves the Carolinas.

Class of 2003



Matthew Buettner
11/13/75
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

Matt has one more year prior to completing his degree in philosophy and then continuing his coursework towards priesthood. He first considered priesthood as a teen-ager. He enjoys people and looks forward to serving in the growing Diocese of Charlotte.

Seminarians accepted into the program and who will begin their studies in the fall of this year will be added to the class of 2003.

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

For more information:
Rev. Eric Houseknecht
St. Margaret Church
P.O. Box 1359
Maggie Valley, NC 28751
704-926-0106

The Seminaries

St. Mary Seminary
5400 Roland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21210-1994

St. Mary's Seminary & University, America's first Roman Catholic Seminary, was founded in 1791 by the Society of St. Sulpice, a French society of diocesan priests dedicated exclusively to the formation of parish priests. St. Mary School of Theology offers professional and academic programs to resident seminarians and non-resident day students. The curricula for several degrees are integrated into the fundamental curriculum required of all candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood. For this reason, all St. Mary School of Theology courses have as their focus the preparation for priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church.

Theological College
401 Michigan Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017

Theological College is located across from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Theological College focuses on the professional and academic programs to resident seminarians who attend classes at the Catholic University of America. The curricula for several degrees are integrated into the fundamental curriculum required of all candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood.

St. Vincent Seminary
300 Fraser Purchase Road
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

St. Vincent Seminary was founded in 1846 in conjunction with the first Benedictine monastery in North America. The Seminary was officially established in 1855 through an Apostolic Brief of Pope Pius IX. From 1870 until today over 300 students have earned the Master of Arts degree. In 1966 the seminary initiated the divinity degree program and since that time has granted over 400 Master of Divinity degrees. More than 2,250 students, diocesan and religious, have been ordained priests following completion of ther study at Saint Vincent. The seminary shares the campus with a monastery of Benedictine monks, a coeducational liberal arts college and a parish.

St. Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, IN 47577

Monks from Ensiedeln Abbey in Switzerland founded St. Meinrad in 1854. For more than a century, the main work at Saint Meinrad has been the operation of a seminary to educate candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood and, more recently, to provide educational opportunities for those who would serve the Church in other ministries.

Pope John XXIII National Seminary
558 South Ave.
Weston, MA 02193

For almost 35 years Pope John XXIII National Seminary has served a unique mission of preparing men for the priesthood who are responding to a call to ministry at a later stage in life after significant life experience. The program is organized based on solid principles of adult learning and respecting the gifts and experience of mature men. The age range Pope John XXIII is about 30 to 60.

Pontifical North American College
00120 Vatican City State
Europe

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
1000 Wynnewood Road
Philadelphia, PA 19096-3099

Throughout the history of the Church, men have responded to the call of God by offering themselves in service to others as Catholic priests. Our desire is to nurture their vocations and encourage our seminarians to be men of deep prayer, compassion and love.

Today's seminarians come to us from a wide variety of backgrounds and life experiences. Therefore, they are enrolled in the seminary best suited to foster their unique gifts. Under most circumstances, all seminarians must first earn an undergraduate degree prior to being accepted in our program. A spiritual director at their seminary carefully guides the formation of our future priests as well as the diocesan vocation director. A daily life built around the Eucharist and prayer provides opportunities for personal growth and sharing. The seminarian program includes graduate course work in philosophy, theology, sacred Scripture, preaching and pastoral care.

Our program includes summer internships in parishes, hospitals, and diocesan ministries. These internships provide opportunities to serve with an experienced pastor and thus deepen their understanding of the priesthood. On behalf of all our seminarians I ask for your prayers and support.

If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Office of Vocations
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Friends to Seminarians

The need to nurture, educate, and recruit our future priests is an ongoing challenge in our rapidly growing diocese. Each year we are blessed by more young men responding to the call to priesthood. In the last five years the number of seminarians has increased from 14 to 28. These seminarians are a gift from God to the Church, and it is our gifts of prayer and money that help sustain them during their period of formation.

By becoming a ***Friend to Seminarians,*** you can have a lasting impact on the future of the Church in Western North Carolina. An annual gift of $5,000 or more will make you a "Friend" and invite you to share in the lives of our seminarians through:

- Personal correspondence from seminarians
- Inclusion in annual seminarian gatherings
- Special invitation and seating at the ordination of our seminarians

This special program was developed to help meet the needs of our increasing number of seminarians and to supplement the funding provided by the Diocesan Support Appeal and the annual seminarian collection. A number of individuals as well as one parish group have already made a commitment to become "Friends." If you, or one of your parish organizations, want to make a difference in the lives of our seminarians and the future of the Church by becoming a ***Friend to Seminarians***, or if you simply want more information, please contact:

Fr. Eric Houseknecht
Friend to Seminarians
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
704-370-3301
E-mail: elh@dnet.net

Entertainment

Performances Are Quietly Intense in "The Boxer"

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — An ex-con's wish to live a quiet life in his Belfast home is complicated by his IRA past in "The Boxer" (Universal).

Having served 14 years for his involvement in an IRA bombing, 32-year-old Danny Flynn (Daniel Day-Lewis) now wants only to resume his boxing career — and perhaps win back the girl he left behind, Maggie (Emily Watson).

However, she is now married to an IRA political prisoner and raising young Liam (Ciaran Fitzgerald).

Maggie's dad, IRA chief Joe Hamill (Brian Cox), has ordered a cease-fire in hopes of getting prisoners released, but some of his men are violently opposed, especially Harry (Gerald McSorley), who sees any negotiating with the British as blatant betrayal.

Harry is also infuriated that Danny is now totally apolitical and would sooner kill Danny than see him near his jailed buddy's wife.

Against this backdrop of bitter divisions within the IRA, Danny starts training at the community center and coaching youngsters regardless of their religion. Maggie also works there and haltingly they begin discussing their past, which neither wants to forget despite all that has happened since.

Although Maggie's dad sees the nonsectarian boxing as a tiny step towards peaceful coexistence, he warns her to shun Danny or he will surely be killed by IRA hotheads who feel Danny deserted the cause and then dared to seek out the wife of one of their own.

Meanwhile, young Liam overhears Danny whispering to his mom that he still loves her. Assuming the two will run off together, the boy takes drastic action even as Harry also plots to nip any romance in the bud.

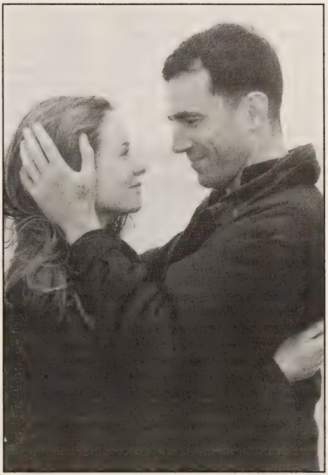
"The Boxer" is the third collaboration between director Jim Sheridan ("My Left Foot," "In the Name of the Father") and Day-Lewis, in a drama not as striking as the first two, but still affecting in its look at ordinary people unable to ignore the violent political culture engulfing them.

Although morose in tone, Sheridan nonetheless presents a stubbornly hopeful look at the ongoing "troubles" in Ireland, suggesting that life will go on through the tortured peace process despite philosophical infighting within the IRA.

As co-writer with Terry George, Sheridan clearly favors the moderate stance of Maggie's father, who is prepared to lay down arms — unlike Harry, whose hate-filled fanaticism fuels the drama's violent scenes.

Several grueling boxing matches are staged with Danny at first welcoming the emotional release fighting provides after years of incarceration, but eventually even this form of sanctioned violence repels him when it verges on bloodlust.

The surprise twist ending is sobering but the drama mostly skirts the moral issue of Maggie's status as a married woman, making more of a point that such wives may as well be in prison themselves, so restricted is their socializing.



CNS photo from Reuters

Actors Daniel Day-Lewis and Emily Watson embrace in a scene from "The Boxer." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Performances across the board are quietly intense and well on target. Day-Lewis personifies frustrated longing and Watson's luminous blue eyes set in her expressive face conveys romantic yearning with little need of articulation. Preventing this from all turning too mushy is the supporting cast of Cox's wily IRA leader, McSorley's firebrand and Ken Stott as Danny's alcoholic coach and ardent supporter.

By now, the bombings and the sniper fire in the endless Irish struggle may seem all too familiar on-screen, but the movie's focus on the shaky peace initiative sets it somewhat apart even as it points to the human toll of trying to live in a virtual war zone.

Due to some violence, much rough language and intermittent profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Buddy" (1997)

Often charming, fact-based story of a wealthy, animal-loving eccentric (Rene Russo) whose 1920s New York menagerie includes a sickly infant male gorilla she tenderly raises as a human child until his massive size and natural jungle instincts become a danger to the household. Director Caroline Thompson captures the almost-human qualities of chimps and gorillas in an unexciting but sweetly old-fashioned story of love and loss. A few scenes of violence by the mature gorilla. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Columbia TriStar, rental)

MOVIE
1-800 311-4CCC
REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

"Children of the Revolution" (1997)

Australian cold-war spoof starts with a dedicated party member (Judy Davis) being wooed by Stalin (F. Murray Abraham) at a 1952 Moscow congress, returning home pregnant and raising her son, Joe (Richard Roxburgh), to be like her but he grows up more like the father he never knew. Writer-director Peter Duncan's lighthearted political comedy grows increasingly heavy-handed as communism self-destructs and Joe seeks political power in 1990 at the head of a police union. A restrained sex scene, sexual situations, brief nudity, some rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV —adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Miramax, rental)

"Fire Down Below" (1997)

Formula action movie in which an indestructible Environmental Protection Agency agent (Steven Seagal) single-handedly saves an Appalachian community's water supply from a greedy mogul (Kris Kristofferson) while also rescuing a beautiful woman (Marg Helgenberger) from her abusive brother (Stephen Lang). Directed by Felix Enriquez Alcala, the plot is predictable, the characters are one-dimensional and Seagal's macho heroics tiresome. Much stylized violence, sexual references, occasional profanity and several instances of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R —restricted. (Warner, rental)

"My Favorite Season" (1996)

French character study of a lonely, hostile doctor (Daniel Auteuil) trying to reconnect emotionally with his estranged married sister (Catherine Deneuve) after their acid-tongued mother's failing health requires them to decide how to care for her. Director Andre Techine explores in exquisite detail the painful, ever-shifting love-hate relationships between parents, children and siblings, holding out hope but no easy answers to matters of universal concern. Subtitles. Fleeting bedroom scenes, brief nudity and occasional rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Fox Lorber, rental)

"Picture Perfect" (1997)

Sour romantic comedy about a conniving woman (Jennifer Aniston) who concocts a fantasy fiance in order to win a job promotion and the man of her dreams (Kevin Bacon), then realizes she loves another (Jay Mohr) and tries to undo the harm caused by her deception. Directed by Glenn Gordon Caron, the proceedings are clumsily contrived from start to finish, with plot complications that are too obvious to be amusing and an empty-headed heroine who invites little sympathy. Tawdry sexual situations, jokes about serious sexual matters and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Fox, rental)

"Soul Food" (1997)

Spirited ensemble drama follows the near-rupture of the ties that bind

See **Videos**, page 9

People In The News

Liturgical Composer Wins Latest Round In Plagiarism Suit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Liturgical music composer Ray Repp won the latest round in his plagiarism suit against theatrical tunesmith Andrew Lloyd Webber. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York allowed Repp's suit against Webber to proceed while at the same time throwing out Webber's claim that Repp had actually stolen a melody from Webber. The case involves Repp's composition "Till You," copyrighted in 1978, and the "Phantom Song" from Webber's "Phantom of the Opera," copyrighted in 1986.

Mediator's Success Leads To Decrease In 'Regulars' On The Streets

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A Catholic mediator has been so successful in rehabilitating youths that the number of "regular" older street kids in Cape Town's beach suburb of Sea Point has been reduced from 80 to 20 in the past two years. Coleridge Daniels, employed by the Salesian Institute in Cape Town to work with youths 16-25 who live on the street, has gained a reputation in many sectors of the city as a successful mediator among different interest groups. In the three years since the Salesians started their 16-Plus program, Daniels has taken the street kids to meet with members of the local business community who were vehemently opposed to their presence on the streets. Daniels, 42, also intervenes with the authorities on behalf of the youths.

Priest's Album Seeks To Encourage People To Pray

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (CNS) — In creating his latest musical project, "In God's Company," Father David Hemann said he was looking for a way to encourage people to pray. So far, it's working. Close to 1,000 copies of "In God's Company," an album of traditional Catholic prayers set to music, have been sold since its release in the fall. Most of the sales have followed concerts the priest has given in the Diocese of Sioux City and surrounding dioceses. Ordained in 1985 for Sioux City, Father Hemann said the priesthood is his first calling and his music is one of several ministries that flow out of that vocation. The album, his third, contains settings of the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Act of Contrition, the Glory Be, and other familiar Catholic prayers.

Lansing Priest To Serve As Peaceful Bodyguard In Chiapas

LANSING, Mich. (CNS) — No guns will be carried, but the mission will still be one of protective accompaniment when a Lansing priest joins a peace pilgrimage in San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas, the southernmost state of Mexico. Father C. Peter Dougherty of the Michigan Faith and Resistance Peace Team said he would leave Jan. 16 for Chiapas, along with eight others from the United States. According to Father Dougherty, the delegation's involvement will be a show of solidarity and support for the pilgrimage. It is meant to protect the two bishops who will be part of the pilgrimage as well as to draw world attention to the escalating violence in Chiapas.

Advocate For Religious Freedom, Businessman Honored

NEW YORK (CNS) — Nina Shea, a Catholic leader on issues of religious freedom, and Lewis E. Lehrman, a businessman and behind-the-scenes supporter of Catholic causes, were honored Jan. 6 in New York. The two received the third annual Jeeves Awards at the Wodehouse Dinner, which is co-sponsored by Crisis magazine, a Catholic monthly published in Washington, and the Wethersfield Institute, a New York agency. Deal W. Hudson, editor of Crisis, told Catholic News Service that the awards honor people who are "doing good behind the scenes" and who "add wit and wisdom to our public life."

de Maria
Madre
caridad
en

Cuban Catholic children participate in a prayer meeting for young people in Havana in advance of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Cuba. The pope is set to visit the communist island nation Jan. 21-25.

CNS photo from Reuters

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Placement Tests will be administered on
Sat., Jan. 31, 8:30 a.m. — 12:30 a.m.

Tests are administered at CCHS, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. There is no pre-registration required. Students are to arrive at the high school by 8:15 a.m. Students are to bring a $15 testing fee and two #2 pencils. Students may bring a light snack for the testing break. In the event that it is necessary to cancel the test due to inclement weather, the snow-date will be Sat., Feb. 7. The postponement will be announced by radio. For more information, please call the MACS Admission Office, 370-0405

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A Day with the Book of the
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Thurs., Feb. 19 or Sat., Feb. 21
9:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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Key Ezekiel stories will be read, shared and reflected on using the Oratory style of familiar treatment of the Word. The schedule includes Mass and lunch. The same program is offered both days.

$25.00 (lunch included)
Pre-register by Feb. 13

Enneagram: A Beginning Look
7:30 p.m., Fri., Feb. 27 —
4:00 p.m., Sat., Feb. 28

FR. PAUL MAIER

This overnight retreat will introduce participants to study and prayer with the Enneagram as a useful spiritual tool. Enneagram helps us examine our motives and expand out spiritual horizons. Fr. Maier is a Catholic pastor in Lebanon, VA and experienced student and teacher of Enneagram.

$45.00
$25.00 (commuters)
Pre-register by Feb. 16

Felix Sabates To Receive Grace Award From Belmont Abbey College

BELMONT — Felix S. Sabates, CEO of Top Sales Co., Inc. and a major sports promoter, will receive the prestigious Grace Award in ceremonies at Belmont Abbey College at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, in the Student Commons.

Corporate and individual tickets are available.

The evening, sponsored by the Belmont Abbey College Board of Advisors and the Belmont Abbey College Associates, will culminate in an after-dinner presentation of the Grace Award. The award bears the name of Charles L. Grace, president of Cummins Atlantic, Inc. of Charlotte, a long-time supporter of Belmont Abbey College. Grace serves on the college's Board of Trustees and is a past chairman.

The Grace Award is presented each year to an outstanding area business person and citizen whose contributions and commitments have significantly improved the quality of life throughout the region. Sabates is the fourth recipient of the honor. Herman Blumenthal (1993); Bynum and Rebecca Carter (1994); and Howard A. "Humpy" Wheeler (1997) are earlier recipients.

Felix Sabates is best known for his ownership and promotion of professional sports teams in hockey, indoor soccer, basketball and, currently, NASCAR racing teams. However, his business acumen and zeal to succeed have made him among the region's most successful business leaders. His housewares distribution firm, Top Sales, Inc., and investments have propelled him to meaningful philanthropy with a number of organizations.

It is fitting, in fact, that Sabates will receive the Grace Award in the dining hall of Belmont Abbey's Student Commons. In 1988 the dining room was designated the Felix Sabates Dining Room as an expression of the college's appreciation for his support.

The dinner itself has a philanthropic tone. Proceeds raised from ticket sales go to fund scholarships awarded to BACA employees and families. BACA — the Belmont Abbey College Associates — consists of area corporations and businesses who support the college and arrange seminars and programs for professional development.

The Board of Advisors consists of area business and civic leaders who lend their expertise and recommendations to the college on a wide range of issues.

This year's Grace Award Dinner, which will feature a Latin theme in honor of Sabates' Cuban heritage, is open to the public. Persons interested in attending should phone (704) 825-6735. Tickets are $70 for individuals, $500 for corporate tables seating eight.

Employment Opportunities

Principal:

Seeking a Principal for our Catholic school of 350 students, Pre-K—8, to begin July 1, 1998. Qualifications: Practicing Catholic in good standing; 3 years of teaching experience at appropriate grade levels; hold or be eligible to hold a North Carolina Principal's Certificate. Adminstrative experience and advanced certificate will be viewed as a strength. Deadline in February 24, 1998. Submit letter of interest, current resume, and salary requirements to: Blessed Sacrament School Search Committee, 328 West Davis Street, P.O. Box 619, Burlington, NC 27216. For additional information, visit Diocese of Raleigh home page at **www.raldioc.org**.

Director of Music:

1500 family parish seeks part-time professional with liturgical music experience. Potential grows to full-time. Requires organ, keyboard and vocal skills, working with youth and adult choirs. Send or fax resume to: St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Charlotte, NC 28227. Fax: (704) 536-3147

Director of Development:

Cardinal Gibbons High School, a private Catholic four year college preparatory school located in Raleigh, is searching for an experienced Development Director to administer the school's development activities. The Director of Development will implement and complete the school's on-going Capital Campaign; coordinate the activities of the Alumni Association; and will also be responsible for grant writing. The qualified candidate will have a Bachelor's Degree; minimum five years development experience with an emphasis on individual giving; and extensive experience in volunteer management. Please send resume and salary requirements by Feb. 15, 1998 to: James Boyle, Chair-Board of Trustees, Cardinal Gibbons High School, 2401 Crusader Drive, Raleigh, NC, or Fax: (919) 834-9771.

Language Arts Teacher, Middle School (Grades 6-8):

Sacred Heart Catholic School—Salisbury, NC. Opening first of February 1998. Contact Mrs. Kathleen Miller at (704) 633-2841 for information.

Diocesan Regional Coordinators:

Charlotte Diocese has two openings: Northern Vicariates and Southern Vicariates. Diocese seeks persons with Master's degree in Rel. Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris V. Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee. Inquiries: (704) 370-3244. Deadline: February 27, 1998 or when filled.

Project Assistant Position:

Full-time position needed immediately. Responsibilities include: conducting newcomer orientation and vocational ESL classes for newly arrived refugees; coordinating refugee health education and crime prevention activities. Experience in refugee resettlement services is required. A degree in Human Services/Social Work with bilingual ability is preferred. Computer literacy a must. ESL teaching skill is a plus. Submit resume with references to: Refugee Resettlement Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 by January 19, 1998.

Bilingual Case Aide:

Full-time, temporary position needed immediately. Duties include translation/interpretation; coordinating needed refugee services, and transporting clients to appointments. Must be fluent in Vietnamese and English. High school education or equivalent. Valid NC driver license. Submit resume with references to: Refugee Resettlement Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Videos,

from page 7

three married sisters (Vanessa Williams, Vivica Fox and Nia Long) in an extended African-American family after their peacekeeping matriarch goes into a diabetic coma. Writer-director George Tillman Jr.'s comedic drama is contrived and sentimental, but ends up as a testament to the loving relationships that families are all about. Fleeting violence, brief bedroom scenes, occasional profanity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox, rental)

Providence Sister Desiree Trainer Dies

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. — Providence Sister Desiree Trainer, formerly known as Sister Aloyse Cecile, died on Jan. 2 in Karcher Hall, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. She was 92.

Desiree Marie Trainer was born in Malden, Mass., on Dec. 23, 1905, to Owen Christopher Trainer and Alice Sarah O'Donnell Trainer. She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence on June 7, 1922, professed first vows on Aug. 15, 1925, and made final vows Aug. 15, 1930.

Sister Desiree taught in schools staffed by the Sisters of Providence in Indiana, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and the District of Columbia. In North Carolina, she taught at St. Patrick School in Fayetteville and at the now-defunct St. Joan of Arc School in Asheville.

Preceding her in death were four brothers, Bertrand Trainer, Walter Trainer, Howard Trainer and Joseph Trainer. She is survived by a sister, Alice Brennan of Boston, Mass.

The wake, wake service and the Mass of Christian burial took place in the Church of the Immaculate Conception with Father Bernard Head presiding. Interment was at the cemetery of the Sisters of Providence.

St. Gabriel's Parish Center
January 24, 7-9 p.m.

Trappist Reception

Abbot Francis Kline of Mepkin Abbey
Guest speaker on monasticism
Wine & Cheese Reception
Viewing of "Trappist" —
A documentary film
Trappist products will also be available.
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For more info, call Linda, 371-8871 at WTVI.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Young Adults Group

ASHEVILLE — An Asheville young adults group, "CYAA," for single and married 20- to 40-year-olds, gathers on Saturdays after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Eugene Church. For details, call David Hill, (704) 252-7118.

Retrovaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrovaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to forget the past and start anew. The program begins March 27. For further information, call Nick and Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Charlotte-Area Ultreya

CHARLOTTE — The south Charlotte area Ultreya meets every fourth Sunday of the month at St. Matthew Church in the Fellowship Hall from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Gatherings include potluck lunch, meetings and Leaders' School. Call Teresa Sanctis, (704) 541-6850, for more information.

Scripture Series

CHARLOTTE — A series exploring the synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke begins at St. Matthew Church on Jan. 20 at 9:45 a.m. in the Family Room. Capuchin Father Robert Yurgel, parochial vicar, will lead the four-part series. Call (704) 543-7677 for more information.

Bereavement Ministry Training

CHARLOTTE — A bereavement ministry training series continues at St. Matthew Church Jan. 22 and 29 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The program is designed for individuals or congregations who wish to minister to or console those who have lost loved ones in death. For more information, call the parish office, (704) 543-7677.

CCHS Grand Prix

CHARLOTTE — The CCHS Foundation Grand Prix Party and Auction is Jan. 24 in the school gymnasium and features a dinner buffet, music, and a live and silent auction. Tickets are $60 per person. Chances for the 1998 Grand Spree, a trip for two to London and Rome, are also on sale for $5 each or 6 for $25. Proceeds from the fund-raisers benefit CCHS; tickets can be purchased by calling (704) 543-9118.

Separated, Divorced, Remarried Catholics

GREENSBORO — The Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics group of Greensboro meets regularly for social and spiritual gatherings. Upcoming events include a book discussion group meeting, brunch at a local restaurant and a Valentine's Day party. For details, call co-leaders Mike Bohen, (910) 373-7358; Nancy Cox, (910) 659-0478, Wednesday-Saturday; Isabella Syracuse, (910) 294-9595; or Patrick Tracey, (910) 545-6939.

Teen Lenten Retreat

GREENSBORO — The Office of Youth Ministry of the Charlotte Diocese presents a Lenten retreat at St. Pius X Church from Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. until March 1 following an 11:30 a.m. Mass and lunch. The cost is $50, with a $25 deposit due by Feb. 20 and the balance due upon arrival. The fee covers all food and materials for the retreat, including a retreat t-shirt. For details and registration forms, call the Office of Youth Ministry, (704) 370-3243.

Married Couples Social Group

GREENSBORO — The Young Married Couples Social Group of Our Lady of Grace Church meets Jan. 18 after the 10 a.m. Mass for an information session in the cafeteria. For details, call Dan and Mary Kate Farley, (910) 854-3635, or Rich and Tracey Campbell, (910) 273-9256.

Catholic Daughters of America

LENOIR — The Catholic Daughters of America group at St. Francis of Assisi Church is eager to welcome new members. For details, call Gail Stewart, (704) 726-0701.

RCIA Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — A retreat for parish RCIA groups is at the Living Waters Reflection Center from Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. until after lunch Feb. 8. The retreat will be directed by Father Martin Iott, OP, who will explore the topic "Getting In Touch With What It Means To Be Catholic" and discuss some major church teachings and traditions, as well as the richness of its spirituality. For more information, call (704) 926-3833.

Mid-Winter Barbecue

MONROE — Knights of Columbus Council 10615 hosts and sponsors a mid-winter barbecue Jan. 31 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Meals include local-recipe barbecued beef, chicken or pork, baked beans, slaw or potato salad, and bread. The cost is $5 per plate, or $6 for "all-you-can-eat" on the premises. A $1 discount applies to clergy and police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel. Take-outs are encouraged, and meals can be delivered for groups of 20 or more. Proceeds benefit the church building fund. For call-in orders, phone (704) 283-7210.

Spanish Rosary

NEWTON — A group rosary is prayed in Spanish each Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church.

Valentine's Ball

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Catholic School presents its Annual Valentine's Ball Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at Country Club of Salisbury. The event includes dinner, dancing and a silent and live auction. The cost is $25 per person, and advanced reservations are required. Call Phyllis Tonseth, (704) 637-7886, by Jan. 31. Proceeds benefit school facilities and materials.

Bishop William G. Curlin recently conferred the ministry of acolyte to 23 seminarians attending Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass. Robert Ferris, studying for the priesthood in the Charlotte Diocese, was among the 23 seminarians who became acolytes. The ministry is required of seminarians, and those who enter it can then assist at liturgical celebrations, especially the Mass. Pictured are Rev. Mr. Kurt Fohn, diocesan seminarian and deacon of the Mass; Father Eric Houseknecht, diocesan vocation director; Bishop Curlin; Ferris; and Msgr. Francis Kelley, seminary rector.

Bereavement Support

WINSTON-SALEM — A grief support group meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in Conference Room A for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close to them. Contact Joanne Parcell, (910) 924-9478, for more information.

Silent Prayer

WINSTON-SALEM — Joseph's House, on the parish grounds of Our Lady of Mercy Church, offers a time for silent prayer Mondays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Call (910) 722-0028 for details.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

School Open Houses

ASHEVILLE — Asheville Catholic School hosts an open house Jan. 27 from 9-11 a.m. for parents of prospective students and all other interested persons. Those in attendance are invited to tour the campus, observe classes, meet parents and get registration information for the 1998-99 school year. The school is located at 12 Culvern St. and offers instruction from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. For more information, call Judith Cavallo, principal, (704) 252-7896.

WINSTON-SALEM — Open houses with registration information for the 1998-99 school year are at St. Leo Catholic School Jan. 27 from 9-11 a.m. and at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School Jan. 27 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. For more information, call St. Leo School, (910) 748-8252, or Our Lady of Mercy School, (910) 722-7203.

Perpetual Adoration

BELMONT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Belmont Abbey Chapel, located behind the abbey church and monastery. For more information, call (704) 399-2701.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at St. Gabriel Church. Contact Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for more information.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Joe or Mary Lanham, (910) 454-4551.

World And National News Briefs

N.J. Ban On Partial-Birth Abortions On Hold For Court Review

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — By extending a temporary restraining order Dec. 24, a federal judge once again put on hold a New Jersey law banning partial-birth abortions. Richard F. Collier, the Catholic pro-life attorney defending the law for the state Legislature, said he regretted that the temporary restraining order was granted in the first place. But he said he would use the extra time it afforded to conduct extensive legal and medical research and line up expert witnesses for the full hearing on the law's constitutionality, now set for June 3 in federal court.

Newspaper Apologizes After Cardinal Derides Editorial Cartoon

BOSTON (CNS) — The editor of the Boston Globe's editorial page apologized for the content of an editorial cartoon after Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston demanded the apology. The cartoon, by staff editorial cartoonist Paul Szep, was "crude and offensive," Cardinal Law said in a Dec. 31 statement. The cartoon, which appeared Dec. 30, depicted two men drinking beer in a bar. They were apparently Irish, although no ethnicity was given; the men sported caps and reddened noses. The first man says to the second, "The peace process could destroy our way of life.... It would kill our ability to hate. And ... we'd have to go to work!" To which the second man replies, "Well, we do hate work!" Cardinal Law said the cartoon was similar to the anti-Irish bigotry in the 19th century.

Vatican Urges Christian Muslim 'Alliance For Peace'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a message marking the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of prayer and fasting, a Vatican official called on Christians and Muslims around the world to renounce violence and form an "alliance for peace." Cardinal Francis Arinze, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said members of both faiths were "God-seekers" who should bring a sense of hope to a world filled with dramatic problems. The cardinal made the remarks in his annual message for Id Al-Fitr, the feast marking the end of Ramadan, which occurs around Jan. 29 this year. About 1 billion Muslims around the globe were participating in the holy month.

Bishops Say Holy Spirit Encourages South Africans Facing Problems

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The bishops of southern Africa said the Holy Spirit encourages South Africans in the face of the nation's many problems. "So many problems beset us: poverty, corruption in public life, inequality of access to education, health and other services. These problems lead to attitudes which corrode our national well-being," the bishops said in a late-December pastoral letter on the Jubilee Year 2000. Pope John Paul II has declared 1998 the year of the Holy Spirit, in preparation for the jubilee.

Oregon Foes Of Assisted Suicide Fear National Group's Move

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The move to Oregon of a prominent group that supports a right to die will boost physician-assisted suicides, say foes of the practice. Compassion in Dying, now based in Seattle, will transfer its headquarters to Oregon, where voters in November affirmed the nation's only law removing penalties for doctors who help patients die. The organization also plans to establish a statewide network of suicide counselors by June 1. Founded in 1993, the organization has guided dozens of patients toward hastened death, even while Washington law forbids assisted suicide.

Bishops, Religious Leaders Asked To Promote Vegetarianism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The organization People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has sent letters to each U.S. Catholic bishop as well as Protestant religious figures asking them to promote vegetarianism to their faithful. The letters argue that God commanded a vegetarian diet in the book of Genesis, that Jesus was a vegetarian, and that Christ distributed no fish in the Gospels' account of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Bruce Friedrich, a Catholic convert who is coordinator of PETA's vegetarian campaign and author of the letters, said he was prompted by the U.S. bishops' decision to study a return to Friday abstinence from meat as part of their pro-life efforts. "Of course, fish is not a real alternative. They're dead animals, too," Friedrich told Catholic News Service Jan. 7.

Indian Church Leaders Say They'll Take Active Role For Rights

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — Taking an active socio-political role to stress Christian rights and India's secularism will be the church's priority for the coming year, some Indian church leaders say. The church will try "to help people form a right perspective and true political spirit in the forthcoming elections," said Father George Pereira, deputy director of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. "It is time that people, especially Christians, participate in politics to defend the nation's secular character and integrity," he added. His remarks were reported by UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Church organizations have already prepared demands and guidelines for political parties planning to contest February-March parliamentary elections.

RNC Chairman Opposes Move To Block Funds Over Abortion Stand

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the Republican National Committee declared his opposition Jan. 6 to a resolution that would block campaign funds for GOP candidates who do not support a ban on partial-birth abortions. "As a matter of precedent, this prohibition would inevitably lead to litmus tests on other controversial issues," said Jim Nicholson in a statement from RNC headquarters in Washington. "Quite simply, it's a slippery slope that only serves to divide our great national party." If approved by the Republican National Committee's nine-member Resolutions Committee, the resolution would go before the full RNC for a vote Jan. 16 during its winter meeting in Indian Wells, Calif.

CNS photo from Reuters

RELIGIOUS RECRUITS — Russian soldiers stand in front of an icon of Christ during an oath-taking ceremony for recruits from Russian Orthodox seminaries Jan. 10 in Arsakhi, north of Moscow. Seminarians and children of priests undergo a two-year mandatory service in a special military unit.

Cardinal Urges Action Against 'Moral Disease' of Racism

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — "Racism is a moral disease and it is contagious," Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua declared in a new pastoral letter that urges every Catholic individual and institution to take action to eradicate it. "I ask all Catholics to take this teaching of the church to heart with all seriousness," the Philadelphia cardinal said in his 17-page letter titled "Healing Racism Through Faith and Truth."

Bishops Approve Spanish-Language Sacramentary For U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic bishops have approved a first-ever Spanish-language Sacramentary for use throughout the United States. They have also approved the budget and financing goals recommended in a new strategic plan for the communications work of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Both decisions were started with voting at the bishops' general meeting last November but completed by mail balloting in December.

Australian Bishops Release Draft Document On Clergy Ethics

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — Australia's bishops have released for public comment a draft document that recommends making it mandatory for all priests and religious to avoid actions or language with others that could be interpreted as sexually provocative. The draft ethical standards for clergy and religious urges priests to hear confessions "only in places where both priest and penitent are visible to others." If the draft were approved, clergy and religious would be banned from providing pastoral ministry in the sleeping quarters of homes or presbyteries or staying overnight in the same room as a minor.

Catholic Hospital Sold To Non-Profit Health System

DILLON, S.C. (CNS) — A St. Louis based Catholic health care system has sold its Catholic community hospital in Dillon to a non-Catholic, nonprofit South Carolina hospital system. Under the terms of the agreement, reached Jan. 1, St. Eugene Community Hospital will retain its Catholic identity as part of the McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence. The amount of the sale was not disclosed. "We made the decision to transfer St. Eugene to the McLeod system only after careful consideration and negotiation," said Sister Mary Jean Ryan, a Franciscan Sister of Mary and president and CEO of SSM Health Care in St. Louis.

Cardinal Says Cuba Trip Will Show Support For Church There

PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida said he planned to travel to Havana with the bishops of Florida during the papal trip to show support for the church in Cuba. "The main purpose of our trip is to stand in solidarity with Havana Cardinal Jamie Ortega" and the people of Cuba in their struggle for human rights and religious freedoms, Cardinal Maida told reporters before he was to address a Christian-Jewish group. He and Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony were expected to join most of the Florida bishops and more than 150 pilgrims on a one-day flight to Cuba for the closing Mass in Havana with Pope John Paul II.

Parish Profile

Sacred Heart Church

Sacred Heart Church
20 Summit Street
Burnsville, N.C. 28714
Mail: P.O. Box 1406
Mars Hill, N.C. 28754
(704) 689-3719

Vicariate: Asheville

Pastor: Jesuit Father
Edward M. Ifkovitz

Mass Schedule:
Sunday — 11:30 a.m.;
Spanish Mass — Every
Third Sunday, 6 p.m.

Number of parishioners: 110

Number of households: 50

BURNSVILLE — The history of Sacred Heart Church in Burnsville is intertwined with that of Catholic churches in neighboring Mitchell and Madison counties, including St. Andrew Parish in Mars Hill which today serves Catholics across more than 1,000 square miles of mountain territory.

Jesuit Father Andrew Graves came to Madison County in 1937 to serve as pastor of the now-defunct Chapel of the Little Flower in Revere. Barely a handful of Catholics lived in the mountain region at the time, but the small mountain chapel would prove to serve a missionary role for decades to come.

Father Graves eventually relocated to Hot Springs, where a Catholic mission had existed since the 1880s. The Jesuit was instrumental in establishing the Chapel of the Redeemer in Hot Springs, where he also acquired a home that his later successors would model into the Jesuit House of Prayer, a retreat center.

By the early 1980s, the majority of Madison County Catholics had centered in and around Mars Hill, and the community there became a mission of Revere. In November 1985, the mission attained parish status and was placed under the patronage of St. Andrew. The Chapel of the Redeemer, in time, became a mission of St. Andrew Church.

Meanwhile, in the Yancey County town of Burnsville, a small Catholic population was slowly growing.

In the early 1930s, Jesuit Father Louis Toups, Father Graves' predecessor who had also served the Catholic populations in Revere and other towns in Madison, Mitchell and Yancey counties, occasionally visited Burnsville from Hot Springs to celebrate Mass. The celebration of Mass in Burnsville continued intermittently in private homes, the American Legion hall, and a building on the town square until the mid-1950s.

At that point, Glenmary Missioners were appointed to the Mitchell County pastorate of St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine and its mission, St. Patricia Church in Linville, which is no longer in diocesan use. Father Francis Schenk served as the first Glenmary pastor of the three churches.

In August 1959, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh acquired two acres on Summit Street in Burnsville, and Father Schenk began directing the construction of a multi-purpose church facility, complete with a rectory and parish hall.

Bishop Waters dedicated the new building, called Sacred Heart Church, in June 1962. The local Catholic population numbered 28.

Diocesan priests began serving St. Lucien Church and its missions in 1968, the first being Father (now Msgr.) Felix Kelaher.

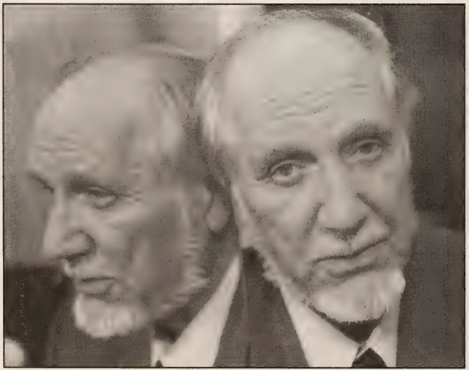
By the early 1980s, about 50 families were worshiping at Sacred Heart Church, and Father John M. Pagel, pastor, oversaw an expansion. By removing a rectory living room wall, seating capacity in the church was increased from 110 to 140. Adult education and CCD programs were introduced and cultivated at that time.

In recent years, the ministerial outreach of Sacred Heart Church has expanded further to include Mexican migrants working in Yancey County's tobacco and lumber industries. With more than 200 members, the Hispanic community gathered last month for the annual Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration, which included a special Mass and dinner.

Sacred Heart Church was placed under the ministerial care of St. Andrew Church in Mars Hill in 1986. With the addition of the Yancey County church to its parish region, St. Andrew Church's territory expanded to more than 1,000 square miles over Madison, Yancey and north Buncombe counties.

Today, about 145 families make up the year-round population of the three churches, with 50 registered at Sacred Heart Church. Jesuit Father Edward M. Ifkovitz has served St. Andrew and Sacred Heart churches, along with Chapel of the Redeemer in Hot Springs, since September 1996.

Cloning Criticized, from page 1



CNS photo from Reuters

U.S. scientist Richard Seed, who says he is ready to clone human beings, is seen with his reflection in a mirror at his home in Riverside, Ill., Jan. 8. A moral theologian who writes for the Vatican newspaper said any attempt to clone a human would be a "serious sin."

Walters noted that the Scottish researchers made 277 attempts before producing the sheep, Dolly, in the first successful effort to clone a mammal, announced early in 1997. He said that worldwide probably fewer than 25 mammals have been successfully cloned.

"The idea of moving from there into human reproductive technology, I find incredible," Walters said.

While he doesn't object philosophically to genetic research that might help people overcome infertility, Walters said, "this particular technique at this stage isn't ready for human beings."

Among the unknowns of cloning that should be resolved before experimentation begins on humans are the long-term effects on genes and chromosomes, Walters said.

Only one of several bills introduced in 1997 to prohibit human cloning has proceeded beyond being assigned to a committee. The House Subcommittee on Energy and Environment held hearings last summer on a bill introduced by Rep. Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Mich. It was awaiting further action by the full House Science Committee when Congress returns in mid-January.

"Dr. Seed will not do human cloning in this country," vowed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala on the CBS show "Face the Nation."

Shalala said the term "mad scientist" came to mind when she listened to Seed explain his plans.

Among those encouraging discussion and teaching about the moral and ethical questions of cloning was Father Frank Pavone, international director of Priests for Life.

"As a society, we produce, buy, sell and throw away so many things that we are easily tempted to do the same to human beings," Father Pavone said in a statement. "We forget the difference between a person and a thing. Things are made; persons are begotten. Cloning disregards the dignity of the human person and the dignity of human procreation."

The Web site operated by Priests for Life is carrying a section with a discussion on cloning from the Pontifical Academy for Life as well as pastoral tools for preaching on the subject. The Web site is: http://www.priestforlife.org.

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NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 20 • January 23, 1998

Photos by Joann Keane

Faith and happiness abound at St. Pius Tenth School in Greensboro; this is evidenced in the faces of kindergarten students (from left) Kelsey Fennie, Michael LeCompte, and Isabel Chasse. The three youngsters will take part in Catholic Schools Week festivities, January 25-31. Catholic schools in the diocese join with schools nationwide in marking the event, a joint program of the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Catholic Conference. The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build support and recognition for the over 8,200 Catholic schools nationwide. During this week, many dioceses (including Charlotte) encourage parents to enroll their children in Catholic schools. It is also an opportunity for interested citizens to volunteer their time and talents to local Catholic schools.

Pope Names 22 Cardinals, Two Are Secret, Two From U.S.

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II named 22 new cardinals Jan. 18, including Archbishops Francis E. George of Chicago, Aloysius M. Ambrozic of Toronto and J. Francis Stafford, the U.S. president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

The pope's announcement during his midday Angelus address included two surprises:

— He said he was waiving the limit on the number of cardinals under age 80.

— He named two cardinals "in pectore," keeping their identities secret.

Nineteen of the 20 cardinals-designate are under the age of 80; after their formal installation in the College of Cardinals, they would be eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. Cardinals named secretly are not eligible to enter a conclave.

Popes have named cardinals "in pectore," literally meaning "in the heart," when, for political or other reasons, a public announcement could make it difficult for the person or his ministry.

The last cardinal named "in pectore" was Chinese Cardinal Ignatius Kung Pin-Mei of Shanghai. Pope John Paul secretly named him a cardinal in 1979. Once the Chinese prelate left his homeland and was living in exile in the United States, the pope announced his nomination and formally inducted him in the College of Cardinals in 1991.

Pope John Paul said the 20 prelates whose names he announced would be formally made members of the College of Cardinals during a Feb. 21 consistory at the Vatican.

In addition, he said that Croatian Archbishop Giuseppe Uhac, secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, had been informed three days earlier that he was to be among the new cardinals, but had died. "The Lord called him to himself this morning," the pope said. Archbishop Uhac was 73 years old.

Among the 20 cardinals-designate named Jan. 18 was an 86-year-old Polish missionary, retired Archbishop Adam Kozlowiecki of Lusaka, Zambia.

Pope John Paul has made it a practice every time he names new cardinals to include at least one theologian or bishop who is more than 80 years old. The nomination is seen as a sign of the pope's personal appreciation for the work of the cleric.

When the pope visited Poland in June 1997, he paid tribute to Archbishop Kozlowiecki and two other bishops who were the last surviving bishops to have been imprisoned in Dachau, the Nazi concentration camp.

Not counting those named secretly, the new cardinals come from 13 countries. Eight of the 20 hold Vatican positions.

"The group of new cardinals, coming from various parts of the world, eloquently reflects the universality of the church," Pope John Paul said after reading out the names.

The cardinals-designate, he said, have generously expended their energy either in serving the universal church through a Vatican job or by carrying out their pastoral ministry in a diocese.

In fact, the pope said, there were so many clergymen who deserved to be cardinals that he was setting aside Pope Paul VI's 1975 ruling that there should be no more than 120 "cardinal-electors" — the cardinals under age 80 eligible to vote in a conclave.

Barring deaths, there will be 123 cardinal-electors on Feb. 21. The number will not return to the 120 limit until the Oct. 4 birthday of Cardinal-designate Giovanni Cheli, president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers.

Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, a Vatican spokesman, said that in waiving the limit of 120 for this round of nominations, the pope did not formally change the rule.

The new cardinals announced by the pope included six Italians in addition to Cardinal-designate Cheli, which will bring the total number of Italian cardinals to 41. After the Feb. 21 consistory, 22 of them would be eligible to vote in a conclave.

The nominations of Archbishops George and Stafford will bring to 12 the number of U.S. cardinals; all but retired

See **Cardinals,** page 8

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
JANUARY 25-31, 1998

See Stories Inside...

Life Prevails

More Than 500 March On Raleigh To Mark 25 Years Since Roe vs. Wade Decision

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic Staff

RALEIGH — More than 500 people from around North Carolina gathered in the capital city Jan. 17, to remember the lives taken by abortion, and, in the words of one of the day's speakers, to remember "the rest of us, who could be at any time denied our right to life."

Protection for the unborn, said Olivia Gans, director of the American Victims of Abortion, is a "foundation stone" in the law and in society. The absence of the basic protection of life invites euthanasia and assisted suicide, she said, which in turn opens the door to "involuntary euthanasia, when someone else is said to be not worthy of living."

Volunteers erected a Life Tree at the "March for Life" Rally. The monument consists of more 4,000 baby booties to represent the number of abortions each day in the U.S.

"So march for yourselves," Gans said. "March for your right to life."

The 1998 Rally and March for Life, sponsored by North Carolina Right to Life, marked the 25th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision which prohibited states from outlawing abortion.

Several marchers carried signs which made special note of the landmark decision. "Not a Solution Then, Still a Tragedy Today," read the most common. On the back of the sign was listed some results of 25 years of abortion: increased teen pregnancy, child abuse, poverty for women and children.

"No other moment in time has ever so clearly reshaped what America is and what it ought to be," said Gans. "Every one of our lives have been affected by Roe vs. Wade. You are here because of what Roe vs. Wade has done to you, and because of what it still can do to you."

Gans said there might be mothers or fathers at the rally who lost children to abortion. Others lost grandchildren, or sisters or brothers, or nephews or nieces. "With over 35 million dead, it's almost impossible not to be personally related to someone not here.

Face It
Abortion Kills!

Photos by John Strange

More than 500 people took part in the annual "March for Life" Rally in Raleigh. The 1998 rally and march, sponsored by North Carolina Right to Life, marked the 25th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade—the Supreme Court decision which prohibited states from outlawing abortion.

"Stand back honestly and look at what we are and what we have become as a result of that decision. If things are difficult, kill someone. That's our new answer in America. The answer to personal and social problems is someone else's death."

And if someone is disabled or elderly, she said, "the new answer is to encourage them to die quickly, and to force our physicians to become our killers."

Charlotte Bishop William G. Curlin opened the rally with an invocation, and asked participants, "Where is Jesus Christ in human life?"

"We believe that Jesus is here, and we believe that these are God's children," he said. "God's property is not ours to destroy."

Another story came from Arlene Helderman, 19, a student of St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisc., and winner of the National Right to Life Committee's oratorical contest.

Sometime after Helderman was conceived, her mother was diagnosed with leukemia. Doctors recommended chemotherapy, which the baby could not have survived, and an abortion.

"They wanted to destroy her baby for a greater chance of living," Helderman said. "But she chose life."

Her mother was desperately sick — she weighed 80 pounds when she was six months pregnant — "and she did it all for me. She was willing to do anything for her child's life."

Then, on Nov. 25, 19 years ago, Helderman's mother went into labor. Doctors decided to send her to a hospital better able to handle the case. Her mother boarded an air ambulance, accompanied by only a nurse and the pilot. Some 40 minutes after take-off, somewhere over Minnesota, Arlene Helderman was born. She was named after the nurse and pilot.

She was 14 inches long, and two-and-a-half pounds. "And to this day, my mother doesn't have a trace of cancer in her body," Helderman said.

"In the end, life prevails, even when you feel there is no hope."

Millentum!
"Spirit Speaks To The Church"

Where: St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte, NC
When: February 6, Friday: 7:00 – 9:30 pm
February 7, Saturday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Lunch: On your own at restaurants in area, *or*
Bring lunch, space will be provided.
What: **Ralph Martin:** *The Catholic Church At The End Of An Age*
Ann Shields: *How Do We Respond To What The Spirit Is Saying*
Peter Herbeck: *John Paul II And the Grace Of The Jubilee Year 2000*
Cost: $10 per Adult for one / both events. (17 and under *Free)*
(An offering for Renewal Ministries at the end of each event)
Directions: At traffic light on NC 49 at UNCC Campus turn east onto Suther Rd. St. Thomas Aquinas is in second block on right at 1400 Suther Road, Charlotte, N.C.
Questions: Call Paul Deer (704) 948-0628
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Jesus Preaches

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently on him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.
(Luke 4:20-22)

Saints & Scripture

© 1998 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of January 25-31, 1998

Sunday
Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4;4:14-21
Monday
2 Timothy 1:1-8
Mark 3:22-30
Tuesday
2 Samuel 6:12-15,17-19
Mark 3:31-35
Wednesday
2 Samuel 7:4-17
Mark 4:1-20
Thursday
2 Samuel 7:18-19,24-29
Mark 4:21-25
Friday
2 Samuel 11:1-10,13-17
Mark 4:26-34
Saturday
2 Samuel 12:1-7,10-17
Mark 4:35-41

Diocese Honors Life Of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Although it has been nearly three decades, Jeff Hunt remembers April 3, 1968, vividly. It was a day that left a profound impression on him.

"I was five when Dr. Martin Luther King was killed, and it was the first time I ever saw my father cry," he said. "To young people today, I say, look around and see what is happening. Something is happening that may change your life forever."

Hunt was among the more than 100 participants who took part in the Diocese of Charlotte's 13th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Jan. 17 at Our Lady of Consolation Church, and one of many who shared how his life is impacted by King's legacy.

The celebration included a different format this year. Three speakers shared the effects of King's life and philosophy on their generation, and participants were encouraged to share how King's work affected them as well. The informal program included music and time for reflection and allowed for more of a retreat atmosphere, said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vicar for African-American Affairs Ministry and vice-chancellor.

"How will young people know the history of Dr. King unless we tell them the story over and over and over again?" asked speaker Elder Smith Turner III of AME Zion Church.

The event, sponsored by the diocesan African-American Affairs Ministry, also featured U.S. Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., who said the lessons, teachings and actions of King were "not only about the liberation of black people, but of all people."

He added King's commitment to freedom for everyone was echoed by a phrase used in a speech in Detroit in June 1963. "Dr. King said, 'If a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live.'"

Phyllis Lynch, a long-time advocate of minorities and the disabled, called King "an ordinary man who received a call from God."

"He was a soldier for Jesus, and we all need to be soldiers for Jesus," she added. "Take the seed of faith God has given you and nourish it."

Father Mauricio West was the principal celebrant at a Mass held during the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration Jan. 17 at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Also shown are Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd and Father Cecil Tice.

The celebration concluded with a Mass celebrated by the Very Rev. Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general of the diocese, Father Cecil Tice, pastor of Our Lady of Consolation, and associate pastor Father Damion Lynch. During his homily, Father Lynch reflected on King's message of tolerance and unconditional love for all people. "God created the world that each of us is equal, and equally loved by God," he said.

"In the Bible, St. Paul says we are a diverse people," Father Lynch added. "We must celebrate who we are, where we have been, and where we are going."

Rejoicing in Faith

Education Vicar Discusses Catholic Schools Week

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — As in other areas throughout the country, Jan. 25-31 is a time of celebration for Catholic schools. For seven days, the children, teachers, parents and personnel who compose the population of western North Carolina's 17 Catholic schools have a special opportunity to rejoice with their educational and faith communities during Catholic Schools Week.

In a recent interview with The Catholic News & Herald, Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education, discussed several issues regarding Catholic schools in the Charlotte Diocese. What follows are excerpts from that conversation.

What is the purpose of Catholic Schools Week?

Essentially, Catholic Schools Week is a chance to say thank you. Its purpose is to express gratitude to all those people who are so generous in their service within the Catholic school. I think of the principals who offer such wonderful leadership, and of the teachers who share their faith and their gifts. I think of every person connected with the schools, including the janitorial staff and others. They each fulfill a very important role.

How is the Catholic school a place to celebrate faith?

One of the purposes of celebrating faith is to grow in intimacy with the person of the Lord. We must look at what experiences exist for people to achieve that. One, of course, is the teaching/learning experience, whereby the vision, values and virtues that are exemplified by Jesus are reflected and lived in the community of the school.

The "celebration" is most often seen at school Masses and at prayer services. It must be remembered, however, that there is an essential connection between living and celebrating. The living of this faith relationship must be a continuing reality.

As the Charlotte Diocese grows, so does the Catholic schools population in western North Carolina. What is the diocese doing to keep up with the growth in terms of the education and formation of young people?

Every diocese has the responsibility of recognizing and promoting family life. As we are well aware, the education of children in the faith is primarily the responsibility of the family. One of the areas that the diocese must be concerned about during this period of growth is its connection with the family.

Various diocesan programs and services, such as Catholic school, faith formation and youth ministry programs, are extremely important ways within which the educational mission of the church is implemented in relationship to children and youth.

Again, we begin with the family. The church has a particular role in nurturing,

See **Education Vicar,** page 8

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

"It is not the will of your
heavenly Father that one of
these little ones be lost."

Matthew 18:14

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 24—11 a.m.
Reconciliation Service for First Holy Communicants
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

January 25—11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

2 p.m.
Mass—Vietnamese New Year
St. Ann Church
Charlotte

January 27—12:10 p.m.
Speaker/Bishops' Pastoral Letter
Franciscan Center
Greensboro

7:30 p.m.
Respect Life Mass
Our Lady of Grace Church
Greensboro

January 28—9:30 a.m.
Catholic Schools Week Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School

January 31—5 p.m.
Dedication of Pro-Life Monument
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Charlotte

5:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Incarnation Began Man's Relationship With God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 14.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis in preparation for the great jubilee of the year 2000, we reflect today on what Jesus means when he speaks of his "hour." This hour is the moment fixed by the Father for the fulfillment of the work of salvation. Certain moments in the life of Jesus are especially significant. At the wedding feast of Cana, he says that his hour has not yet come but, at Mary's insistence, he shows his messianic power for the first time. Later, he speaks of the hour when the Father will be worshipped in a new way. His whole work is directed to the hour of redemption, the hour willed and determined by the Father, when he offers the sacrifice which will bring salvation to humanity. When Jesus falls into the hands of his enemies, what seems to be the hour of greatest darkness is really the hour of the fulfillment of his mission. Through the sacrifice of the cross, Jesus returns to the Father. In this hour of glorification a new relationship is established between God and humanity. The human race is redeemed and called to unite itself to the Son in his triumph at the right hand of the Father.

I warmly greet the group of diocesan pilgrimage coordinators from the United States meeting in Rome. May your preparations for the great jubilee of the year 2000 have as their principal aim the spiritual renewal of the pilgrims you assist. I welcome the members of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, and I express the hope that your visit will help to strengthen the cooperation of recent years.

Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from Denmark, Japan and the United States, I invoke the abundant blessings of Almighty God.

Pope, Israeli Officials Discuss Plans For 2000 In Holy Land

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Israeli tourism officials met with Pope John Paul II and other Vatican officials in what they termed a productive planning session for the year 2000 celebrations in the Holy Land. During their 20-minute papal audience, the Israeli delegation renewed the government's invitation for the pope to visit their country. The pope responded that it was on his "horizon," but did not mention a date. The hoped-for papal visit is particularly important to Israelis, who believe it will be a crucial ingredient to the success of the Holy Year.

Roman Catacombs Are Important Evangelical Tools, Says Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II praised Rome's catacombs as important evangelical tools as well as historical treasures. Speaking to the leaders of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology, the pope said the ancient underground cemeteries will be an integral part of pilgrim visits during the year 2000. "The catacombs, while presenting the eloquent face of Christian life of the first centuries, constitute a perennial school of faith, of hope and of charity," Pope John Paul said. "Following their corridors, one soaks up a suggestive and moving atmosphere."

Coming Of Age

Amy Welborn

A Plea to Teens New at Driving

It has happened again, the second time this month.

A student, two days past the attainment of the "Holy Grail" — the driver's license — gets into an accident.

On his way to an athletic practice, a car full of friends, he drove too fast and flipped. Four times. He was bumped and bruised, but mercifully without serious injuries.

Of course, the accident, like that of his classmate Zach a month ago, was totally his fault. Like Leslie, another classmate, who waited a couple of weeks after getting the license to wreck her $30,000 car. Like Jimmy, who is going to turn 17 next month and has had three accidents over the past year.

I've taught sophomores for eight years now, so I've lived through countless young people's journey toward independent driving, but it seems as if the post-license accidents are getting more frequent.

Whether or not my impression can be backed up by statistics is not anything I can say. What I do know is that out of a class of 26 students, six of the 14 who are old enough to drive had accidents they caused within a month of the big day.

That's a lot. Too many.

It especially weighs on me, since my own son, a member of the class but younger than most of his friends, has just earned his learner's permit, and I've just begun the terribly exciting task of sitting in the passenger seat while he drives around and around the empty parking lot of a local college.

"But when can I drive on the street, Mom?"

"When you're ready," I grimly reply.

He and his friends are attending an athletic event one evening next week, and we're transporting the whole crew to the arena.

"Can I drive there?"

He's surprised and a little angry at my answer. "Of course not.''

"Why?"

I explain that he is not ready to drive in heavy traffic with a carload of friends, even if I'm there in the front seat — the temptation to show off and be cool is just too great.

There are many responsible teen drivers, to be sure. But if you're a new driver, please, please remember a few points:

- That big thing you're driving is a weapon. It's big, and it's heavy and can get beyond your control.
- You are not immortal. Bad things — even terrible things — can indeed happen to you. You can even cause them.
- Driving is not the time to show off, if there even is such a time. As I said, there's a lot of power in that vehicle, and things can go wrong very quickly.
- Wear your seat belt. All the time.

And parents, take a clue. Hold your children up to some standards. In my experience, the less responsibility teens have for their vehicle and driving expenses, the more careless they are.

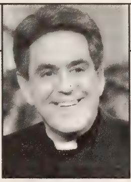
A child who is given a new car, has the insurance all paid for and is never held to any consequences for poor driving — from accidents to speeding tickets — isn't going to be as careful as the teen who must bear part or all of the financial burden of owning a car and who is told simple things like, "You cause an accident, you don't drive for three months at least. Period.''

It's tough, because we want our kids to drive — it makes our lives immeasurably easier. But it's not anything to take lightly.

Amy Welborn is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Through God's Eyes

Today, I want to tell you two stories. Or, maybe, it's just one.

Here is a fable. There once lived in a village a man whose body was so twisted and whose face was so disfigured that the townspeople laughed at him. The children teased him. The dogs barked at him. The man became so embittered that he left the little town where he had been born and went deep into the forest, where he lived alone.

There he found a measure of solace in the beauty of sunrise and sunset, in the soft sighing of the breeze in the trees, in the frolic of the forest creatures, in the sweet songs of the birds in the air. Still the bitterness only softened. It did not go away.

One day, a visitor came into the hermit's hut. As they sat down together to a modest meal, the hermit asked the visitor to offer a prayer. But the visitor said, "No, you are the master here. It is you who must say the blessing."

And the hermit, nervous at first, spoke of his gratitude for the beauty of the forest and the wonder of nature and the nourishment they were about to share. Whereupon the visitor said: "You have forgotten one thing. You have forgotten to thank God for yourself." The hermit looked away, saying nothing.

The visitor continued: "You have retreated into the forest because you have despaired of your ugliness. You have forgotten that in the eyes of God, you are far more beautiful than all the trees and all the flowers and all the birds of the forest." The hermit could not forget those words, and in time he moved back to his old home.

But the people no longer laughed when he walked by. The children no longer teased him. And his heart sang with joy, for he realized that though he was living in the same town, with the same neighbors, even the same dogs, *all was different.* All was different because he was different. He had learned to thank God for himself.

This story comes from a "Peanuts" comic strip. Charlie Brown's sister, Sally, can't seem to keep from getting lost in her new school surroundings. She discovers that she has been in the wrong class for two weeks. When she finds the right room, she sits at the wrong desk. She thinks she is in the school band for three days, before she discovers that the school doesn't have a band. She can't get her locker open — and her lunch is inside. Finally, she says in disgust, "I think I'll sign up for staying home!"

When you feel like you would like to sign up for some other life, when you experience a dark night of the soul, when you feel lost, abandoned, powerless, just stop. Stop and look at yourself with God's eyes. It might feel like the last thing you are capable of doing when all around you seems hopeless. But that is when you most need to see yourself the way he does — uniquely beautiful, uniquely lovable. "The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16.7).

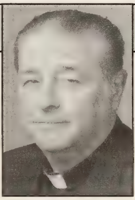
See yourself differently and your life can — and will — be different. Everything becomes new when you learn to thank God for yourself as you are in his perfect vision. And when that happens, you will learn to see others and to thank God for others in the same compassionate way.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Seeing as God Sees," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen



A Marriage That's Not Truly A Marriage

Q. I need advice on what makes a valid marriage. It concerns my 26-year-old brother, who was married two years and is now separated three years.

Once he was open, friendly and happy. Since the separation, however, he has taken on a completely new, withdrawn personality.

He is almost like a hermit.

At the end of their two years, when he continued urging her to get help for her marijuana addiction, his wife told him to leave.

Three months later she had a live-in boyfriend. Her second live-in friend gave her a baby daughter, and now she is on No. 3.

I am very worried about him. In spite of what has happened, he refuses, out of some misguided loyalty to the marriage sacrament, to consider a divorce so he can get on with his life.

Isn't throwing away one's life on a one-sided love affair a sin? I cannot believe that God blesses a young man with health and a loving heart to waste it on such a self-destructive person or relationship.

I believe divorce is a horribly hurtful thing in our society. Yet, do you think a marriage exists in the case of my brother?

A. It is not my place to make such a judgment. For Catholics, that belongs to the tribunals (courts) established by the church for this purpose.

I can, however, make some important observations about the situation you describe.

One way or another, your brother does seem to be throwing his life away in a dysfunctional reaction to what has occurred between him and his wife.

As the Catholic Church understands it, marriage is an agreement or a covenant in which a man and woman create with each other a lifetime relationship, a communion, of all life and love. (See Canon 1055 and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1601.)

Thus, the object of marriage consent, or vows, is a particular kind of relationship, not simply one of any sort which happens to fit that particular woman and man.

According to Catholic belief and tribunal practice, the inability to form that type of relationship that identifies a real marriage makes the consent null, nonexistent.

Canon lawyers sometimes compare the inability for consent to impotence, the physical inability to have sexual intercourse, which renders a marriage, and marriage consent, invalid.

Similarly, there can be what is called psychic, or psychological, impotence. An individual so emotionally handicapped that he or she is incapable of that commitment to a lifelong communion of life and love is simply incapable of marriage.

As one tribunal official puts it, whether it's impotence or severe emotional dysfunction, the person is promising something he or she cannot deliver.

In the one case it is sexual relations

See **Dietzen,** page 6

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lykes

The word "ritual" means different things to different people. This was very evident in a recent conversation with a college student. For her the idea of ritual had negative connotations derived from high-profile instances like the death rituals of Heaven's Gate and Jonestown, Satanist cult rituals, and primitive rituals of mutilation. Contrasting with the very healthy and rich patterns of family life and faith expression that we've come to recognize as rituals, this young woman's perspective emphasized how the forces of good and evil employ similar — and sometimes difficult to distinguish — methods. This conversation had us thinking about the many ways rituals feed our life.

There are routines in our home that have been recognized as rituals because of the purposes — often dual purposes — they serve. For instance, Andrew's ritual of making coffee in the morning is more than his responding to a need for a pick-me-up. It's also a way to be of service to Terri in the morning. And our enjoying our morning beverage together amid the rush to get out of the door is a subtle way of connecting. It's more than a routine because of the added value it gives to our lives. A similar cup of coffee on the road or at the office just doesn't taste as good as does in our coffee ritual.

Another ritual we share is our "good night" blessing. Even when there is negative tension present in our relationship we try to keep our nightly ritual. After turning out the light we give each other a kiss and make a sign of the cross on the other's forehead. This ritual is a nightly acknowledgment of our identities as a married couple, as friends, as lovers, as children of God and followers of Christ. When we are lacking the smoothness our relationship is capable of having, this ritual is a reminder to us of who we are and whose we are. A similar nighttime ritual is done with our kids.

Mealtime prayers are one of the less subtle rituals in our family life. However, one obscure characteristic of our meals is the seating arrangement. At our oval table we sit at the opposite ends while the kids sit opposite each other in the middle, and the child of the opposite sex is to the right. These positions in themselves have no meaning other than what has been given them by our ritual. Yet they have meaning to us. To sit in any other arrangement feels odd and disjointed. This aspect of ritual gives us a sense of coherence and fluidity— a predictable-ness that says "This is home!"

Bath time rituals when our kids were toddlers: The symbolism of water, the act of washing and putting on freshly cleaned pajamas are abounding. And the bonding that occurs afterwards in the bedtime stories and prayers gave us sacred time with the kids.

The ritual of our sacred liturgy at church: We see families who sit in the same vicinity or even the same pew each Sunday. And the predictable-ness of the Mass, knowing when to stand, kneel or sit. This too is the aspect of ritual that gives us a sense of coherence and fluidity and says to us "This is home!"

"Family Reflections" is a biweekly journal on family theology as experienced and reported by Andrew & Terri Lyke. Your feedback is most appreciated. Send responses to lyke2lyke@aol.com.

Join In Celebrating The Good News About Catholic Education In Our Diocese

By DR. MICHAEL SKUBE

The 24th annual national Catholic Schools Week is Jan. 25-31 and our 14 elementary, one middle school and two high schools look forward to celebrating the good news of Catholic Schools. Throughout the diocese, activities ranging from community service projects, assemblies, and school Masses will take place.

As is obvious to any visitor to our Catholic elementary, middle or high schools, our schools are places where faith — a living, vital religious faith and trust in God — is very much a part of education. Without this faith, there could be no Catholic school education, no Catholic school, and no Catholic Schools Week or cause for celebrating it. Moreover, Catholic schools can and do restore the confidence — the faith — of the public that education is important and that schools are invaluable members of a community. Catholic schools make a difference in the lives of children, the well-being of everyone, and the future of a nation.

Numerous studies show that parents enroll their children in Catholic schools for three main reasons: 1) growth in religious awareness and an appreciation of morals and values; 2) the superior academic achievement of Catholic school students; 3) the secure and disciplined learning environment provided.

As faith permeates all that we do and believe in a Catholic school, so does it also resonate within all the activities and reasons for observing Catholic Schools Week:

- Sunday, Jan. 25: Faith in Our Parish
- Monday, Jan. 26: Faith in Our Community
- Tuesday, Jan. 27: Faith in Our Students
- Wednesday, Jan. 28: Faith in Our Nation's Catholic Schools: National Appreciation Day
- Thursday, Jan. 29: Faith in Our Volunteers
- Friday, Jan. 30: Faith in Our Teachers: National Appreciation Day for Catholic School Teachers

I would like to share with you a few facts about the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Charlotte:

- There are 14 elementary, one middle school (grades 6-8) and two high schools.
- Enrollment for the last nine years increased as follows:

1989-90	4,560
1990-91	4,818
1991-92	4,873
1992-93	5,159
1993-94	5,614
1994-95	5,857
1995-96	6,207
1996-97	6,546
1997-98	6,867

- A total of 2,307 students have been added to the enrollment since 1989. Enrollment has increased by 321 students since last year. There are 5,706 elementary and 1,159 high school students.
- The student body consists of 3,427 girls and 3,440 boys.
- Nine women religious, three priests, one deacon, and 72 lay men and 388 lay women teach in our schools assisted by approximately 200 support staff plus thousands of volunteers.
- Members of the Diocesan School Board are: Paul Fedorkowicz, president; Janet Smith, vice-president; Marcia Stefan, secretary; Father Peter Jugis, pastors' representative; Linda Fatale, teachers' representative; Janice Ritter, principals' representative; Martha Gallagher, Robert Hickey, Glen Lillquist, Joseph Marinello, Marianne Misko, David Morgan, John Mulhern, Brigette Ruggiero, Everett Walker, and Michael Skube.
- The average annual cost to educate a student in North Carolina public schools is $5,147. With 6,867 students in our Catholic schools, parents have saved N.C. taxpayers more than $35 million this year alone. This does not include the additional expense of building more schools to accommodate our 6,800 students.

What our students learn lasts a lifetime. Tradition, morality, faith, hope and love reinforce those values already established at home. Catholic schools affect students today, tomorrow, and most importantly, eternally.

Dr. Michael Skube is superintendent of diocesan schools.

Dietzen,
from page 5

they cannot "deliver," in the other it is commitment to a lifetime communion of love.

If your brother can grasp the basics of what I'm saying, it may encourage him to talk to a priest or tribunal official about his circumstances.

Judging from what you have told me, it is well worth his doing so. This could be his opportunity to put some closure on what is causing his self-destructiveness and to move on with his life.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about annulments is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL, 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

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SR. MIRIAM THERESE WINTER

18th Annual
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Saturday, February 7, 1998
9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Sister Miriam Therese, a Medical Mission sister currently teaches at Hartford Theological Seminary. She is an accomplished musician and contemporary theologian. This annual lecture honors John Henry Newman of the Oratory and is open to all without fee or registration.

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Suplemento de The Catholic News and Herald 23 de Enero de 1998

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Por KATHY SCHMUGGE

NEWTON – Durante la temporada de Adviento, los hispanos, así como otros católicos alrededor del mundo, celebran en diciembre la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, que les ayuda a prepararse para las Navidades. La escena de un indio pobre, humilde y lleno de fe conversando con la Madre de Dios, que aparece como una joven llena de amor por los hijos e hijas de Dios, trae una simplicidad santa necesaria en una época llena de distracciones.

El viernes 12 de diciembre, los hispanos en el área de Hickory/Newton empezaron su celebración en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe con un rosario, seguido de una presentación de la aparición Mariana del año 1531. A continuación algunas persona dieron testimonios de fe y contaron como Nuestra Señora fue instrumento de su conversión personal mientras otras dieron testimonio de como la Virgen intercedió y oyó sus oraciones.

El Padre José Waters, pastor de la iglesia de la Santísima Trinidad en Taylorsville y coordinador del apostolado hispano en el Vicariato de Hickory, estuvo presente durante el servicio de la noche del viernes. “Esta celebración es originaria de México cuando Nuestra Señora se apareció como una mujer de piel morena. Su imagen causó grandes conversiones reemplazando las creencias e imágenes paganas con el anuncio de la venida de su Hijo, Jesucristo, el verdadero Dios”, dijo el Padre Waters.

Las festividades del domingo atrajo a muchas más personas. Más de 400 personas llenaron la iglesia de San José en Newton. Antes de empezar la Misa en español hubo una procesión con banderas representando varios países hispanos, como Puerto Rico, México y El Salvador, y también un hermoso estandarte con la imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Es costumbre para los niños hispanos vestirse con ropa de algún personaje del nacimiento o con alguna otra ropa festiva. En esta celebración solamente algunos niños depositaron flores en el altar, pero es costumbre que haya una procesión de muchos niños en la cual cada uno pone una flor a los pies de la imagen de María.

“¿Quién es pueblo escogido por Dios en esta época? ¿A quién le mandó su Madre Dios?” preguntó el celebrante, Padre Gordon Pillon, pastor de la iglesia de San José, durante su homilía. “Son ustedes”, le dijo a la muchedumbre que escuchaba atentamente las palabras de aliento y alabanza. Integrando el mensaje de Adviento de preparación y alegría, el Padre Gordon ilustró como Nuestra Señora da un ejemplo perfecto de amor y obediencia, ayudando a los fieles a prepararse para la venida de Cristo.

Después de la Misa, los asistentes rezaron en silencio frente a la imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Para concluir la celebración hubo una fiesta con música, comida y bailes tradicionales.

Así como Nuestra Señora, como madre, trajo a Jesús a este mundo el día de Navidad, ella continua trayéndolo al corazón de infinidad de personas, como lo demostró en la conversión de nueve millones de indios en México y hoy en la muchedumbre entusiasta presente en esta celebración. Uno sólo puede vislumbrar el significado de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, la que trasciende los libros de historia y encuentra su camino dentro del corazón del humilde.

Foto K. Schmugge

NEWTON — Una niña que asistió a la celebración de la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe reza frente al estandarte de la Virgen.

Información y foto suministrada por Lynne Stoll

BISCOE – El Padre Mark Lawlor, administrador de la iglesia Nuestra Señora de las Américas en Biscoe, sostiene una tarjeta rodeado por feligreses de las iglesias de Nuestra Señora de las Américas y de San John Neumann de Charlotte, al terminarse un programa de *outreach* que duró cuatro semanas Este programa fue patrocinado por la Comisión de Vida Familiar de San John Neumann. Se recogieron 60 cajas con comida, pavos y certificados para alimentos para la misión de Biscoe. La tarjeta fue preparada por la clase de Sue Rebich de San John Neumann. Este proyecto cooperativo es el primero de varios que se planean entre las dos iglesias.

Proyectos de Campaña para Desarrollo Humano seleccionados

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dos programas de la Campaña para Desarrollo Humano, auspiciada por los obispos estadounidenses, serán incluidos entre los proyectos especiales del Papa.

El Consejo Pontificio “Cor Unum”, que tiene la responsabilidad para la catequesis sobre la caridad y la atención de la Iglesia a los necesitados, seleccionó los dos proyectos estadounidenses para su inclusión en “Mas de 100 Proyectos del Santo Padre”.

La iniciativa “Más de 100” fue creada para el Año de la Caridad, 1999, como parte de los preparativos para el Año Jubilar 2,000.

Uno de los proyectos seleccionados es un programa conjunto para fomentar la autosuficiencia, que fue desarrollado por la Campaña para Desarrollo Humano (CHD en inglés), la Asociación Católica de la Salud y Caridades Católicas de los Estados Unidos.

El mismo desarrollará cooperativas de trabajo entre personas de bajos ingresos que hayan dependido tradicionalmente de la asistencia económica pública o que estén desempleados o sub-empleados. La CHD proporcionará los «fondos de arranque» y la capacitación.

El segundo programa es una iniciativa para involucrar a los jóvenes en el ministerio social a una edad temprana.

La CHD se propone ofrecer un Galardón Anual de Dirigencia Juvenil, establecer capítulos de CHD en los recintos universitarios y coordinar la colocación de internos-estudiantes en su oficina nacional y sus oficinas diocesanas, así como en las organizaciones financiadas por la CHD alrededor del país, que combaten a la pobreza, fomentan la organización comunitaria y trabajan en el desarrollo económico.

Una declaración del Padre Robert Vitillo, director ejecutivo de la CHD, dijo que ambos proyectos habrían de empezar en enero de 1998 y funcionar hasta diciembre de 1999.

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Esta época de fin de año es un momento que aprovechamos para agradecerle a Dios todo lo recibido y para reconciliarnos con El y con los demás. Es también un momento para ver, reflexionar y meditar sobre el significado y el sentido de nuestras vidas.

Los evangelios de días pasados nos han presentado a María y a los pastores reflexionando y meditando el significado del nacimiento de Jesús en sus vidas. A mí me parece que el significado principal del nacimiento de Jesús para los pastores, para María y para nosotros se puede resumir en una sola palabra: ***elección***.

Los pastores cuentan a los demás todo lo que el ángel les había anunciado, y los que escuchan se quedan maravillados. Maravillados de que Jesús eligió hacerse hombre con todos. Y la maravilla es que eligió ser hermano, de modo especial, de los humildes, de los pobres, de los que esperaban el consuelo de Israel.

La grandeza de Dios no se manifiesta de forma grande, sino de forma pequeña, humilde, pobre. Sí, hermanos y hermanas, eso fue la Navidad para Jesús: elegirnos a ti y a mí como hermanos. No quiso elegir otra cosa.

La Navidad también significó elección para María. Eligió a Jesús, pero antes de poder besarle, tuvo que sufrir la soledad del rechazo, la frialdad de la indiferencia y la angustia de la pobreza. A pesar de todo, debido a que eligió a Jesús, fácilmente unió su voz a la de los ángeles que cantaban paz y gozo. Guardaba y meditaba en su corazón lo que su elección de Jesús implicaría: el misterio de la cruz y de la resurrección.

Hermanos y hermanas, en este Año Nuevo, vayamos a pedirle a Dios la gracia que necesitamos para que nosotros podamos elegir ser hermanos de los pobres, hermanos de comunidad, hermanos de Cristo y aceptar con toda generosidad la consecuencia de esta elección, sabiendo que si meditamos todas estas cosas en nuestros corazones, también disfrutaremos de la paz y del gozo de la venida de Jesús a nuestro mundo.

La Bondad

La bondad está considerada entre las necesidades que estructuran al ser humano y dan sentido a su existencia.

Las personas que ejercitan la bondad han desarrollado previamente esas cualidades y valores humanos de rango superior, que dan consistencia a las personalidades y hacen patente un alto grado de madurez mental, psíquica y afectiva. Me refiero al respeto, la amabilidad, la paciencia, la tolerancia, la comprensión y la concordia. Todas ellas ponen la base de la bondad, dan sentido y coherencia a la conducta y nos alejan del egoísmo y de la superficialidad.

Buscar el lado bueno de las cosas, estar atentos a descubrir en las personas con quienes vivimos cualidades dignas de consideración y aprecio, no escatimar alabanzas y expresiones de calurosa aprobación con cualquier persona que lo merezca; estar siempre abiertos a la esperanza, vivir en constante actitud de servicio para los necesitados y ejercitar la generosidad de forma callada y sencilla, constituyen las cualidades más relevantes de los que entendemos por la persona bondadosa, que ejerce la bondad y que su vida es bondad.

El hombre bueno comprendió un día, que vivir sólo para sí mismo equivalía a vivir en la pobreza del espíritu, atado a la tierra, oprimido por la inseguridad y los temores y sin una causa noble que justificara su existencia. Por eso, desde aquel día, saborea a cada instante, con gozo que vivir para los demás no sólo es motivo suficiente y razón de peso para justificar la vida en la tierra, sino que además es la más espléndida y gratificante experiencia humana a que se puede aspirar. Ser bueno es vivir para el amor.

No puede haber auténtica felicidad sin bondad. No es posible encontrar en la historia de la humanidad personas verdaderamente felices que practicaron la maldad, la intransigencia y el desamor. Felicidad y bondad son pájaros del mismo plumaje, que siempre vuelan juntos.

Espero que al lector no le asalte la idea de pensar que ser bueno es algo poético, inmaterial, inalcanzable. Querer ser bueno es ya serlo, importa la actitud y el propósito firme de llevar acciones buenas con nuestros semejantes, y estar siempre dispuestos a hacer otras mejores, aunque estemos cargados de limitaciones y defectos. Lo que importa es la predisposición constante a hacer el bien donde quiera que estemos.

Programa radial cambia de hora

El programa radial del Padre Vicente Finnerty que se trasmitía los domingos a las 9:30 de la mañana ha sido cambiado para las 12 del mediodía los sábados por la misma emisora WCXN en la frecuencia 1170 AM de su receptor. "Un minuto con Dios" se sigue transmitiendo a las 3:15 P.M. los sábados por "Radio Líder," WNOW 1030 AM.

TEMOR DE DIOS

Foto E.Rodríguez

CHARLOTTE – El pasado 15 de noviembre el Señor Obispo, Monseñor Guillermo Curlin impuso el sacramento de la Confirmación a un grupo de jóvenes en el Centro Católico Hispano. En la foto el Señor Obispo con el grupo de confirmantes

Noveno Mandamiento "No desearás la mujer de tu prójimo"

Las desastrosas consecuencias del pecado se propagaron tan profundamente en la naturaleza humana, que pervirtieron sus mismas aspiraciones, originando en ella pensamientos, deseos y afectos que, por oponerse al orden establecido por Dios, deben desecharse por dañinos y malos. Al restablecimiento del orden en las mismas aspiraciones se refieren, de una manera directa, el *Noveno* y *Décimo Mandamiento:* ambos procuran nuestro bien y tratan de restablecer en nosotros el originario y hermoso equilibrio interior destrozado por el pecado. El *Noveno Mandamiento* se refiere a todo aquello que se acostumbra llamar concupiscencia de la carne, o sea, a esas aspiraciones incorrectas de las satisfacciones corporales, en especial en lo referente al ámbito de la sexualidad.

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III
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Al cumplir con este mandamiento, purificamos nuestro corazón para que nuestra vida interior se desenvuelva no ya según nuestras pasiones, sino en el Espíritu de Dios, que nos ha sido dado como ayuda y gracia.

Actitudes equivocadas. Aparte del *frenesí* de gozar la vida que derrumba toda norma moral, podemos recordar: el poco aprecio por la virtud de la pureza y el débil esfuerzo que se hace para lograrla; el falso concepto de la libertad personal que permite verlo todo, hablar de todo y leer de todo, sin tener en cuenta la decencia y el pudor, la discreción y la mortificación cristiana; en fin, el descuido en pedir a Dios que no nos deje caer en las tentaciones y en evitar los peligros que nos pongan en el riesgo de caer en el pecado.

Actitud cristiana. Los verdaderos cristianos procuran imitar a Jesús y buscan configurar sus pensamientos, deseos y afectos a los pensamientos, deseos y afectos de su Redentor y Maestro. Por lo mismo: procuran con energía la purificación interior, para que su corazón sea limpio y su cuerpo digna morada del Espíritu Santo. Buscan las cosas de Dios y hacia ellas canalizan sus pensamientos y sus deseos. Tienen un justo sentido cristiano de la grandeza y de la nobleza de la persona humana y la aprecian en alma y cuerpo. Se sirven del cuerpo no como instrumento de pecado, sino como dócil y precioso compañero de su alma en camino hacia la perfección y hacia la felicidad eterna

Comentario al Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica - Edición Española - con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo.

Antes de comenzar la Misa toda la congregación entró a la iglesia en procesión que comenzó alrededor del edificio.

Los Padres West y Lawlor durante la celebración de la Santa Eucaristía.

Celebración Mariana en Biscoe

BISCOE – Al atardecer del pasado 12 de diciembre en la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de las Américas, se celebró la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe con una Misa que comenzó con una procesión alrededor de la iglesia. El Padre Mauricio West, Canciller de la Diócesis de Charlotte, fue el celebrante principal y el Padre Mark Lawlor, administrador de la iglesia, concelebró.

Más de 200 personas asistieron a esta celebración que fue muy lucida y en la que se sirvió una comida a continuación de la Misa.

Oficina para refugiados

Por
OTONIEL FRANCO

Desde su fundación, una de las dependencias más activas en los Servicios Sociales Católicos es la Oficina para Refugiados — REFUGEE OFFICE — creada en 1975 para salir al paso de las necesidades más apremiantes de las personas desplazadas de sus lugares de origen por razones religiosas, étnicas, políticas o económicas.

Estas diásporas masivas, que en otras épocas afectaron áreas geográficas y poblaciones más reducidas, incluyen en nuestros días a centenares de miles alrededor del globo: naciones del Medio y del Lejano Oriente, de Africa, de Centro y Sur América, de las Antillas, sin olvidar las que emergen de nuevo en el este de Europa a causa de sentimientos nacionalistas, largo tiempo soterrados, que ahora renacen en un alumbramiento de sangre y fuego.

A esta Oficina de Refugiados, como a un oasis de paz, han acudido mas de 6,000 desplazados para encontrar solidaridad fraternal, ayuda económica y moral para hacerlos autosuficientes en su nueva patria y una empatía sin mengua para compartir sus sentimientos.

Aquí tuve la fortuna de arribar como voluntario a mediados de septiembre de 1997 con la generosa ayuda de la Sra. Maryanne Dailey, Directora del *Senior Citizens Center* (Tyvola Rd.) y con la no menos benévola acogida de la Srta. Cira Ponce, Directora de la Oficina para Refugiados, la Sra. Sonia Hayden, Coordinadora de Servicios Voluntarios y de todo el personal de esta oficina que siempre me han hecho sentir como en mi propio hogar y en mi propio terruño.

Y esto es de extrema importancia: un ambiente de fraternidad, donde cada cual se olvida de si mismo, para pensar sólo en los demás y en el bien común. Antes que competencia, hay colaboración, y si se compite, es para el mejoramiento personal y no para estar sobre los demás.

En esta oficina que es un hogar, se le dice "bienvenido" a todo el que llega a prestar su colaboración para ayudar a nuestros hermanos en necesidad.

Si Ud. desea compartir su tiempo libre para colaborar con nosotros, le recordamos que nuestra oficina es una organización sin fines de lucro, destinada a dar ayuda de diversa índole a los refugiados en el área de Charlotte.

Las tareas más usuales consisten en ayudar en el arreglo del apartamento o vivienda, acompañarlos a centros hospitalarios o educativos, en enseñarles inglés básico y servirles de intérprete cuando la situación lo requiera.

Conocimientos de computación y de otro idioma, además del inglés, son deseables, pero no indispensables. Para entrevistas, favor llamar a la Sra. Sonia Hayden (704) 370-3283 de 9:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m.

El Sr. Otoniel Franco es natural de Bogotá, Colombia, pero vivió casi 30 años en Venezuela antes de venir a los Estados Unidos, donde reside actualmente.

Foto E.Rodriguez

CHARLOTTE - Durante la celebración de las "mañanitas", en el Centro Católico Hispano el pasado diciembre, la niña Carol Vázquez posa delante de la Imagen de la Virgen.

Pastoral de arzobispo de Santa Fe examina 400 años de catolicismo

SANTA FE, Nuevo México (CNS) — Según dice Monseñor Michael J. Sheehan, Arzobispo de Santa Fe, el aniversario de 400 años de catolicismo en Nuevo México "no es sólo acerca de mirar retrospectivamente y celebrar las glorias pasadas".

"Creo que los mejores años del catolicismo en Nuevo México están delante de nosotros, no detrás de nosotros'', dijo Monseñor Sheehan en una carta pastoral, titulada «Semillas de Lucha, Cosecha de Fe", publicada el 1ro. de enero.

En 1598, Don Juan de Oñate, al mando de una expedición de colonizadores españoles — que incluía a ocho frailes franciscanos — llegó a la margen oriental del Río Grande, cerca de la ciudad actual de Española, que está al noroeste de Santa Fe.

"Las semillas del catolicismo fueron sembradas, arraigaron y florecieron", dijo Monseñor Sheehan. Los colonizadores, agregó él, creían que los pueblos nativos merecían escuchar el Evangelio. "Nuevo México, pues, fue establecida como una colonia, en primer lugar y más importantemente, como una misión a los indígenas".

La gestión misionera fue dirigida por los franciscanos. Los pueblos nativos no necesitaban de presentación a lo divino, porque ellos ya "adoraban al Gran Espíritu como mantenedor de toda vida" y esperaban la "plenitud en el Redentor de toda la humanidad", hizo notar el Arzobispo. "Sus corazones proporcionaron así un suelo acogedor para las semillas del Evangelio".

Pero "un encuentro de dos pueblos ampliamente diferentes resultará inevitablemente en que aflore lo mejor y lo peor de ambos", dijo el Arzobispo.

Continúa en la página 4

Foto CNS de Reuters

NIÑOS CUBANOS — Niños católicos cubanos participan en una reunión de oración para jóvenes en La Habana, en anticipación de la visita del Papa Juan Pablo II a Cuba. El Papa tiene fijada su visita a la nación isleña sojuzgada por comunistas entre los días 21 y 25 de enero.

Cardenal dice que visita papal está realizándose para los cubanos

BALTIMORE (CNS) — El Cardenal William H. Keeler, de Baltimore, dijo que la realidad de la próxima visita del Papa Juan Pablo II a Cuba está por fin convirtiéndose en realidad para los cubanos.

En una conferencia de prensa el 2 de enero en Baltimore, el Cardenal dijo que él y los representantes de los Servicios Católicos de Socorro tuvieron «una visita muy breve pero llena de acontecimientos ... donde vimos el impulso que está surgiendo dramáticamente para la visita del Papa Juan Pablo II.

"Hay una esperanza extraordinaria", dijo el Cardenal. El agregó que alguien le dijo que la realidad de la visita del Papa, entre el 21 y el 25 de enero, "sólo empezó a realizarse para una gran cantidad de personas" cuando, en Navidad, el mensaje del Papa fué leído en la televisión controlada por el estado.

El Cardenal Keeler dijo que él pensaba que su visita ayudó a poner al tanto a los cubanos del interés de los católicos estadounidenses por el viaje papal. El dijo que los cubanos con quienes él habló estaban muy interesados por oir cuán próximamente el pueblo de los Estados Unidos estaba siguiendo los acontecimientos de Cuba.

El 3 de enero, el periódico oficial del Partido Comunista, Granma, publicó un mensaje del Papa Juan Pablo II al presidente Fidel Castro, señalando el feriado nacional cubano del 1ro. de enero. El Papa ofreció su "saludo cortés'' al presidente cubano y le deseó «un feliz año nuevo, con las mejores esperanzas de paz y adelanto social en su país", informó la Radio del Vaticano.

El mensaje del Papa Juan Pablo decía que él estaba orando por Cuba y esperando con agrado su visita inminente.

La Radio del Vaticano informó que, en la Misa del 1ro. de enero en La Habana, el Cardenal Ortega dijo: "La Iglesia de Cuba está experimentando una revitalización, en la mayor cantidad de fieles que participan en la vida litúrgica y sacramental, en el número cada vez mayor de vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa, y en el compromiso apostólico del laicado".

El Cardenal Ortega habló también de la deuda extranjera que recarga a muchos países pobres, y dijo que naciones y regiones enteras se arriesgan a ser excluídas por una economía globalizada cada vez en mayor medida.

Viene de la página 3

El resentimiento de los indígenas por las tentativas de los españoles de hacer de los indígenas "copias de ellos mismos" resultaron en la Revuelta de Pueblo en 1680, que continuó sin reconciliación hasta 1692, hizo notar él.

"Está claro hoy para nosotros que hubo muchos fracasos de parte de los españoles, incluyendo los de los frailes franciscanos", dijo Monseñor Sheehan.

"Hubo incidentes de crueldad y malos tratos, falta de respeto para la autonomía de los naturales, su cultura y sus valores religiosos. Hubo derramamiento de sangre por ambas partes, los españoles y los indígenas. Para estos fracasos procuramos perdón y reconciliación".

Empero, dijo el Arzobispo, "tenemos que tratar de ver el cuadro grande y de apreciar que todos hemos procurado vivir juntos en paz durante muchos años. Pero para nosotros, los cristianos, el mayor don que trajeron los colonizadores y frailes españoles fue aún mejor que el ganado y el pan. Fue nuestra tradición católica, el mensaje del Evangelio y a Jesús en la Eucaristía".

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO *St. Joseph*, 326 S. Park St. (910) 629-0221	todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE *St. Lawrence*, 97 Haywood St. (704) 252-6042	todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE *Our Lady of the Americas,* 105 Hayde Rd. (910) 428-3051	los domingos 11:30 am y 2 pm confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE *Sacred Heart,* Main St. & Summit	3er. domingo del mes 6 pm
CHARLOTTE *Centro Católico Hispano* Shenandoah Ave.y The Plaza (704) 335-1281	todos los sábados 7 pm domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS *Holy Family*, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. (910) 766-8133	todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON *Sagrado Corazón*, Rt. 601 (910) 632-8009	todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY *Immaculate Conception,* 1024 W. Main St. (704) 245-4017	todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA *St. Michael*, 708 St.Michael's Ln. (704) 867 6212	3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO *St. Mary*, 812 Duke St., (910) 272-8650	todos los domingos 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE *Immaculate Conception*, 208 7th. Ave.W.. (704)693-6901	todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT *Cristo Rey,* 1505 East Kivett Dr. (910) 884-0244	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
JEFFERSON *San Francisco de Asis,* Main y Ivy (910) 246-9151	2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS *St. Joseph,* 108 St.Joseph St.	todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE *Holy Cross,* 616 S.Cherry St. (910) 996-5109	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON *St. Dorothy,* 148 St.Dorothy's Lane (704) 735-5575	todos los domingos 12 pm
MONROE *Our Lady of Lourdes,* Deese y Franklin Streets	todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON *St. Charles Borromeo,* 714 W. Union St. (704) 437-3108	todos los domingos 5 pm
MOUNT AIRY *Holy Angels,* 1208 North Main St. (910) 786-8147	todos los domingos 6 pm
NEWTON *St. Joseph,* 720 West 13th. St., (704) 464-9207	todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO *St. John Church,* 275 C.C. Wright School Rd. (910)838-5562	1er., 3er., 5to. domingo del mes 6 pm
REIDSVILLE *Holy Infant,* 1042 Freeway Dr., (910) 342-1448	todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY *Sacred Heart,* 128 N.Fulton St. (704) 633-0591	todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA *St.Francis of Rome,* Hendrix Rd. (910) 372-8846	1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE *St. Phillip the Apostle,* 525 Camden Dr (704) 872-2579	1er. domingo del mes 2 pm
TAYLORSVILLE *Holy Trinity,* 665 W. Main Ave. (704) 632-8009	2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE *Our Lady of the Highways,* 943 Ball Park Rd. (910)475-2732	todos los domingos 12 pm
WINSTON-SALEM *Our Lady of Mercy,* 1919 S. Main St. (704) 722-7001	todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE *Christ the King,* U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd. (910) 463-5533	todos los domingos 12 pm

Entertainment

Thriller "Hard Rain" Is Showy, Rather Senseless

NEW YORK (CNS) — After getting stalled in a flash flood, an armored car is attacked by robbers in the water-logged thriller, "Hard Rain" (Paramount).

During a confused shoot-out, guard Tom (Christian Slater) manages to escape through knee-deep water, dragging behind him money bags containing $3 million.

With the robbers, led by Jim (Morgan Freeman), in hot pursuit, Tom moors the money bags to a cemetery monument, then tries to hide in a nearby school.

After breaking into a store, the robbers emerge with a powerboat and several water-skimobiles to continue the chase.

Tom, however, is bludgeoned by Karen (Minnie Driver) and locked up by the sheriff (Randy Quaid) as a looter.

While the sheriff checks out Tom's story about the robbers, the water rises considerably and the guard is saved from drowning by Karen.

The robbers reappear, the chase continues in and out of boats, until the sheriff finally shows up and adds a further wrinkle to the quest for the hidden money.

Long before this, however, the novelty of criminals powerboating through the submerged streets of a deserted town has become tiresomely repetitive.

Directed by Mikael Salomon, the plot self-destructs when the good guys turn out to be the bad guys and Tom winds up fighting beside Jim, using automatic weapons that seldom need reloading.

The small-town characters are fairly nasty stereotypes and Karen is thrown in to add some feminine interest to a story of some tough dudes.

The contrived proceedings follow a twisty but improbable plot that is showy but rather senseless in the end.

For instance, Karen is renovating some stained glass windows in a church which is demolished in one of the final confrontations.

This apparently is intended to add visual drama to the action but it only makes the overdone violence seem outright silly.

Here, the bloodshed is outdone by the watershed, but that doesn't make it any more interesting.

Because of stylized violence, much menace including a sexual situation, recurring profanity and a sexual expletive, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

Howie Long portrays a smoke jumper on rescue duty in the action thriller "Firestorm." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Brassed Off" (1997)

British story set in a depressed 1992 Yorkshire mining town where the mine's band leader (Pete Postlethwaite) insists the group carry on with their music sessions in hopes of winning a national band contest. Writer-director Mark Herman's spirited drama goes overboard in its indictment of Tory social policies, but is otherwise a winning, warmly human story of a working-class community coping with economic ruin. Brief sexual innuendo, fleeting locker-room nudity, minor violence and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Miramax, rental)

"Career Girls" (1997)

British drama of a woman (Lynda Steadman) renewing her friendship with a former college roommate (Katrin Cartlidge) on a weekend visit which recalls their frenetic, uncertain lives as undergraduates and how much each has changed in the six years since then. Written and directed by Mike Leigh, the impressionistic narrative is loosely assembled from scenes of past and present, relying mainly on improvisational performances but the result is too disjointed to add up to more than a tentative understanding of how much progress the two have made in their lives since college. Sexual encounter with brief nudity, sexual situations, recurring rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (FoxVideo, rental)

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"The Game" (1997)

Twisty drama about an arrogant San Francisco investment banker (Michael Douglas) whose birthday gift from his estranged brother (Sean Penn) is membership in a bizarre game club which puts the banker's life and fortune in constant danger from unknown assailants. Directed by David Fincher, the wildly imaginative proceedings are absorbing, suspenseful and patently illogical. Stylized violence, occasional profanity and frequent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Polygram, rental)

"Mr. Klein" (1977)

French drama about a dealer in art objects (Alain Delon) who buys family heirlooms from Jews needing cash to escape the Nazi terror, then is himself mistaken for a Jew and handed over to the Germans, as were 13,000 others on what is known as Black Thursday, July 16, 1942. Directed with great sensitivity by Joseph Losey, it is exceptional in viewing the Holocaust as a universal experience, as meaningful to gentiles as to Jews. Subtitles. The nature of the theme, and some incidental nudity, make this a film for serious viewers. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (New Yorker, rental)

"Nothing to Lose" (1997)

Coarse comedy in which a bumbling carjacker (Martin Lawrence) helps a despondent ad executive (Tim Robbins) rob his boss of a fortune, then the adman has second thoughts and insists they try to return the money before its absence is discovered. Writer-director Steve Oedekerk's manipulative buddy plot goes for cheap laughs while implying circumstances may justify grand theft. Ambivalent attitude toward crime, comic treatment of violence, a fleeting sexual encounter and constant rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Touchstone, rental)

"Orchestra Rehearsal" (1979)

Italian production about an orchestra whose members are constantly being distracted by each other and the inane questions of a television crew until a union dispute leads to violence and ultimately chaos. Director Federico Fellini's failed fable about the tension between authority and the individual becomes a disjointed series of gags and jabs at music, nationality, television, art, sports, sex and so on in this minor work from a great director. Subtitles. Mature themes and treatment. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox Lorber, rental)

"Pixote" (1982)

Harrowing and poignant Brazilian drama about a gang of boys living on the streets of Rio and the terrible things they do to survive. Directed by Hector Babenco, this powerful movie is definitely not for the faint of heart or weak of stomach because it involves sordid violence and graphic sexuality. Subtitles. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (New Yorker, rental)

"When the Cat's Away" (1997)

Seriocomic tale of a lonely Parisienne (Garance Clavel) who gets lots of help searching for her lost cat, particularly from older women, but others prove more interested in romance than locating the missing feline, until the picture's sweetly hopeful ending. Writer-director Cedric Klapisch's wistful picture of a single woman whose search for a pet turns into a quest for the right man with whom to share her life is treated earnestly, yet with humor in an odd series of unsuitable encounters before a real prospect finally turns up. Subtitles. Several restrained sex scenes, sexual references, coarse expressions and occasional rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Columbia TriStar, rental)

IHM's Headmaster Leaves Behind Rich Education Legacy

By ANDY MORRISSEY

HIGH POINT — Family members and friends from the military gathered in a room at High Point Regional Hospital Tuesday night to grieve the loss of Frank McGrail.

The headmaster of High Point's sole Catholic school, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, died at age 59 on Tuesday, four days after suffering a heart attack. The former paratrooper never regained consciousness.

But as family members gathered at the hospital, they said they were moved by the swell of support from friends and colleagues who described McGrail as a leader to both soldiers and school children.

"I'm not from here and I've seen the outpouring of love from the community for Frank," said Col. Carl Johnson, McGrail's younger brother.

"The community has just been outstanding for the family. He's just got us and immediate family here, but it seems like half of High Point is an extended family."

The men served together for a period when they were both stationed at Fort Bragg as members of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division. McGrail served two tours of duty in Vietnam during his 34-year career in the military, Johnson said.

McGrail retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1987, the same year he took the headmaster's position at IHM.

McGrail's father died when he was 2, and his mother, Helen Johnson, later remarried. She was traveling to High Point from the family homestead in New Hampshire for the funeral.

Arrangements have not been finalized. The family plans to hold a funeral service in High Point, and then a military service and burial at Fort Bragg, said McGrail's son, Brian.

Father Joe Zuschmidt, the school's pastor, said McGrail leaves a powerful legacy because of his faith in Catholicism and education.

"He had total dedication to Catholic schools and the values they proclaim," Zuschmidt said.

He credited McGrail with saving IHM. The school was suffering from declining enrollment, and McGrail brought in new students and restored a sense of optimism to the school community.

McGrail's oldest daughter, Dr. Mary Alice McGrail-Reid, said her father loved teaching because of his love for children.

"Even before he worked at IHM, he was a mentor to young men in the Army, to young men in the community in Fayetteville," she said.

"You will find many, many students who will come back and will say he changed their lives."

Classes were to proceed Jan. 21 at IHM, but a team of counselors from the Charlotte Diocese were to be on-hand to help the school's 254 students cope with Frank McGrail's death, said music teacher Wanda Garrett.

Monday was the first day back to school after McGrail's heart attack. He suffered the heart attack on Friday, soon after leading a pep rally in a mascot uniform that students won in a contest organized by a Greensboro radio station.

Family members said doctors told them that a blockage near his aorta probably was responsible for the heart attack.

Garrett was among the first teachers hired by McGrail when he came to the school in August 1987, Garrett said. She decided to take the job because she was struck by his enthusiasm and passion for teaching the students.

"It's hard to imagine that anybody could fill his shoes," she said.

This story from Jan. 21 is reprinted with permission from The High Point Enterprise.

Education Vicar, from page 3

educating, supporting, and collaborating with the family through its various programs and services.

It should also be noted that the spirit of sacrifice exhibited by so many parents to enable their children to receive an education in the Catholic schools is quite apparent in the diocese.

What is the key ingredient to education and formation in Catholic schools?

It's important to recognize Bishop Curlin's primary concern — that the children and the youth in Catholic schools come to know Jesus — and that the experiences within the schools are supportive of that objective. In that regard, those experiences that are found in formal religious education classes and other classes of various types — English, history and science, for example — must be taught from a value perspective.

There are several important ways the students come to know Jesus: through the witness of the adults who are identified with the Catholic school and who reflect their faith in the classroom; through opportunities to serve in the name of the Lord; through the celebration of the Eucharist at school Masses.

The Catholic school is also in existence to cultivate the talents, skills and abilities of the children, to cultivate their self-discipline and their good study habits. But its primary purpose is to assist them in coming to know Jesus as growing, maturing human beings and people of faith.

It is vital that educators look at the messages contained in what they are teaching and how those messages relate to the person of Jesus, the values he represents, the Gospel that he shares.

What are some highlights of Catholic education in this diocese?

So much of what happens in the Catholic schools is ongoing, and in some ways it can be taken for granted. It's the day-to-day living, sharing and celebrating faith that is so important, and it's the good people in the Catholic schools who, in a quiet sort of way, really witness to the value of faith in their lives.

Much of what is occurring in the schools concerns new dimensions of what has been happening already: the development of curriculum, the cultivation of the spirit of a real faith community. These are ongoing, continuing realities, and they are so important to the faithful and responsible implementation of the educational mission of the church.

Thank you St. Jude for prayers answered.

—J.B.S.

Cardinals, from page 1

Cardinal John J. Carberry of St. Louis, 93, would be eligible to vote in a conclave.

No other countries have more than 10 cardinals. After the consistory, Brazil — the country with the most Catholics — will have six cardinal-electors.

Canada will have five cardinals, two of whom would be eligible to vote in a conclave.

Other cardinals-designate include:

— Jorge Arturo Medina Estevez, pro-prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. The 71-year-old prelate is from Chile.

— Alberto Bovone, pro-prefect of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes. The Italian is 75 years old.

— Dario Castrillon Hoyos, a 68-year-old Colombian who is pro-prefect of the Congregation for Clergy.

— Lorenzo Antonetti, 75, an Italian who is pro-president of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See.

— Salvatore de Giorgi of Palermo, Italy, 67.

— Serafim Fernandes de Araujo, the 73-year-old archbishop of Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

— Antonio Maria Rouco Varela of Madrid, 61.

— Jean Balland of Lyons, France, 63.

— Dionigi Tettamanzi, the 63-year-old archbishop of Genoa, Italy.

— Polycarp Pengo of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 53.

— Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, who was named just four days before his 53rd birthday.

— Norberto Rivera Carrera, the 55-year-old archbishop of Mexico City.

— Paul Shan Kuo-Hsi, the 74-year-old bishop of Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

— Francesco Colasuonno, the 73-year-old nuncio to Italy and former nuncio to Russia.

— Dino Monduzzi, the 75-year-old prefect of the Papal Household.

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Students Continue Acts Of Good Will Into The New Year

By SUSAN deGUZMAN

WINSTON-SALEM — An act of caring in the fourth grade allows a student to transfer an M&M from a full jar to an empty one. How fast can the M&M's be transferred, and how many times? Second-graders write their good deeds on a piece of paper and drop them anonymously into a glass vase. They can see the pile grow higher and higher. Third-graders place their caring acts in a basket. Don't let that basket get thrown out; it's not trash!

Georgette Schraeder, St. Leo School principal, has invited all students to begin 1998 with an intention to perform "caring acts." This request ties in with two major themes: One is Pope John Paul II's decree that 1998 be dedicated to the Holy Spirit. Schraeder foresees the exercise as a way to encourage students to seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for ideas to express concern for others. The exercise is also in conjunction with what has been designated nationally as the "Season of Nonviolence." It runs from the 50th anniversary of the assasination of Mahatma Gandhi (Jan. 30) to the 30th anniversary of the assasination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (April 3).

Schraeder has asked each grade to design a method for tracking their caring acts. She chose Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 19) and Student Day (Jan. 30) during Catholic Schools Week as the first two dates to tally the acts. Hopeful for the school to go on-line before year's end, Schraeder plans to utilize the total number of caring acts performed to be the first bit of information that is shared about the school. She feels that students who have Internet access at home may be interested in sharing their caring acts in detail with other Internet users.

This exercise follows a holiday season that was filled with many outreach efforts by St. Leo students. Food was collected and delivered to Crisis Control for Thanksgiving under the organization of eighth-graders and parent outreach coordinator Betsy Trueax. The students also visited Heritage Woods Retirement Home where they brought letters and favors made by fellow students. Similar letters and favors were also sent to parishioners who are shut-ins.

Three needy families were provided with presents and meals at Christmas thanks to donations collected from students and their families. Eighth-graders wrapped the presents and enjoyed playing the role of Santa Claus. They also assisted at St. Leo the Great Church's outreach effort by loading an entire rental truck with gifts for distribution to various area agencies ministering to the poor. The entire student body made creative ornaments for the church's giving tree.

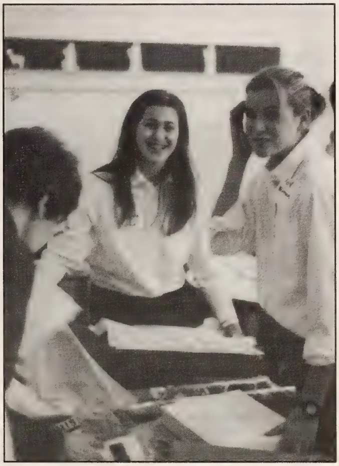
Photo by Marion Adams

Eighth-grade students Elizabeth Araman (center) and Beth Tara wrap presents for needy families with other classmates.

St. Leo School also assisted Sister Joan Pearson, director of Hispanic Ministry, with a unique undertaking for the Hispanic community. A Secret Santa Shop was created thanks to donations from school families, and the assistance of students, teachers, parents and Sister Joan. The one-day sale enabled parents to shop and purchase toys, at negligible prices, for their children. Donated clothing was also offered.

Seventh-graders were responsible for organizing and setting up the shop. Sister Joan enjoyed watching the students "test out" many of the toys to make sure that they worked properly. "So many items were donated by school families and others that the entire church activity center was filled," she said. "I felt as if we were rivaling Wal-Mart."

Sister Joan returned the money from the toy shop to both the school and Hispanic community by purchasing grocery scrip from the school, then providing scrip certificates to various Hispanic families.

Susan deGuzman is a parishioner at St.Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

Employment Opportunities

Principal:

Seeking a Principal for our Catholic school of 350 students, Pre-K—8, to begin July 1, 1998. Qualifications: Practicing Catholic in good standing; 3 years of teaching experience at appropriate grade levels; hold or be eligible to hold a North Carolina Principal's Certificate. Adminstrative experience and advanced certificate will be viewed as a strength. Deadline in February 24, 1998. Submit letter of interest, current resume, and salary requirements to: Blessed Sacrament School Search Committee, 328 West Davis Street, P.O. Box 619, Burlington, NC 27216. For additional information, visit Diocese of Raleigh home page at **www.raldioc.org**.

Language Arts Teacher, Middle School (Grades 6-8):

Sacred Heart Catholic School—Salisbury, NC. Opening first of February 1998. Contact Mrs. Kathleen Miller at (704) 633-2841 for information.

Diocesan Regional Coordinators:

Charlotte Diocese has two openings: Northern Vicariates and Southern Vicariates. Diocese seeks persons with Master's degree in Rel. Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris V. Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee. Inquiries: (704) 370-3244. Deadline: February 27, 1998 or when filled.

Bilingual Case Aide:

Full-time, temporary position needed immediately. Duties include translation/interpretation; coordinating needed refugee services, and transporting clients to appointments. Must be fluent in Vietnamese and English. High school education or equivalent. Valid NC driver license. Submit resume with references to: Refugee Resettlement Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Director of Music:

1500 family parish seeks part-time professional with liturgical music experience. Potential grows to full-time. Requires organ, keyboard and vocal skills, working with youth and adult choirs. Send or fax resume to: St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Charlotte, NC 28227. Fax: (704) 536-3147

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Diocesan News Briefs

Terry Utterback, chairman of the disABILITY ministry at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, accepts the 1997 Association for Retarded Citizens of North Carolina's Distinguished Community Service Award on behalf of the parish ministry in this recent photo taken in Wilmington, N.C. Presenting the award is Karen Andrews, former president of the state ARC. The honor recognizes organizations like disABILITY that perform services for people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. The disABILITY ministry was organized at St. Gabriel Parish in April 1995 to increase church accessibility and provide support to persons with physical limitations, and has since grown to include outreach to those with mental handicaps.

Christian Musical

ARDEN — The contemporary Christian musical "Tales of Wonder" by Marty Haugan is presented at St. Barnabas Church by the parish's adult, junior and children's choirs Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 1 at 3 p.m. Admission to the benefit concert, whose proceeds will help fund a new church sound system, is $3 in advance and $5 at the door. For advance tickets, call the parish office, (704) 634-6093.

Bible Study

BREVARD — A Bible study group meets Mondays at 9:30 a.m. in Sacred Heart Church's gathering area. For details, call Elaine Walker, (704) 884-7549.

Retrovaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrovaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to forget the past and start anew. The program begins March 27. For further information, call Nick and Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

CCHS Grand Prix

CHARLOTTE — The CCHS Foundation Grand Prix Party and Auction is Jan. 24 in the school gymnasium and features a dinner buffet, music, and a live and silent auction. Tickets are $60 per person. Chances for the 1998 Grand Spree, a trip for two to London and Rome, are also on sale for $5 each or 6 for $25. Proceeds from the fund-raiser benefit CCHS; tickets can be purchased by calling (704) 543-9118.

Home Fellowship Group

CHARLOTTE — The Home Fellowship Group for women with children meets Thursdays from 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. for prayer, Scripture and sharing. Call Lynn Kolodziej, (704) 541-6765, for more information.

Separated, Divorced, Remarried Catholics

GREENSBORO — The Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics group of Greensboro meets regularly for social and spiritual gatherings. Upcoming events include a book discussion group meeting, brunch at a local restaurant and a Valentine's Day party. For details, call co-leaders Mike Bohen, (910) 373-7358; Nancy Cox, (910) 659-0478, Wednesday-Saturday; Isabella Syracuse, (910) 294-9595; or Patrick Tracey, (910) 545-6939.

Teen Lenten Retreat

GREENSBORO — The Office of Youth Ministry of the Charlotte Diocese of presents a Lenten retreat at St. Pius X Church from Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. until March 1 following an 11:30 a.m. Mass and lunch. The cost is $50, with a $25 deposit due by Feb. 20 and the balance due upon arrival. The fee covers all food and materials for the retreat, including a retreat T-shirt. For details and registration forms, call the Office of Youth Ministry, (704) 370-3243.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — Upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends are scheduled for Feb. 20-22 and April 3-5 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information, call Michael and Stacey Holcolm, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

RCIA Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — A retreat for parish RCIA groups is at the Living Waters Reflection Center from Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. until after lunch Sunday. The retreat will be directed by Father Martin Iott, OP, who will explore the topic "Getting In Touch With What It Means To Be Catholic" and discuss some major church teachings and traditions, as well as the richness of its spirituality. For more information, call (704) 926-3833.

Mid-Winter Barbecue

MONROE — Knights of Columbus Council 10615 hosts and sponsors a mid-winter barbecue Jan. 31 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Meals include local-recipe barbecued beef, chicken or pork, baked beans, slaw or potato salad, and bread. The cost is $5 per plate, or $6 for "all-you-can-eat" on the premises. A $1 discount applies to clergy and police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel. Take-outs are encouraged, and meals can be delivered for groups of 20 or more. Proceeds benefit the church building fund. For call-in orders, phone (704) 283-7210.

Parish Mission

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church sponsors a parish mission called "The Presence of God" Feb. 15-Feb. 18 at 7:15 p.m. each day. The mission's focus is on the manner of God's presence in our lives, the experience of this presence and the transformation that takes places when people connect to that presence. Father Frederick A. Pompei, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., who has traveled extensively throughout the United States in a ministry of evangelization and renewal, is the mission leader. All are invited to attend. For more information, call (704) 664-3992.

Valentine's Ball

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Catholic School presents its Annual Valentine's Ball Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at Country Club of Salisbury. The event includes dinner, dancing and a silent and live auction. The cost is $25 per person, and advanced reservations are required. Call Phyllis Tonseth, (704) 637-7886, by Jan. 31. Proceeds benefit school facilities and materials.

Spaghetti Dinner

STATESVILLE — The Knights of Columbus St. James Council 7152 hosts a spaghetti dinner at St. Philip Church on Feb. 15 from 4-6:30 p.m. For more information, call Andrew DeRiso, (704) 873-0166.

Evangelization Conference

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte sponsors "Millennium! Spirit Speaks to the Church," with talks about the upcoming Jubilee Year by Catholic evangelists Ralph Martin, Ann Shields and Peter Herbeck, Feb. 6-7 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Registration for the Feb. 6 program is at 7 p.m.; the program is from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Registration for the Feb. 7 program is at 8 a.m.; the program is from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. Cost is $10 for adults, with children ages 17 and under admitted free. Offerings for Renewal Ministries, a Catholic outreach dedicated to promoting evangelization and personal renewal, will be taken at the end of each talk. For further information, call Paul Deer, (704) 948-0628.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Ultreya

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya takes place at St. Elizabeth Church every first Saturday following the 5:15 p.m. Mass. For more information, call the parish office, (704) 284-8338.

CHARLOTTE — The south Charlotte area Ultreya meets every fourth Sunday of the month at St. Matthew Church in the Fellowship Hall from 1-3 p.m. Gatherings include potluck lunch, meetings and Leaders' School. Call Teresa Sanctis, (704) 541-6850, for more information.

Hibernians Announce Officers

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America recently announced the new officers of the Mecklenburg County Division. They are: Richard Barrett of Gastonia, president; Tom Williams of Matthews, vice-president; Bill McDade of Charlotte, recording secretary; Joseph Gillis of Indian Trail, financial secretary; Dick Kelly of Charlotte, treasurer; John McInerney of Charlotte, chairman standing committee; Pat Riley of Charlotte, marshal; and Dennis Ryan of Charlotte, sentinel.

The Mecklenburg County Division meets monthly and draws members from all the parishes in the greater Mecklenburg area. The division is planning a St. Patrick Day parade for March 14 on Tryon Street through downtown Charlotte. New members are welcome. For more information, call Richard Barrett, (704) 864-5166, or Tom Williams, (704) 849-6370, or send e-mail to NCAOH@aol.com.

World And National News Briefs

Vatican Confirms That Pope Will Meet With Yeltsin In February

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials confirmed that Pope John Paul II would meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin during the president's February trip to Italy. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Jan. 12 Yeltsin would have a papal audience during his Feb. 9-11 visit, as the Kremlin had announced in Moscow.

Man Sets Fire To Himself In St. Peter's Square

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A man doused himself with gasoline and set himself alight in St. Peter's Square Jan. 13. The usual crowd of tourists had not yet arrived at the monumental forecourt to St. Peter's Basilica at 7:30 a.m. when the man, identified as Alfredo Ormando, 39, started the blaze. No other injuries were reported. Italian police responsible for the square smothered the flames and used a fire extinguisher stored in the surrounding colonnade to put out the fire. Ormando was said to have suffered third degree burns over 90 percent of his body. He was treated in a specialist unit at Saint Eugenio hospital in Rome.

Five Hutu Nuns Killed, Two Injured At Rwandan Mission

ROME (CNS) — Five nuns were killed at a Rwandan mission near the border with Congo in early January in an attack apparently linked to ethnic tensions in the region. The five members of the Daughters of the Resurrection order killed Jan. 8 were all Hutus born in the area, according to press reports. A Rome-based member of the order told Catholic News Service there were 12 nuns at that mission. Two other missionaries were reported injured in the incident, which was first publicized Jan. 11. Vatican Radio reported their condition the next day as serious.

Unjust, Immoral Land Policies Affect Millions, Says Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The millions of rural poor around the world living alongside huge, uncultivated farms are a sign of an unjust and immoral policy of land ownership, according to a new Vatican document. Land reform that benefits the poor and contributes to the economic growth of developing countries "is a utopia, but it is a feasible utopia," said Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. The cardinal presented his council's new document, "Toward a Better Distribution of Land: The Challenge of Agrarian Reform," during a Jan. 13 press conference at the Vatican.

Bethlehem University Kicks Off Silver Jubilee

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Bethlehem University kicked off a year of celebrations in January to mark its 25th anniversary. Since its establishment with the help of the Vatican in October 1973, the university has grown from an institution with 100 students and 15 faculty members to one with almost 2,000 students and 190 faculty members. The university kicked off its silver jubilee celebrations with a concert by the children's choir of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Denver.

Group Urges Better Pain Control, Penalties For Not Treating It

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The organization leading the push in Oregon and Washington states to legalize assisted suicide is pressing state medical boards to encourage better treatment of pain and penalize doctors who don't cooperate. Compassion in Dying, the Oregon-based organization that unsuccessfully sued to overturn Washington's ban on physician-assisted suicide, sent letters to state medical boards Jan. 12 calling for penalties against doctors who are found to have inadequately controlled pain in terminally ill patients. The recommendation for penalties was one of seven suggested steps for medical boards to take to encourage doctors to provide stronger doses of medication for patients in the painful stages of terminal illness.

Indian Bishops Mourn Death Of Victims Of Bus Accident

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India offered its condolences after the death of as many as 66 people, mostly schoolchildren, in a bus accident in West Bengal. The accident occurred at 3:15 a.m. Jan. 14 when the bus, carrying 86 people, fell into the Padma River at Jalangi in eastern India, near Bangladesh. The children were returning home from a picnic. Villagers and fishermen saved 20 people and recovered 54 bodies from the river. Twelve people were still missing, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "We pray for the souls of those innocent children, who died tragically for no fault of theirs," said Father George Pereira, the bishops' deputy secretary-general.

Vatican To Allow Scholars Access To Doctrinal Archives

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican will allow scholars to shed new light on some of the most controversial periods of church history, including the Inquisition, the Reformation and the Enlightenment. With the approval of Pope John Paul II, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith announced it will give scholars greater access to its once super-secret archives. The holdings — which are separate from the collection of the Vatican Secret Archives and the Vatican Library — include files dating back to the Roman Inquisition. In addition, the congregation will open the archives of what was once known as the Congregation of the Index, which was founded in 1571 to examine the doctrinal and-or moral content of books. The congregation was responsible for the publication of the Index of Forbidden Books.

Survey Finds Greater Ethnic Mix Choosing Consecrated Life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hispanic, African-American and Asian-American Catholics are joining religious orders and secular institutes at a faster rate than ever in the United States, according to a survey of those choosing the consecrated life. The survey, released in January in connection with the U.S. observance of the World Day of Consecrated Life on Feb. 1, was conducted last year among 288 men religious, 652 women religious and 51 members of secular institutes, all of whom were in the initial stages of religious formation or commitment to secular institutes.

CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

A couple passes through a retrospective on the pro-life movement at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 19. The exhibit was produced by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities and will travel to several dioceses in the United States.

Florida Farmworkers End Hunger Strike

NAPLES, Fla. (CNS) — Three remaining farmworkers on a hunger strike for better wages ended their 30-day fast Jan. 18 after former president Jimmy Carter offered to intervene with tomato growers on the workers' behalf. Six farmworkers stopped eating Dec. 20 to draw attention to a campaign by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers for higher wages for tomato pickers. In the two-week period before Carter's offer, three of the six dropped out of the hunger strike because of severe dehydration and other complications.

Caritas, World Food Program To Unite In Global Food Distribution

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Caritas Internationalis has agreed to cooperate globally with the United Nations World Food Program to improve the distribution of food aid. The international Catholic aid organization signed a cooperative agreement with the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization a few days before approving the WFP document Jan. 13. "What is attractive to both UNESCO and the WFP is our global reach," explained Karel Zalenka, the head of Caritas' operations department who was instrumental in the realization of the latter agreement.

Traveling Exhibit On Pro-life Movement Unveiled In D.C.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Requests by dioceses to display a new traveling exhibit on the 25th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade have been coming in so fast that it might have to stay on the road into 1999, according to the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman. Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, unveiled the new exhibit Jan. 16 at the National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Under the general title, "The People of Life: A Story of Faith, Hope and Love," the exhibit features four panels with pictures and text on remembering the child, remembering the woman, speaking truth to power and remembering God. But its main message is summarized in the phrase that Alvare described as the pro-life movement's "rallying cry for the 25th anniversary" — "Here until no more children die, no more women cry."

Community Organizing Groups Find Strength In Teaming Up

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The Davids of Oregon have teamed up to face a few Goliaths. Community organizing groups, many with church affiliation, are entering partnerships to boost their clout in the face of megacorporations. "We find grass-roots groups are combining and finding quite a bit of power by getting together," said Joan Legg, a Catholic who is director of the Southern Oregon Economic Development Coalition. "As we find that businesses and banks are getting bigger and bigger, it is one of the greatest challenges we find as organizers."

Vatican Delegation Meets In Moscow With Russian Orthodox

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A high-level Vatican delegation met in Moscow with its counterpart in the Russian Orthodox Church to discuss joint initiatives to overcome differences between the two churches. Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, spent Jan. 14 and 15 with Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, the Moscow Patriarchate's official in charge of relations with other churches. "We had a very good meeting," Cardinal Cassidy told Catholic News Service after his return to Rome. "I would characterize it as normal and productive."

Parish Profile

Christ the King Church

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church was founded in 1940 as a mission for African-American Catholics in High Point, and has since become a multi-ethnic parish celebrating both the diversity and unity of Catholic faith and tradition.

Bishop Eugene F. McGuinness of Raleigh invited the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement of Graymoor, N.Y., to staff the new mission in High Point in 1940. Father Bernardine Watson served as the first pastor, originally celebrating Mass in a funeral home.

Through the generosity and perseverance of Father Watson and several benefactors, a clothing shop was acquired for use by the mission. While Masses continued there during much of 1941, the mission community members also turned their attention to building a new church and rectory on Kivett Drive.

The new colonial-style church was dedicated by Bishop McGuinness on Dec. 14, 1941.

During the 1940s and into the '50s, the Christ the King community continued to grow. A school building and convent were built in 1949, and in 1950 the Franciscan Handmaids arrived to staff the school. The African-American communities, both Catholic and non-Catholic, of High Point, Thomasville and Greensboro were served by the new Christ the King School, which opened to 50 students in September 1950.

The friars continued their pastorate in High Point for the next several decades, cultivating a faith community that became more culturally diverse over time. A stained-glass window behind the church's choir loft depicts that diversity, with an image of Jesus surrounded by four individuals representing the African, Asian, European and Indian bloodlines that make up much of the parish community today.

Lowering enrollment, financial difficulties, and the recalling of the sisters to New York forced Christ the King School to close in 1981. The diocesan office of education converted the school for use as a day care center, which began its operation in August 1981.

That same year, Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement arrived at Christ the King Parish to conduct the religious education program and other ministerial work, including assisting at the day care. The center, still located on parish grounds, is now a privately operated day care that continues to serve the area.

Upon the friars' leaving High Point in 1991, Christ the King Church became a diocesan parish in December of that year. Fathers Martin Madison and John Hoover served the parish until December 1994, when Father Philip Kollithanath, present pastor, was appointed to Christ the King Church.

Assisting in the advancing growth of the Christ the King community have been many commissions and ministries focusing on the spiritual, educational, multi-cultural, and evangelical dimensions of the parish.

Parishioners gather to engage in Bible study, to learn English as a second language, to put their faith into action in the local community, and to celebrate their ethnicity. A bilingual religious education program provides sharing and learning opportunities for English- and Spanish-speaking parishioners, and the African-American Ministry plans outreach programs benefiting the local region. The Women's Guild, Altar Guild, 55+ Club, and Young & Spirited Group are active in parish and community services, and the evangelization commission provides for the spiritual needs of homebound parishioners through its Visitation Ministry.

The community of Christ the King Church looks ahead to expansion and renovation projects that will accommodate the needs of a growing parish. Three-hundred households currently make up the parish registry.

Christ the King Church
1505 East Kivett Dr.
High Point, N.C. 27260
(910) 884-0244

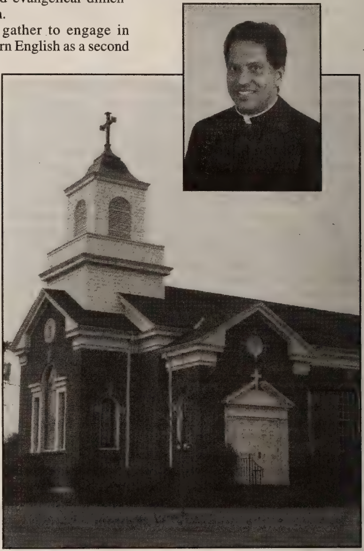
Vicariate: Greensboro

Pastor: Father Philip Kollithanath

Mass Schedule:
Saturday — 5 p.m.
Sunday — 10 a.m.
Spanish Mass:
Sunday — 4 p.m.

Number of parishioners: 620

Number of households: 300



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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 21 • Janaury 30, 1998

1998
Diocesan
Support Appeal
Love in
Action
February 1
to March 29

Photos by Joann Keane

CSS Program Helps Hispanic Brothers And Sisters

Love in Action

Editor's Note: The name of the family in this case has been changed to protect their identity.

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Last October, Juana Mora had finally had enough.

With children in tow, she packed their things and left her abusive husband, heading to a relative's home to seek shelter. The move forced 10 people to cram into a one-bedroom apartment.

With no money, no job, no car, no immigration papers that would allow her to work legally, and little knowledge of the English language, Mora turned to Programa Esperanza for help.

Originally established as a United Way outreach in 1991, Programa Esperanza (which means "Program of Hope") became a full-time ministry of Catholic Social Services last July, one of many CSS ministries funded in part by the annual Diocesan Support Appeal. Programa Esperanza links Hispanics to available community resources. It also provides legal assistance for persons who could otherwise not afford it and helps with the language barrier many Hispanics face in America, said CSS caseworker David Davis of Programa Esperanza.

With Mora's most pressing need being her ongoing safety, CSS staff attorney Richard Feerick accompanied her to civil court and helped Mora obtain a long-term restraining order to protect her and her children. While there, the attorney helped Mora enter a request for child support which was subsequently granted.

Programa Esperanza's work did not stop there. With employment a major issue, the CSS attorney helped Mora get work certification from the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

"This is sometimes not possible to do, but because she was already in the process of becoming a legal immigrant on the basis of her husband's papers, she was able to benefit from an exception that applies to a battered spouse," Davis explained.

The work permit was granted very quickly, and caseworkers directed Mora to possible job openings and helped her fill out job applications.

The months between leaving her husband and obtaining employment presented economic difficulties for Mora. The casework staff referred her to several agencies such as the Department of Social Services and Loaves and Fishes. Her family was also placed on a list to receive Christmas sponsorship, which meant her children received gifts during the holiday season.

By late December, Mora was employed. With her wages and the income from child support payments, she was able to get her own small apartment. Programa Esperanza caseworkers helped her to make the necessary arrangements to move in, including getting all utility services connected. Mora was also referred to Crisis Assistance for some basic furniture needs.

Today, Mora and her family are self-supportive and off all public assistance except Medicaid, which helps with medical bills. According to Davis, Mora's story is an example of the public assistance system working for someone. "She received enough support during the worst part of her ordeal and was able to survive and move toward self-sufficiency," he added. "Her story is an excellent example of how Programa Esperanza can help someone through a difficult time."

Elizabeth Thurbee, CSS executive director, said the program has helped fill a much-needed void. "We saw a gap in services, and this program is something we've wanted for CSS in the Charlotte area for a long time," she said.

Seminarian's Journey Involves Faith, Community

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Every seminarian called to priesthood has a unique story to tell. For Chris Gober, the call to serve sprung from an interest in healing.

"My initial interest in college was in the field of sports medicine or physical therapy," says the 23-year-old Gober, a student at The Catholic University of America Theological College. His focus changed thanks to the Holy See.

While visiting Rome with a group including his pastor, Gober experienced the grandeur of the "Eternal City," met many priests, and began to seriously ponder entering studies for the priesthood.

"One priest in particular asked me why I wanted to pursue work in healing the body when there was so much need to work in healing the soul," he says.

That and other encounters in Rome stuck with Gober, and he returned to his hometown of Peoria, Ill., "with an infinite-sized hole in my heart that could only be filled by God." He turned to his parish priest for direction, and received the following advice: "Develop a relationship with Christ, and the rest will fall into place."

Gober began attending daily Mass, and over time realized that living and celebrating the sacramental life "is the most awesome way that I could give myself to God in worship of him."

"Once I fell in love with the Mass, it just fit that (entering seminary) is what I needed to do, that this is what God was calling me to do," he says.

At the advice of priests of the Diocese of Peoria and elsewhere, Gober met with Bishop William G. Curlin in Charlotte. "I was talking with different people and giving them ideas of what I wanted to pursue: to go to a place where the church was really growing and was really in need of priests," he says.

Gober's meetings with Bishop Curlin, whom Gober calls "a magnet to vocations" because of his "total love for Jesus," convinced the young man to begin studies for the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The decision, he adds, wasn't made lightly and without conviction. "For me, it really took a total trust in God," Gober says. "It really was the ultimate test in faith to come down here, because I was leaving my family. But I felt that God was calling me to do just that."

Chris Gober

While Gober left his family behind in August 1996 to begin studies at Catholic University, he says he felt embraced by another kind of community, one including more than 100,000 Catholics living in western North Carolina.

He is currently one of 29 seminarians studying for the priesthood in the diocese.

A summer assignment last year in Charlotte at the diocesan media center and the tribunal provided Gober the chance to meet "very supportive people" in town and throughout the diocese, which he says led to an important sense of community. "It has meant so much to be supported by the people of God here and by my brother seminarians," he adds.

As Gober nears his diaconate ordination in April 1999, he fills his days with prayer, studying, class work, and, when there is time, some basketball, golf and reading. With the continued support and prayers of the people in the Diocese of Charlotte, Gober adds that he "sees the opportunity more clearly" than ever to "come to know myself and other people better."

Father Eric Houseknecht, diocesan vocation director, agrees that a connection to the community a seminarian will serve in is vital during his formation. "Knowing there are people out there who care is one of the things I appreciated most as a seminarian," he says. "The sacred-

See **Seminarian,** page 12

Scripture

Readings for the week of
February 1-7, 1998

Sunday
Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19
1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13
Luke 4:21-30
Monday
Malachi 3:1-4
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40
Tuesday
2 Samuel 18:9-10,14,24-25,30—19:3
Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday
2 Samuel 24:2,9-17
Mark 6:1-6
Thursday
1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12
Mark 6:7-13
Friday
Sirach 47:2-11
Mark 6:14-29
Saturday
1 Kings 3:4-13
Mark 6:30-34

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Love In Action

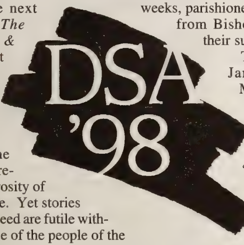
Love Is Caring, Love Is You

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — We are our brother's keeper. We are stewards of the faith.

In this vibrant, growing diocese those words exude pride, underscore continuing faith for which the diocese counts its blessings, and etch Love in Action into the very soul of the women and men in this diocese.

It is Love In Action that inspires people to reach out, to serve, to help. Over the next eight weeks, *The Catholic News & Herald* will reflect on many of the life-sustaining ministries. Through a series of articles, faces will appear on the good works that result from the generosity of those in the diocese. Yet stories of these people in need are futile without the benevolence of the people of the diocese.



Aptly, the 1998 Diocesan Support Appeal campaign selected "Love In Action" to speak to the people of God. "Just as these words comfort, they describe so well how the faithful of the diocese respond," says Barbara Rohrman, director of the DSA campaign and associate director of development. "This is who we are, this is how we live."

And in 1998, Love In Action will guide thousands to share their gifts, their treasures, with those yearning for and in need of spiritual guidance. There are 35 ministries — social service, educational, multi-cultural and vocational ministries — supported by the annual appeal.

All told, $2,760,000 will be raised this year, allowing those ministries to remain true to their missions, to the faith and serve those in need. "The DSA helps raise necessary funds for these life-nurturing, life-changing ministries for the people in the diocese," says Rohrman.

"There are always new needs and new challenges," says Bishop William G. Curlin on the demands placed on diocesan ministries and agencies. "We as Christians must be willing and prepared to meet those increasing needs."

The DSA begins this weekend with this newspaper and a video shown in all parishes and missions. In subsequent weeks, parishioners will receive a letter from Bishop Curlin asking for their support.

The campaign — from January 31 through March 29 — will rise to the occasion, placing the needs of many into the hands of those who care. "Though each campaign brings a new challenge with increased goals, the people of the diocese always respond generously when asked for their donations," says Rohrman. "Statistically, nearly half of the diocesan households contribute to the DSA, and we see that number rise every year."

Every parish and mission contributes by meeting a goal (see page 11) based on its annual offertory. Contributions above and beyond the set goal are returned to the parish. In turn, if the parish or mission falls below the goal, they still must meet the assigned target.

"The Diocesan Support Appeal is the voice of Christ constantly challenging us to be sensitive to the presence of Jesus in the hurting people around us," says the bishop.

Bishop Says DSA Is Challenge To Serve Others

An Interview with Bishop William G. Curlin

What does the theme of this year's appeal, "Love In Action," mean in relation to the role and purpose of the DSA?

Underlying all social and welfare programs is love of God and neighbor. That is the basis of all our ministries, and it is seen by the recognition and reaching out in loving service to Christ in our neighbor. On Mother Teresa's tomb are inscribed the words, "Love one another has I have loved you." And this is the foundation of both our ministries and this year's DSA theme.

Last year, the Diocese of Charlotte celebrated a quarter-century of ministry to the people of western North Carolina. There has been tremendous growth in that time. This year, more funding is earmarked for expanding programs such as campus ministry and seminarian education. What is your vision for the future, and how does the DSA help carry out that vision?

My vision of the future is trying to understand and meet, in a very responsible way, the ever-increasing demands made upon the diocese. One of the most urgent needs we have at the moment is educating our seminarians. With a recent addition, we are currently blessed with 29 candidates studying for the priesthood, and it is very expensive to educate these men.

This appeal will not only help them, it will help to shape the future of the diocese. It will provide us with more holy men who can motivate us in the right way to reach out to others. These men of God will help people recognize Christ in themselves and Christ in one another.

The number of young people taking advantage of our various campus ministry programs is growing as well. Whenever I visit colleges or universities in the diocese, I am tremendously encouraged by the reception I receive from these young people, their expressions of support and affection. And it's evident from what they're sharing with me that they really want to take an active role in the church. Because of this, I am not fearful of the future. Rather, I am very encouraged and feel very confident the future is in good hands.

Many Catholics give to their parish weekly offertory, building funds, special collections and community agencies. Why is it also important for Catholics to support the DSA?

A parish exists on the support it receives from parishioners. The DSA, though, is a visible reminder, a challenge to Catholics to recognize the entire diocese as one parish family. In the words of St. Paul, "Whenever one person suffers, we all suffer. When one person rejoices, we all rejoice." As bishop, I am pastor to the more than 90 parishes and missions in the diocese. My arms have to embrace all these communities, and the DSA challenges all Catholics to have a wider focus and understanding of what the church is about. We are all brothers and sisters, and this is our response to that vision of Christ in western North Carolina. Truly, the more people give, the more God seems to fill their own lives.

Sometimes it is difficult for parishioners to see how their contributions to the DSA help them and others in their parish or mission. What is your response to that?

The DSA gives us an opportunity to look beyond the needs of our individual parishes. I believe in accountability for

See **Bishop Interview,** page 8

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses. Monday – Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

"This debate [about partial-birth abortion] searches out the soul of our culture. It is ultimately a question of how we are willing to define ourselves as a civilization. We must ask ourselves, are we so self-indulgent in our nation that all notions of right and wrong can be summarily reduced to a matter of choice?...Let us reaffirm America as a culture of hope, a culture of life."

— Rep. Tim Hutchinson

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 31 — 5 p.m.
Dedication of Pro-Life Monument
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

5:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Thomas Aquinas Church

February 1 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

February 5
Speaker
Aquinas/Lutheran Dialogue
Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory

Feb. 6 — 7:15 a.m.
Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

February 7 — 11:15 a.m.
Mass for Permanent Deacons
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

February 8 — 9:45 a.m.
Speaker
Myers Park Baptist Church group, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Media Should Unite People, Not Exploit Them

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The communications media should bring people together, not isolate or exploit them, Pope John Paul II said in his message for World Communications Day 1998.

"The means of social communication, properly used, can help to create and sustain a human community based on justice and charity; and, insofar as they do that, they will be signs of hope," the pope said.

The pope's message for the 32nd church celebration of communications day was published by the Vatican Jan. 24, the feast of St. Frances de Sales, the patron saint of journalists.

World Communications Day will be celebrated May 24 in most dioceses. The 1998 theme is: "Sustained by the Spirit, Communicate Hope."

While Christian hope is ultimately hope for happiness with God at the end of time, the pope said, it also is "deeply related to the search for happiness and fulfillment in this life."

God's promise of redemption and salvation, he said, holds out hope both for a healing of one's relationship with God and one's relationship with other people.

"Christian communicators will communicate hope credibly if they first experience hope in their own lives, and this will happen only if they are men and women of prayer," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said there are plenty of hopeful stories communicators can relay to their readers or audience. As examples, he listed:

— "Scientific, technological and especially medical progress in the service of human life.

— "A greater awareness of our responsibility for the environment.

— "Efforts to restore peace and justice where they have been violated.

— "A desire for reconciliation and solidarity among peoples, particularly in the complex relationship between the North and South of the world."

Within the church, too, he said, there are signs of hope, "among them a more attentive listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit prompting the acceptance of charisms and the promotion of the laity; a deeper commitment to Christian unity; and a growing recognition of the importance of dialogue with other religions and with contemporary culture."

The pope urged the media not to regard their readers or audiences as mere consumers, interest groups or objects of manipulation to meet sales or political goals.

"It is the task of communication to bring people together and enrich their lives, not to isolate and exploit them," he said.

Pope John Paul asked Christians involved in communications to deepen their own prayer lives and technical skills so that they can communicate hope to others and help build community.

Pope Asks Clemency For Texas Woman On Death Row

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has asked Texas Gov. George W. Bush to grant clemency to Karla Faye Tucker, a Texas woman scheduled to die Feb. 3 for two 1983 pickax murders. Tucker, 38, would be the first woman executed in Texas since 1863 and the first anywhere in the United States since 1984. She admits her part in the murders but is now a born-again Christian. Supporters say she is a changed woman who devotes her time in prison to Bible study, counseling and helping other inmates, and who does extensive work, through mail, visits and educational videos, to counsel young people against drug use. At the time of the murders she was a 23-year-old prostitute who had been using drugs since she was 8.

Vatican Surprised At Timing Of Release Of Senator's Letter

CAMAGUEY, Cuba (CNS) — The Vatican expressed its surprise after a letter from U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., on the pope's Cuba trip was made public almost before the pontiff had a chance to see it. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls characterized Helms' letter, dated the day Pope John Paul II arrived in Cuba, as a personal, private message to the pope. In the letter, Helms, a leading supporter of the 35-year-old U.S. embargo against Cuba, said he joined many Americans in hoping that the pope's trip would help bring about a "free, just and united" Cuba.

Editor's Notebook

Mike Krokos

Love In Action

Ministries assist our brothers and sisters

Bishop William G. Curlin speaks of "love of God and neighbor" when discussing the annual Diocesan Support Appeal, which begins this weekend. The campaign, which runs from Feb. 1-March 29, focuses on the life-giving work of 35 diocesan ministries and how lives are changed.

Through our faith, we are called to love and serve one another. This year's DSA theme, "Love in Action," encourages us to reflect on the gifts God has provided, blessings that vary from household to household and person to person. Through their gifts, parishioners are given the opportunity to put their love of Christ in action.

For the less fortunate, the blessings come from the services provided by diocesan ministries and agencies which assist them in meeting sometimes difficult needs.

As in years past, parishioners are asked to be good stewards of their resources during the appeal, which affords each of us the opportunity to offer financial assistance in the church's mission to help others. The 1998 DSA goal is $2,760,000, which represents a 7 percent increase over last year's goal. The reason for the increase is simple: As the diocese continues to grow at a rapid rate, so do the demands and needs for the services of its agencies. In 1997, more than 40,000 people benefited from DSA-related programs. This year, that number will surely increase.

Each parish and mission will kick off the campaign this weekend by presenting a video highlighting some of the diocesan ministries. You will also receive a letter from Bishop Curlin asking for your support.

This issue of *The Catholic News & Herald* focuses on several of the DSA-funded agencies and their impact on the people of the diocese. Others will be highlighted in the weeks ahead.

The DSA challenges all Catholics to assist the church in one of its primary missions — helping our brothers and sisters. We pray that parishioners again answer the call to put their love into action.

Sound Fiscal Management Is Paramount For Diocesan Support Appeal Donations

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Though six months away from the next fiscal year, budgetary plans for diocesan ministries are laid to rest. It's merely a part of the fiscal planning process that keeps ministries in check with the valuable resources donated by the people of the diocese.

"This is an example of how we exercise our stewardship responsibility in regard to each donated dollar," said Chief Financial Officer Bill Weldon. "We are accountable to the people of the diocese for the prudent use of these gifts."

Bill Weldon

And accountability is cyclical within the fiscal year, from budget preparation to monthly monitoring of ministry budgets to the annual reporting to the diocese as a whole in *The Catholic News & Herald*. But the process is more than just an arbitrary circle. Ministry budgets are analyzed closely, programs are reviewed. Occasionally programs phase out, others begin. Budgets are never automatically increased and programs must be justified.

"I know firsthand how hard the program directors work to serve our increasing population," said Weldon. "It is an inspiration to see the many services that are offered, and the number of lives affected by the programs, knowing the amount of funding available. It is a tribute to the creativity of the program directors who do so much with the funding they have."

Ministry directors are constantly trying to expand services in response to the growing population within the constraints of their budgets.

This year, $2,760,000 is the target goal for the support appeal. And in tune with the philosophies that keep programs true to their missions, it is a goal carefully scrutinized. The 1998 campaign includes a 7 percent increase over last year — a minimal increase when balanced against a booming diocesan population and inflation rates.

Four areas of ministry are beneficiaries of DSA funding: Catholic Social Services, Multi-Cultural Ministries, Educational Ministries and Vocational Ministries. Thousands of lives are touched, as a result of the 35 DSA supported ministries.

And in the upcoming fiscal year — the diocese operates on a July to June fiscal cycle — additional funding is earmarked to support the works of two expanding ministries, Casa Guadalupe, a CSS outreach program, and Campus Ministry, an Educational ministry.

"The church of the Diocese of Charlotte is a vibrant church," said Weldon. "Increasing needs along with the population growth of the 46 western counties of North Carolina call us to reach out to more people than ever."

"We understand that people do make sacrifices to support the DSA, their parishes and Catholic Schools," said Weldon. "We appreciate those sacrifices; it's not something we take for granted."

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Lay Ministry Program Offers Opportunity To Serve Others

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

MAGGIE VALLEY — When the Sunday readings mentioned feeding the poor, parishioners at St. Margaret Catholic Church took those words to heart. As part of that Sunday's intergenerational catechesis, almost half of the congregation did a day's work at the Open Door, a local soup kitchen. Several parishioners were so inspired by the experience that they now are regular volunteers at the kitchen.

On the missionary dedication of the Basilicas feast of the St. Peter and St. Paul, celebrated in November, the parish chartered a bus to tour the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. It was an educational experience for all ages which not only fostered an appreciation for the beauty and traditions of the church, but motivated many parishioners to actively participate in the restoration of their own parish facilities.

These are but two examples of how the laity at St. Margaret Church are bearing witness to Christ through service. Their active lay ministry continually reaches out to more people, and parishioners continually find ways to share their unique God-given talents with the church.

Under the guidance of Father Eric Houseknecht, administrator, the non-ordained faithful have taken advantage of numerous opportunities to spiritually grow. Father Houseknecht sees the laity taking ownership of their small parish of 200 families, working together in a way which may seem new and innovative, but yet fits the description of the early Christian community described in the New Testament. "Our lay involvement is a parish-wide experience including all ages," he said, pleased with the initiative taken by so many of his parishioners.

Joy Barnes, the sacristan at St. Margaret Church, has been very active in various ministries. She described how the diocesan lay ministry training program helped motivate her to get more involved. "The program laid the groundwork, covering a variety of topics that provided me with useful information on applying the faith," she said, adding that the program's workshops also gave her the opportunity to exchange ideas with other people in the diocese, an experience she found invaluable.

Having ushered Barnes and 10 other parishioners at St. Margaret Church through her certification program, Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, director of lay ministry for the Charlotte Diocese, is particularly pleased with the active role they have taken in the parish, acknowledging the indispensable support of Father Houseknecht who has continued to provide guidance in their endeavors.

"My two-year program involves workshops which follow a Vatican II course curriculum," Sister Mary Timothy said. The recent church document on the collaboration of laity and clergy, released in August 1997, will also be helpful in the future by providing clarity on the unique role of the laity. Although Sister Mary Timothy is not directly involved in giving instruction, she is responsible for getting speakers and materials, finding locations for workshops and planning the agenda for the programs. Her hope is that the training program "will promote greater involvement among the laity," like what is being seen at St. Margaret Church.

"Through our baptism, we are all called to serve," said Sister Mary Timothy. Pope John Paul II has said that the laity's talents "must be wisely and carefully acknowledged, safeguarded, promoted, discerned and coordinated, without confusing roles, functions or theological and canonical status." Such has been the case for the parishioners at St. Margaret Church who have been led to fulfill their baptismal promises.

Lay ministry is among the 35 diocesan ministries and agencies that are partially or fully funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal. For more information about the lay ministry program in the Diocese of Charlotte, call Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, (704) 370-3213.

Ways To Give

The Diocesan Support Appeal is a call to give financial support to 35 agencies and ministries.

Most people contribute by making a pledge, payable over six months. But there are other ways to give, such as donating stocks or bonds, says Jim Kelley, director of development.

Consider supporting the DSA not only in the present but also in the future through such means as wills and trusts. "This allows people to give now and to give later," says Kelley.

For information on wills and trusts, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or (704) 370-6299.

Love in Action

The Diocesan Support Appeal helps us reach out in loving service to Christ in our neighbor. The Diocese of Charlotte is constantly responding to an ever-increasing family of faith, reaching out with 35 DSA-funded ministries. Through their gifts, parishioners are given the opportunity to put their love of Christ in action.

Parish and mission families — from the smallest mission to the largest parish — benefit from the services made possible by the DSA.

Some of the DSA-supported ministries at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro and St. Mary Church in Sylva are highlighted on these pages. They are energetic faith communities made even stronger by DSA-related ministries.

From left, Ryan Fink, Astrid Verdegaal, Amber Kaye and Teresa Eberly make Christmas cards for residents of a local nursing home. The women are members of the Catholic campus ministry group of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee.

Members of the parish's Respect Life ministry pray for the unborn at a recent gathering. Pictured from left Gloria Schweizer, April Karby, Vicki Provost, chair, and Alline Ramsey. The group's patron saint is Our Lady of Guadalupe, patronness of the Americas, whose feast day is Dec. 12.

Rev. Mr. Gerry Herbers, the parish's permanent deacon, addresses the congregation at Mass. Among permanent deacons' many responsibilities is offering homilies during liturgy when called upon to do so.

Photos by
Mike Krokos

From left, participants Gloria Schweizer, Bob Harcourt, Belle Harcourt, Judy Woodard and Betty Cook share a laugh during a lay ministry training session.

Members of the parish's fourth-grade faith formation class listen to catechist Mary Bixby during a recent class. Pictured with Bixby from left are Stephanie Phipps, Shannon Murphy and Nicole Weaver.

Photos on this page depict some of the DSA-supported ministries at St. Mary. The ministries are: Campus Ministry; Faith Formation; Lay Ministry; Respect Life; and Permanent Diaconate.

St. Mary Church

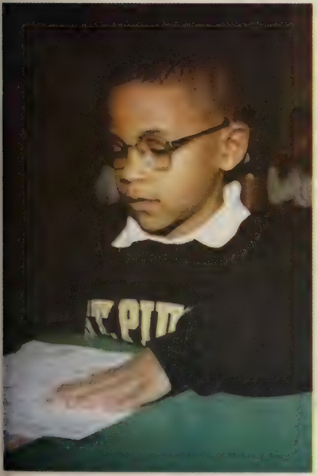
Sylva

Frank Massey, a member of the parish prison ministry team, shares a Scripture passage with a prison inmate.

Photos by Joann Keane

Youth ministry member Danny Murphy sorts clothing for the homeless with his parents, Maurice and Elaine, as part of a recent service project.

From left, Sister Phyllis Tierney, SSJ, and Maureen Smith prepare meals for the homeless at Grace Community Center in Greensboro. Sister Phyllis and Maureen are members of the parish's Justice and Peace ministry.



Michael LeCompte looks over an assignment during class at St. Pius X School.

Virginia Boguz and Daughter of Charity Sister Celeste Donohue fill Christmas bags for residents of Dolan Manor during a holiday CRISM project at the parish.

PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE DEPICT SOME OF THE DSA-SUPPORTED MINISTRIES AT ST. PIUS X. THE MINISTRIES ARE: CRISM; PRISON MINISTRY; YOUTH MINISTRY; JUSTICE AND PEACE; AND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

St. Pius X Church

Greensboro

Bishop Interview, from page 3

the gifts of the people of God to the church. And I am very pleased in the explanation and the accountability that is offered in *The Catholic News & Herald* of how every nickel is spent. Many people are served through these various ministries, and the newspaper also serves as a resource, sharing stories of how these agencies assist our brothers and sisters in faith. Every parish in the diocese receives help from some DSA-funded ministry. There are some parishes that receive help from as many as 25 ministries each year.

How important is stewardship of time, talent and treasure to a person's faith journey? How does stewardship relate to the DSA?

I once asked Mother Teresa about her outreach of service to the world, and how people admired her for caring for the least of our brothers and sisters. Her response was, "No, we are not social workers. Once you have the deep love of God in you, that love compels you to live and speak a certain way."

So stewardship challenges us to take that interior love of God and put it to visible action, and the appeal is a positive way of expressing that interior life we have in Christ. The DSA stirs our conscience, reminding us that Christ is ever present, challenging us to see, love and serve him in the least of our brethren.

Are the 35 ministries that are funded by the DSA keeping up with the need for social services, educational services, multi-cultural services and vocations in the diocese?

In all honesty, every agency is constantly challenged to keep up with all the demands made upon it. There are always new needs and new challenges, and we as Christians must be willing and prepared to meet those increasing needs.

Our Lord warned us that the poor will always be with us, so we have to recognize our work will never be done. The DSA is the voice of Christ constantly challenging us to be sensitive to the presence of Jesus in the hurting people around us.

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Students Find ASU Campus Ministry A Home Away From Home

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

BOONE — Tucked away in the mountain resort town of Boone is Appalachian State University. With its breathtaking landscape and solid academics, the university attracts students from all over the country.

DSA '98

Among the student body are a considerable number of Catholics, making Roman Catholicism the second largest denomination on campus. With this significant Catholic presence and the remoteness of the area, a student outreach program has been valuable for students who are far away from their own Catholic community. No one is more aware of their needs than their campus minister, Ed Alton, who has tried to create "a home away from home" for his "kids."

After spending 12 years in a Benedictine monastery in Pennsylvania, Alton calls it "fate" that while applying for a teaching post, he landed the campus minister position at ASU, a job which has been most rewarding for him. With unparalleled enthusiasm, he has resurrected the ASU Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) program, nearly doubling participation.

When Alton is not busy with the students, he directs the music ministry at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, a short distance away from the campus. He also assists parishioner Alana Taylor in coordinating the "adopt-a-student" program between families at St. Elizabeth Church and the Catholic students at ASU.

Alton has received much support from Father Conrad Hoover, St. Elizabeth Church pastor, as well. "Father Conrad has a strong commitment to the youth, and has made himself very accessible to the students," said Alton of the priest, whose rectory is across the street from the CCM building.

Mass is held on campus two days a week, in addition to the Sunday evening Mass which provides other opportunities for parishioners and students to interact.

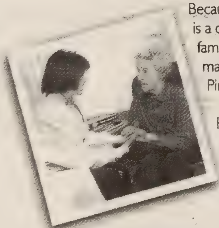
Since Alton has been the campus minister, he has tried to be flexible and creative with the students. Once a week, he cooks a meal for them — his specialty, homemade bread and soup. After dinner, a core group of about 20 students might pray together and share some reflections. "With the busy schedules of the students, this dinner may be the only time in the week they can be together and relax," he said.

The campus minister also sees a large group for Sunday evening Mass, where an average of 40 students gather. Another group meets on Thursday night to pray the rosary, and at the request of students, Alton is planning a Bible study group. "I wait for their cues because I don't want to push anything on them," he said.

Like other campus ministers in western North Carolina, Alton now has a new resource in Colleen McDermott, director of Campus Ministry/Young Adult Ministry for the Charlotte Diocese, who assumed this new position in August. With a master's degree in theology from the University of San Francisco, she brings to the job six years of experience as a campus minister in California.

Through some initial research, McDermott has discovered some interesting statistics. There are more than 60 colleges and universities in the diocese, with an average of 10-12 percent of the student body professing to be Roman Catholics. Even though 4 percent of the

See **Campus Ministry,** page 12



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Of One Heart and One Mind

Justice & Peace Office Leads Response To Bishops' Pastoral

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Education, action, opportunities and prayer. Those are the key ingredients in a recipe for change penned by North Carolina's two Roman Catholic bishops, says the official charged with implementing the shepherds' pleas in the Charlotte Diocese.

"This is something a lot of people are taking ownership of," says Joanne K. Frazer, director of the Office of Justice and Peace. "People in the diocese have been calling to tell us how they're picking up on it."

What the phones are ringing about is "Of One Heart and One Mind," the economic justice pastoral letter issued in November 1997 by Bishops William G. Curlin of Charlotte and F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh. From pastoral councils to faith formation groups, Catholics across western North Carolina are finding ways to incorporate the pastoral's appeals into their social mission.

Although the letter's guidelines will be formally addressed in this diocese through Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace, the real change must take place within the parish, civic and business communities, Frazer says. In the Diocese of Raleigh, the Office of Peace and Justice, directed by Franciscan Sister Joan Jurski, is responsible for similar implementation there.

The pastoral highlights several major themes: the importance of assuring living wages to those who work, the necessity of training for the job market to those without jobs, and Catholic teaching on the moral dimensions of economic life in North Carolina.

The letter is concisely written, with true-to-life stories of women, men and children in financial need interspersed throughout. Frazer says the pastoral's simplicity lends itself to its message's impact.

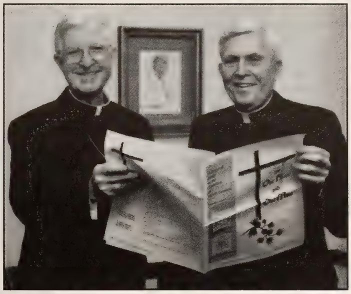

Photo by Joann Keane

In their pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," Bishops William G. Curlin and F. Joseph Gossman call upon Catholics statewide to become acquainted and involved with the economic reality facing the impoverished in the state.

Response to the pastoral has been widespread and largely positive. Making state and national headlines in the secular and Catholic press, it has been lauded as a monumental document for the church in the Tar Heel State because of its compassionate and concrete illustrations of outreach to the economically deprived.

And now, the job of carrying out its message is underway.

Frazer is halfway through a series of meetings with pastors of each vicariate in the diocese. Working with the bishops' suggestions for involvement, "we are looking at understanding the pastoral and the implications for implementing it at the parish level," she says.

In mid-February, the Office of Justice and Peace will issue a companion piece to the bishops' missive. "We've developed a parish social ministry model so that parishes can look more deeply at how they can be more effective in their own communities in alleviating the suffering," Frazer says. "It will help parishioners understand how to educate themselves, how to be advocates for the poor, and how they can help with empowering the poor."

The companion piece will serve as a discussion guide for pastoral councils, discussion groups, parish ministries and other parish- and community-based organizations.

Beginning in March, Frazer will conduct implementation worskshops for parishioners in each vicariate.

Plans for the near future also include addressing the business community's involvement in the issue.

While follow-up to the pastoral largely concerns long-range goals and issues, Frazer says the time is now for Catholics and others of good will to take action. With welfare reform initiatives in North Carolina scheduled to touch the lives of thousands of families later this year, she says Catholics must ready themselves to ensure means of economic justice for everyone.

As stressed in the bishops' letter, Frazer emphasizes that the ultimate purpose of any pastoral-related initiative is to not only address the effects of poverty, but to resolve the root causes of poverty as well. "We currently do not have enough living-wage jobs that people can move right into," she says. "We as Catholics need to be looking at how to build those systems that will guarantee economic self-sufficiency."

The task involves much effort, Frazer admits. "Serving dinner to people at a homeless shelter is an important part of our chariable work," she says. "But we must also tackle the problem of why there is not food available to hungry children."

"To change societal structures so that all will have access to food takes a lot of data gathering, a lot of prayer and discernment, a lot of connecting with other organizations that are trying to do the same thing," she adds.

The road ahead may be bumpy at times, Frazer agrees, but it is one that the church and all its people must travel for the benefit of others. "I'm hopeful because I know that this is God's work," she says with a smile. "God calls each of us through our gifts, and every one of us is capable of and needs to be praying for the grace, compassion, and wisdom to help in these times."

The diocesan Office of Justice and Peace is entirely funded through the generosity of Catholics who contribute to the Diocesan Support Appeal. To receive a copy of the bishops' pastoral letter or to receive more information on follow-up initiatives, call Joanne K. Frazer, (704) 370-3225.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Music:

1500-family parish seeks part-time professional with liturgical music experience. Potential grows to full-time. Requires organ, keyboard and vocal skills, working with youth and adult choirs. Send or fax resume to: St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Charlotte, NC 28227. Fax: (704) 536-3147

Diocesan Regional Coordinators:

Charlotte Diocese Office of Religious Education has two openings: Northern Vicariates and Southern Vicariates. Diocese seeks persons with master's degree in Rel. Ed/ allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris V. Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee. Inquiries: (704) 370-3244. Deadline: February 27, 1998, or when filled.

Project Assistant Position:

Full-time position needed immediately. Responsibilities include: conducting newcomer orientation and vocational ESL classes for newly arrived refugees; coordinating refugee health education and crime prevention activities. Experience in refugee resettlement services is required. A degree in Human Services/Social Work with bilingual ability is preferred. Computer literacy a must. ESL teaching skill is a plus. Submit resume with references to: Refugee Resettlement Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 by February 2, 1998.

Bilingual Case Aide:

Full-time, temporary position needed immediately. Duties include translation/interpretation; coordinating needed refugee services, and transporting clients to appointments. Must be fluent in Vietnamese and English. High school education or equivalent. Valid NC driver license. Submit resume with references to: Refugee Resettlement Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

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February 7, Saturday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Lunch: On your own at restaurants in area, *or*
Bring lunch, space will be provided.
What: **Ralph Martin:** *The Catholic Church At The End Of An Age*
Ann Shields: *How Do We Respond To What The Spirit Is Saying*
Peter Herbeck: *John Paul II And the Grace Of The Jubilee Year 2000*

Cost: $10 per Adult for one / both events. (17 and under *Free)*
(An offering for Renewal Ministries at the end of each event)
Directions: At traffic light on NC 49 at UNCC Campus turn east onto Suther Rd. St. Thomas Aquinas is in second block on right at 1400 Suther Road, Charlotte, N.C.
Questions: Call Paul Deer (704) 948-0628

A presentation of The Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte

Diocesan News Briefs

Sacred Works Concert

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence hosts a performance of sacred works by Catherine Haas Riley, a local composer and educator, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. Womansong of Asheville and other musicians will join in choral and ensemble pieces. Admission is free. Call (704) 252-6042 for more information.

Natural Family Planning

ASHEVILLE — Nazareth Parenting Center of the Basilica of St. Lawrence sponsors a natural family planning meeting Feb. 15 at 3 p.m. in St. Justin Center across from the basilica. The meetings includes a brief overview of NFP, discussion, materials on display and refreshments. Call (704) 252-6042 for further details.

Parents' Weekend

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College's Parents' Weekend is Feb. 13-15. This year's theme is "My Heart Belongs to the Abbey," and events include an address by Dr. Robert Preston, college president; a tour of the abbey church; a basketball double-header; and Mass. For more information, call Augusta Gladd, (704) 825-6888.

Evangelization Conference

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte sponsors "Millennium! Spirit Speaks to the Church," with talks about the upcoming Jubilee Year by Catholic evangelists Ralph Martin, Ann Shields and Peter Herbeck, Feb. 6-7 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Registration for the Feb. 6 program is at 7 p.m.; the program is from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Registration for the Feb. 7 program is at 8 a.m.; the programs is from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. Cost is $10 for adults, with children ages 17 and under admitted free. Offerings for Renewal Ministries, a Catholic outreach dedicated to promoting evangelization and personal renewal, will be taken at the end of each talk. For further information, call Paul Deer, (704) 948-0628.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be celebrated in St. Patrick Cathedral Feb. 8 at 4 p.m. Prayer teams will meet at 3 p.m. and after Mass. For more information, call Josie, (704) 527-4676.

Singing and Swinging in the '40s

CHARLOTTE — A social event for seniors, "Singing and Swinging in the Forties," is Feb. 5 from 2-3 p.m. in the parish center hall at St. Gabriel Church. "Special guests" include Ethel Merman, Bing Crosby, Louie Armstrong, Frank Sinatra and others. The performers are guests from the Carriage Club. There is no admission charge, and refreshments follow the performance.

Retrovaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrovaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to forget the past and start anew. The program begins March 27. For further information, call Nick and Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Black History Month Program

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's African American Affairs Ministry sponsors a National Black History Month celebration on Sunday, Feb. 8 at 5 p.m., at Our Lady of Consolation Church. The Johnson C. Smith Universiry Choir will perform old Negro spirituals and Gospel songs. The Very Rev. Mauricio West, Vicar General and Chancellor, will be the guest speaker. Admission is free.

Teen Lenten Retreat

GREENSBORO — The Office of Youth Ministry of the Charlotte Diocese of presents a Lenten retreat at St. Pius X Church from Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. until March 1 following an 11:30 a.m. Mass and lunch. The cost is $50, with a $25 deposit due by Feb. 20 and the balance due upon arrival. The fee covers all food and materials for the retreat, including a retreat T-shirt. For details and registration forms, call the Office of Youth Ministry, (704) 370-3243.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — Upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends are scheduled for Feb. 20-22 and April 3-5 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information, call Michael and Stacey Holcolm, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

RCIA Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — A retreat for parish RCIA groups is at the Living Waters Reflection Center from Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. until after lunch Sunday. The retreat will be directed by Father Martin Iott, OP, who will explore the topic "Getting In Touch With What It Means To Be Catholic" and discuss some major church teachings and traditions, as well as the richness of its spirituality. For more information, call (704) 926-3833.

Mid-Winter Barbecue

MONROE — Knights of Columbus Council 10615 hosts and sponsors a mid-winter barbecue Jan. 31 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Meals include local-recipe barbecued beef, chicken or pork, baked beans, slaw or potato salad, and bread. The cost is $5 per plate, or $6 for "all-you-can-eat" on the premises. A $1 discount applies to clergy, police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel. Take-outs are encouraged, and meals can be delivered for groups of 20 or more. Proceeds benefit the church building fund. For call-in orders, phone (704) 283-7210.

Members of the kindergarten and first-grade faith formation class at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington share a moment with the parish's winter-ready pastor, the Very Rev. Joseph Kelleher, in this recent photograph.

Parish Mission

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church sponsors a parish mission called "The Presence of God" Feb. 15-Feb. 18 at 7:15 p.m. each day. The mission's focus is on the manner of God's presence in our lives, the experience of this presence and the transformation that takes places when people connect to that presence. Father Frederick A. Pompei, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., who has traveled extensively throughout the United States in a ministry of evangelization and renewal, is the mission leader. All are invited to attend. For more information, call (704) 664-3992.

Spaghetti Dinner

STATESVILLE — The Knights of Columbus St. James Council 7152 hosts a spaghetti dinner at St. Philip Church on Feb. 15 from 4-6:30 p.m. For more information, call Andrew DeRiso, (704) 873-0166.

Aging Seminar

WINSTON-SALEM — Joseph's House of Our Lady of Mercy Parish hosts a series on aging using the anointing of the sick as a model for living one's sacred call in the second half of life. Sessions are Wednesdays at noon until Feb. 18. Bring a bag lunch; drinks and desserts are provided. Call Margaret O'Neil, (910) 765-8775, or Wendy Glen, (910) 924-0400, for more information.

Valentine's Ball

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Catholic School presents its Annual Valentine's Ball Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at Country Club of Salisbury. The event includes dinner, dancing and a silent and live auction. The cost is $25 per person, and advanced reservations are required. Call Phyllis Tonseth, (704) 637-7886, by Jan. 31. Proceeds benefit school facilities and materials.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

First Friday-Saturday Adoration

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is in the chapel area of St. Joan of Arc Church every first Saturday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Call the church office, (704) 252-3151, for more information.

DENVER — Nocturnal adoration is the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 7 p.m. each first Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and Mass. Call Jim Kennedy, (704) 732-2673, for more information.

HICKORY — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the first Friday through the first Saturday each month at St. Aloysius Church. For information, call Jean Marie Hirsch, (704) 495-4339, or Sonja Bjerg, (704) 328-5074.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church hosts Eucharistic adoration beginning at 9:30 a.m. every first Friday and ending at 9 a.m. Saturday. Call (910) 294-4696 for details.

NEWTON — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Joseph Church every first Friday of the month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasting until 8 p.m. For more information, call (704) 464-9207 for more information.

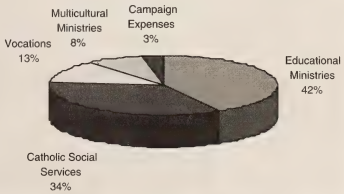
1998 Diocesan Support Appeal Parish Targets

St. Aloysius	Hickory	$64,118
St. Andrew the Apostle	Mars Hill	$4,488
St. Ann	Charlotte	$59,984
St. Barnabas	Arden	$42,958
Basilica of St. Lawrence	Asheville	$37,383
St. Benedict	Greensboro	$15,452
St. Benedict the Moor	Winston-Salem	$9,605
St. Bernadette	Linville	$9,809
St. Charles Borromeo	Morganton	$23,032
Christ the King (Shelby mission)	Kings Mountain	$4,238
Christ the King	High Point	$9,496
Church of the Epiphany (Boone mission)	Blowing Rock	$0
St. Dorothy	Lincolnton	$11,879
St. Elizabeth	Boone	$28,951
St. Eugene	Asheville	$55,661
St. Frances of Rome	Sparta	$4,043
St. Francis of Assisi	Franklin	$19,619
St. Francis of Assisi	Jefferson	$4,076
St. Francis of Assisi	Lenoir	$13,631
St. Francis of Assisi	Mocksville	$5,671
St. Gabriel	Charlotte	$268,958
Good Shepherd (Winston-Salem mission)	King	$6,315
St. Helen (Belmont mission)	Spencer Mountain	$2,937
Holy Angels	Mount Airy	$10,037
Holy Cross	Kernersville	$40,748
Holy Family	Clemmons	$72,765
Holy Infant	Reidsville	$8,569
Holy Redeemer	Andrews	$3,065
Holy Spirit	Denver	$19,842
Holy Trinity	Taylorsville	$5,810
Immaculate Conception (Waynesville mission)	Canton	$2,118
Immaculate Conception	Forest City	$9,874
Immaculate Conception	Hendersonville	$77,282
Immaculate Heart of Mary (Murphy mission)	Hayesville	$11,795
Immaculate Heart of Mary	High Point	$58,279
St. James	Concord	$45,476
St. James	Hamlet	$8,962
St. Joan of Arc	Asheville	$21,423
St. John	Waynesville	$12,458
St. John Neumann	Charlotte	$74,138
St. John Baptist de La Salle	North Wilkesboro	$7,374
St. John the Baptist	Tryon	$16,506
St. Joseph	Newton	$19,016
St. Joseph (Concord mission)	Kannapolis	$10,267
St. Joseph	Asheboro	$22,530
St. Joseph	Bryson City	$5,196
St. Joseph of the Hills	Eden	$8,526
St. Jude	Sapphire Valley	$7,838
St. Leo	Winston-Salem	$102,423
St. Lucien	Spruce Pine	$4,098
St. Luke	Charlotte	$35,496
St. Margaret	Maggie Valley	$13,597
St. Margaret Mary	Swannanoa	$18,533
St. Mark	Huntersville	$50,030
St. Mary	Greensboro	$19,357
St. Mary	Shelby	$15,905
St. Mary	Sylva	$9,298
St. Matthew	Charlotte	$136,725
St. Michael	Gastonia	$69,249
Our Lady of Consolation	Charlotte	$28,358
Our Lady of Fatima	Winston-Salem	$17,062
Our Lady of Grace	Greensboro	$88,023
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Cherokee	$2,051
Our Lady of Lourdes	Monroe	$23,872
Our Lady of Mercy	Winston-Salem	$50,816
Our Lady of the Americas	Biscoe	$7,268
Our Lady of the Annunciation	Albemarle	$17,719
Our Lady of the Assumption	Charlotte	$39,780
Our Lady of the Highways	Thomasville	$9,630
Our Lady of the Mountains	Highlands	$7,784
Our Lady of the Rosary	Lexington	$13,265
Our Lady of the Angels (Morganton mission)	Marion	$4,635
St. Patrick Cathedral	Charlotte	$65,162
St. Paul	Greensboro	$108,900
St. Peter	Charlotte	$63,944
St. Philip the Apostle	Statesville	$36,075
St. Pius X	Greensboro	$58,139
Prince of Peace (Andrews mission)	Robbinsville	$1,387
Queen of the Apostles	Belmont	$27,702
Sacred Heart (Mars Hill mission)	Burnsville	$2,598
Sacred Heart (Monroe mission)	Wadesboro	$1,610
Sacred Heart	Brevard	$29,910
Sacred Heart	Salisbury	$46,270
St. Stephen	Elkin	$5,468
St. Therese	Mooresville	$60,178
St. Thomas Aquinas	Charlotte	$91,787
St. Vincent de Paul	Charlotte	$82,744
St. William	Murphy	$10,953

Offertory Increase: 12%
DSA Increase: 7%

DSA Target: $2,760,000

1998 Allocation of Funds



1998 DSA Ministries Budget

Catholic Social Services

Diocesan Ministries

Special Ministries — $142,148
Natural Family Planning - Respect Life - Prison Ministry CRISM - Elder Social Services - Widowed/Separated/Divorced Family Life - Retrouvaille - Engaged Encounter
Office of Justice and Peace — $76,107
Campaign for Human Development - Catholic Relief Services Parish Social Ministry - Voices for Justice - Legislative Network
Refugee Resettlement Program — $7,626
Catholic Social Service Administration — $113,876

Regional Services

Western Regional Office (Asheville) — $165,059
Hispanic Services, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support
Charlotte Regional Office — $217,123
Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support, Programa Esperanza
Piedmont Triad Office (Winston-Salem) — $194,490
Casa Guadalupe, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support

Multicultural Ministries

African American — $5,300
Hispanic Ministry — $155,156
Vietnamese Ministry — $18,150
Hmong Ministry — $27,185
Native American Ministry — $18,980

Educational Ministries

Faith Formation — $311,659
Catholic Schools — $216,059
Campus Ministry — $353,015
Evangelization — $36,010
Liturgy and Worship — $5,550
Lay Ministry Training — $38,637
Media Resources — $57,970
Vicar's Office — $48,429
Youth Ministry — $101,607

Vocations

Permanent Diaconate — $93,209
Seminarian Education — $252,861

Campaign Expenses — $103,794

Total: $2,760,000

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Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

DSA Supported Agencies and Ministries

Social Services Ministries	704-370-3262
Diocesan Ministries	704-370-3228
CRISM - Widowed, Separated, Divorced	704-370-3230
Engaged Encounter - Retrouvaille - Prison Ministry	704-370-3228
Family Life - Natural Family Planning - Elder Social Services	704-370-3250
Respect Life	704-370-3229
Office of Justice and Peace	704-370-3225
Campaign for Human Development	704-370-3234
Catholic Relief Services	704-370-3231
Education - Issue Response	704-370-3225
Social Services — Western Regional Office	704-255-0146
Hispanic Social Services - Adoption - Counseling - Crisis Intervention - Foster Care - Pregnancy Support	
Social Services — Charlotte Regional Office	704-370-3232
Adoption - Counseling - Crisis Intervention - Foster Care - Pregnancy Support - Programa Esperanza	
Social Services — Piedmont-Triad Regional Office	336-727-0705
Casa Guadalupe - Adoption - Counseling - Crisis Intervention - Foster Care - Pregnancy Support	
Multicultural Ministries	704-370-6299
African American Ministry	704-370-3399
Hispanic Ministry	704-335-1281
Hmong Ministry	704-327-2341
Native American Ministry	704-497-2029
Vietnamese Ministry	704-529-0553
Educational Ministries	704-370-3210
Campus Ministry	704-370-3212
Catholic Schools Administration	704-370-3271
Faith Formation	704-370-3246
Evangelization	704-370-3214
Liturgy and Worship	704-437-3108
Lay Ministry Training	704-370-3213
Media Resources	704-370-3241
RCIA	704-370-3246
Youth Ministry	704-370-3211
Young Adult Ministry	704-370-3212
Vocations	704-370-6299
Permanent Diaconate	704-370-3344
Seminarian Education	704-926-0106

Campus Ministry, from page 8

general population in the diocese's geographical area, Catholicism is overall the second largest denomination among the students. At Wake Forest University, Catholicism ranks first.

McDermott plans to oversee and coordinate diocesan activities which unite all the campus ministries, such as yearly retreats, leadership training for the students, and "immersion experiences." The first planned "immersion" will be at Glenmary Farm in Kentucky. During a school break, the students will work with the poor and study the structure of poverty in that region.

Another is the internship program offered for individuals interested in being campus ministers. The course work, from the Loyola Institute Ministry Extension (LIMEX) program in New Orleans, offers a master's degree in religious education or pastoral care.

College students across the Diocese of Charlotte are ministered to in many ways by the campus ministry program, which is funded in part thanks to parishioners who give to the Diocesan Support Appeal. For more information on the campus ministry program, call its director, Colleen McDermott, (704) 370-3212.

Seminarian, from page 2

ness of each of our calls is truly a remarkable and humbling experience to share with another person. Any time you minister to another, you yourself are ministered to."

Gober says "the day-to-day schedule of coming to know and love Christ through other people and through the sacraments" is the aspect of priesthood that inspires him the most. "It's very humbling when I think about what exactly takes place during the celebration of the Eucharist," he adds. "It's such a wonderful calling."

The seminarian program is funded in part by the generosity of those who contribute to the Diocesan Support Appeal. If you or someone you know would like more information on vocations for the Diocese of Charlotte, call Father Eric Houseknecht, (704) 926-0106.

SPECIAL to
The Catholic
News &
Herald

POPE JOHN PAUL II'S VISIT TO CUBA

January 30, 1998

In Havana, The Pope Urges Cuba To Return To Its 'Christian Soul'

By JOHN THAVIS

HAVANA (CNS) — In a liturgy that marked a turning point for Cuba and its Catholics, Pope John Paul II strongly defended religious freedom and the church's legitimate social role and called on the country to return to its "Christian soul."

Celebrating Mass in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution Jan. 25, the pope said Cuba needs and wants a "great change" that transcends ideologies and that allows space for the practice of the faith in all areas of society.

The pope's sermon brought long applause and cheers from a crowd of 150,000 people and offered an implicit challenge to the socialist regime of President Fidel Castro, who sat in the front row of the plaza.

But the pope also sounded themes that Castro could cheer, condemning extreme forms of capitalism and "blind market forces" that have brought "unbearable burdens" on developing nations and widened the gap between the world's rich and poor.

The Mass was the culmination of a five-day visit to the Caribbean island, and it drew the biggest and liveliest crowd of his trip. In a plaza normally reserved for Communist Party rallies, the altar stood between a giant painting of Jesus with the words, "Jesus Christ, I trust in you," and an equally big portrait of revolutionary hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara and the slogan, "Until the final victory."

Castro had urged people to come to the liturgy, and several who attended described themselves as both communists and Christians. From the moment the pope arrived, a wave of excitement and sympathy flowed through the crowd.

The pontiff, suntanned and dressed in bright green vestments, pronounced his sermon slowly and in a strong voice. It was heard by a national TV audience, including many nonbelievers, and the pope began by proclaiming that the church's message of love and solidarity was not political.

"In absolutely no way is this an ideology or a new economic or political system; rather it is a path of authentic peace, justice and freedom," he said. That brought the first of many long bursts of applause.

The pope then castigated communism's approach to religion, in language that was clear to all. He criticized state systems that encourage conflict as a method and "relegate religion to the merely private sphere, stripping it of any social influence or importance."

All believers must have the right to live their faith and freely express it in public life, and to count on adequate resources and opportunities to make a difference in society, he said.

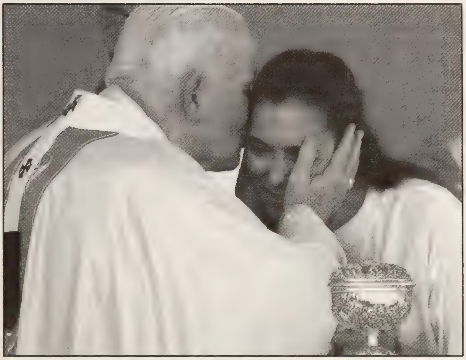
As the applause and chants of "We love you" grew longer, the pope smiled and remarked: "We're not against applause, because when you clap, the pope can rest." Castro smiled weakly at the quip, but there was more to come from the pontiff.

Christ came to "set at liberty those who are oppressed," the pope said to more cheers, and that means the church must continue to speak out about human rights and responsibilities. He explained that the Gospel message opposes political systems that leave people no room for personal initiative, as well as those in which freedom ends up imprisoning people in individualistic selfishness.

The Gospel's liberation "cannot be reduced to its social and political aspects, but rather reaches its fullness in the exercise of freedom of conscience, the basis and foundation of all other human rights," he said. More cheers echoed through the plaza.

As he did often in Cuba, the pope underlined his point by quoting from Cuban independence heroes. He cited the teaching of Jose Marti, a Catholic poet considered one of the fathers of the country, who said that

See **Pope Urges Cuba,** page 4



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II gives a kiss to a young woman during Mass Jan. 23 in Camaguay, Cuba. The pope addressed young people during the service, talking on themes of freedom and peace.

Pope's Visit Could Lead To Greater Freedom In Cuba

CNS photo from Reuters

CUBANS CHEER — Cubans cheer as Pope John Paul II is about to pass in his popemobile on a Havana street Jan. 21. Cuba had been preparing for months for the pope's historic five-day visit.

By JOHN THAVIS

HAVANA (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba brought a budding sense of hope to the Caribbean nation, opening doors that may one day lead to greater freedom and an end to the country's international isolation.

The pontiff and his host, President Fidel Castro, knew the stakes were high during the Jan. 21-25 trip. The pope was paying a call on one of the last true communists, trusting that his message would get through without distortion or exploitation.

Castro, for the first time, was sharing his public platform with a world leader who held very different ideas on religion and democracy. That fact alone signaled what many hoped was the beginning of a transition after 40 years of one-party state socialism.

"Cuba will never be the same," New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor said in Havana midway through the visit. "It's not going to change overnight," he said, but the "ultimate effect will be long-lasting."

Cuban Catholics seemed to agree.

"Cubans are listening to the pope's words. He has given us a hope, and I think there will be change, but gradual," said Milvio Ramirez, a 26-year-old Havana resident who attended Mass Jan. 25 in the Plaza of the Revolution.

Part of the pope's impact in Cuba was felt almost immediately, however. For the first time, tens of thousands of people gathered in public assemblies that were not sponsored — or controlled — by the state.

An archbishop blasted the government on national TV, from a papal altar.

Huge crowds waved Cuban and Vatican flags, cheered the pope and listened carefully to his sermons. And with Castro in attendance, the pope spoke his mind on human rights, the church's legitimate aspirations, democratic ideals and moral shortcomings aggravated by government policies.

Free speech. Freedom of assembly. New ideas. In socialist Cuba, all this was unprecedented. For the church in particular, it was like finding a long-lost voice.

See **Greater Freedom,** page 2

Pope, Castro Meet Behind Closed Doors For Nearly An Hour

By JOHN THAVIS

HAVANA (CNS) — Pope John Paul II and President Fidel Castro met for nearly an hour behind closed doors at Havana's presidential palace for some plain talk on the church's role in Cuba.

The one-on-one meeting Jan. 22 was the political highlight of the pope's five-day visit to the Caribbean nation. However, no one revealed exactly what the two leaders said to each other.

"It was confidential," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said afterward.

Before the visit, Vatican sources said they expected the pope would use the occasion — as he did in his Christmas message to Cuba — to press for more operating space for the church and its agencies.

One issue was made public. Navarro-Valls said that in parallel meetings, Vatican officials, at the pope's request, conveyed appeals from several Cuban prisoners for clemency. Cuban officials said they would study the appeals with "great attention."

CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II greets Cuban President Fidel Castro at the end of Mass in the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana Jan. 25. Of the four public Masses celebrated by Pope John Paul II during his visit, Castro only attended the Havana service.

Castro had looked forward to hosting the pope on his own turf, and he seemed to enjoy the moment.

The 71-year-old Cuban leader met the 77-year-old pontiff at the door and accompanied him down the gleaming halls of the presidential complex. The pope walked slowly with a cane, prompting Castro to ask how his leg was doing and how the pope was holding up in the heat. After introducing their respective aides, the two men posed for photographs, shaking hands and wearing big smiles.

"We should be getting paid for this, but we're not getting anything," Castro joked to the pope as hundreds of cameras flashed.

"Yes, it's a shame," the pontiff shot back.

When they emerged from their private encounter some 50 minutes later, their smiles seemed to have faded somewhat. They exchanged gifts, which were each carefully chosen.

"We racked our brains to figure out what to give you," Castro said as he gave the pope a copy of a 19th-century biography of Father Felix Varela, a Cuban teacher and patriot whose sainthood cause is being considered at the Vatican.

The pope offered Castro a mosaic portrait of Christ.

"This is so beautiful, everyone should see it," Castro said and turned the mosaic toward national TV cameras covering the event.

The pope also met with Castro's family members, including two sisters, both of them practicing Catholics. One of them said she had always wanted to embrace the pope.

"Why not?" the pope said, and gave her a hug that left her in tears.

Navarro-Valls said the requests for clemency from an assortment of Cuban prisoners had reached the Vatican by fax and letter in the months preceding the visit. He said they included humanitarian and other cases, but did not specify whether any of Cuba's estimated 450 political prisoners were among them.

He said the Cuban authorities agreed to consider the requests seriously because of the "high moral standing" of the pope.

Some Cuban Catholics Know Who The Pope Is — 'More or Less'

By AGOSTINO BONO

HAVANA (CNS) — On a grassy knoll leading up to the Plaza of the Revolution, Pedro Hernandez and his cousin, Raul, batted an inflated balloon with sticks.

They were waiting for Pope John Paul II's morning Mass to start Jan. 25.

On the balloon was an image of the Sacred Heart of Mary and the words "always faithful."

"Do you know what the image on the balloon is?" 14-year-old Pedro was asked.

"No," he answered.

"Do you know who the pope is?"

"The pope is the person who knows the most about the Catholic Church," replied Pedro.

Raul, 12, answered, "More or less."

The boys received the balloon on the bus that brought them and the rest of their first Communion class from their parish in Pinar del Rio, 90 miles west of Havana, to attend the Mass.

Elsewhere in the plaza, Jose Fernandez Valdes was selling peanuts.

"There he is," shouted the 66-year-old retired customs worker as he saw Pope John Paul.

"Are you here to sell peanuts or see the pope?" he was asked.

"Both," he said, glancing in the direction of the altar.

"Do you know who the pope is?"

"Fidel Castro, himself, told us who the pope is. He is humanitarian, intelligent and speaks many languages," said Fernandez. The retiree volunteered about himself that he goes to Mass "on some Sundays."

Ofelia Gonzalez, a retired teacher, came at 6 a.m. for the Mass scheduled at 9:30 a.m. "to give homage" to the pope.

"He is a very cultured man. He is well-known here through the media," she said.

"The pope can help us, but it is not necessary to wait for him. We must help each other," said Gonzalez, who added that she tries to get to Mass every Sunday.

Hilda Suarez and her family waved the Cuban and Vatican flags as the pope passed in his popemobile.

"We go to church every Sunday. We are practicing Catholics," Suarez said.

Her husband, Arturo Toros, said the pope is the pastor of hope and "brings a blessing to our country."

The 51-year-old bus driver said the pope was speaking about important themes for the country such as family reunification.

"This is lacking here," he said.

Greater Freedom, from page 1

Castro and the pope, two highly charismatic leaders, could express satisfaction after the visit. Yet the taste of their victories must have been very different.

Castro played the gracious and ever-present host, and Vatican officials said he seemed genuinely fascinated by the pontiff. But the Cuban president could not pass up opportunities to defend his own legacy, his socialist revolution and his country's development. In this sense, he seemed to be looking backward.

The pope was clearly looking ahead.

"This is the time to start out on the new paths," he told the nation during the Mass in Havana Jan. 25, after denouncing communism's faulty and limited vision of human dignity.

As expected, he called for respect for basic church rights in all areas of society and prodded repeatedly for installation of real democracy in Cuba. He used political terms, but dropped them like seeds, not bombs, into the new ground he was breaking. He knew they needed nurturing and time to grow.

"This trip is about the future, and the pope is pointing the way," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

The pope never spoke openly about a post-Castro era, but he seemed to cast his thoughts — and his audiences' hopes — in that direction. He said the church and young people should position themselves for building a society of justice and freedom "in the future" and "when the time comes." Castro, extremely sensitive to criticism, must have winced at that.

One of the pope's aims was to increase the space for public expression and social influence of the local church in Cuba, and he hammered this theme in sermons and talks. Meeting the country's bishops, he encouraged them to keep pressing for a greater role in education and the media, two sensitive areas.

There were subtler signals, too. During more than one meeting with Castro, the pope broke protocol and pulled Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino to his side.

"It was his way of saying to Castro: 'This is my man in Cuba. Don't think you can treat me one way and him another,'" said one Vatican official.

It should not be forgotten that the pope was evangelizing, not stumping for a political program. Twice he told Cubans bluntly that the church seeks no political power. Instead, he tried to lift Cubans' gaze above politics and above ideologies, to the Gospel of Christ.

"If the Master's call to justice, to service and to love is accepted as good news, then the heart is expanded, criteria are transformed and a culture of love and life is born. This is the great change society needs and expects," he said during the Havana Mass.

Cuba's Catholics responded warmly and gave his talks thoughtful attention. On the last day, as the huge crowd in Havana interrupted his sermon with applause and cheers when it turned to themes of freedom, the sense of political awakening was palpable.

As the pope left the country, Vatican officials were pleased at the pope's impact, but worried that Castro may have difficulty convincing his underlings that it was time for reform.

"Castro does have admiration for the pope, and he thinks this visit is important. But his party apparatus is nervous and afraid," said one Vatican official.

One positive sign was that the Communist Party daily, Granma, responding to the pope's calls, agreed that there should be a "free space" for religious and cultural contributions to national development.

Castro could take solace in the pope's parting speech, in which the pontiff sharply criticized the U.S. embargo of Cuba as "oppressive" and said the island should not be isolated. But in the same sentence, the pope censured Cuba's limitations on fundamental freedoms and its depersonalizing treatment of individuals.

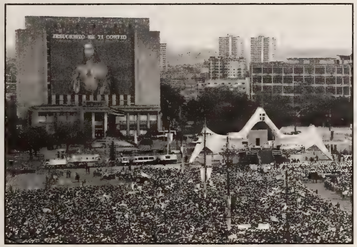
In the end, the pope left the Cuban leader and his country with several historic religious moments, memorable speeches and some "new paths" to carefully consider in the coming months.

For First Time In 40 Years, Cubans Have A Taste Of Free Assembly

By JOHN THAVIS

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Cuba (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's traveling papacy brought Cubans a taste of free assembly, offering massive crowds a noncommunist public forum for the first time in 40 years.

The result was a sense of festive and sometimes awkward togetherness, along with important moments of political awakening.



CNS photo from Reuters

A giant mural of the Sacred Heart of Jesus overlooks several hundred thousand people gathered for Mass with Pope John Paul II in Havana Jan. 25. The service was held in Revolution Square and drew the largest crowd during the pope's five-day visit to Cuba.

For the most part, those attending the pope's Masses in four cities Jan. 22-25 were more interested in witnessing the faith than in demonstrating dissatisfaction with government policies. They came, they cheered, they prayed, and then they went home to absorb an unprecedented experience.

They did not chant political slogans, they did not raise protest banners and they did not embarrass the government.

"The great majority of people are here for a religious experience, not a political one. This is not a political assembly," Jorge Smith, a Cuban whose grandfather was an American, said as the pope arrived on the altar in Camaguey, before 50,000 cheering people.

But on the trip's final day, during a Mass in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution, the mood changed, and the pope connected with the crowd in a way that must have sent a chill through the country's communist authorities.

Suddenly the pope's words about freedom, his criticism of the state ideology and his defense of human rights prompted sustained applause, cheers and respectful chants. The Mass did not turn into a political rally, but one had the feeling that free expression was finally getting a chance — with President Fidel Castro sitting in the front row.

Before the trip, some commentators had compared Cuba to Poland, the pope's homeland, where his visits in 1979-87 sent a spiritual and political charge through the country and eventually helped set the stage for the collapse of the communist regime.

Castro and even Vatican officials downplayed that parallel, saying there were too many differences between the two situations. But in Havana, the echo of Poland seemed to come alive.

The pope sensed it, and you could see it in his face. As his Jan. 25 sermon went on, the interruptions of applause and cheering grew longer and longer. At one point, he quoted from the Gospel about "setting at liberty those who are oppressed," and the crowd exploded. The pope smiled, and he let it go on ... and on. He knew Cuban Catholics were at that moment regaining part of the public forum.

That kind of reaction had been missing in places like Santa Clara, where his remarks on human rights were met by respectful silence and polite applause. One man in a crowd of 40,000 did shout out something about political prisoners; it was a lone voice that faded quickly.

Probably the strongest political language during the papal liturgies was pronounced Jan. 24 in Santiago de Cuba, not by the pope but by local Archbishop Pedro Meurice Estiu. In Cuba, the church has chosen the option for the poor, "and here the poorest are those who lack the precious gift of freedom," he said from the altar.

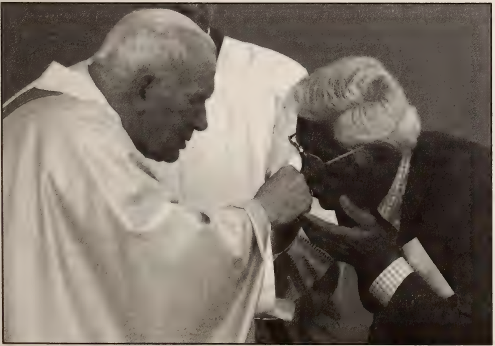
The archbishop complained of a process of depersonalization in Cuba, the result of "paternalism" — a clear reference to Castro. He said that in Cuba, ideology substitutes for culture and patriotism is confused with a single party; these are main causes of internal and external exile, he said.

The archbishop's nationally televised words prompted applause and, it seemed, quiet amazement among the crowd. In Havana, a 24-year-old man named Marcos was following the talk on TV and said he realized at that moment that something was changing in Cuba.

"Many Cubans are thinking about it today," he said. "I think people are going to take this message forward. I hope they will."

But Marcos asked that his name not be used in an article, citing his fear of government reprisal.

"Maybe in two years, you can use my full name," he said.



CNS photo from Reuters

A man approaching to receive communion kisses the hand of Pope John Paul II during Mass Jan. 23 in Camaguay, Cuba.

Editor's Notebook

By Joann Keane

Our Man In Havana

Media Disses Pope For White House Scandal

Call it a case of infidelity versus infallibility.

Last Wednesday, Pope John Paul landed in Cuba for a historic visit to the island just 90 miles from mainland U.S. On the tarmac, awaiting the papal plane, were Fidel Castro and an army of journalists, including the cream of the American network crop.

Less than 24 hours later, the *national* journalistic entourage packed up, headed to Washington, D.C., salivating at the thought of an alleged White House sex scandal.

Adios papal coverage, buenos días White House lawn. *Make that good-bye historic reporting, hello speculative schlock.* Once again, an alleged indecorous action outweighs the outpouring of human emotion. The president's purported impropriety reduced the pope to sound bites. Not since the Holy Father returned to his Polish homeland has the national broadcast media rapt such attention. This papal event of global proportions became little more than a mention.

But alas, ratings drive the network bus. This time, ratings validate an insatiable thirst for reports on Clinton's affairs, with viewers measured in millions.

One network spin doctor called the White House story a crisis, hoping to promote it as more than the scandal it is. He went on to say 'it [White House scandal] is a big enough story that doesn't need hype, doesn't need overtelling.' If that weren't so ambiguous, it would be worthy of a big *Amen.* This however, is the great paradox that shrouds the media. If a story does not call for extensive coverage, then why perpetuate a feeding frenzy on the White House lawn? And if that executive were true to his words, he would have left his highly paid national news crew in Cuba.

Sadly, the scenario smacks of an uncanny irony of good versus evil. The sins of one outweigh the spiritual enlightening of many. Given a choice between Freddie Kruger or Bambi, the media skewers the little deer on an open pit, and settles in with razor sharp claws extended.

History will mark January 1998 as a time of yet another round of political sex and lies. The journals may mark the days with a footnote ... *the pope visited Cuba.*

Pope Criticizes Cuban Exiles for 'Useless Confrontations'

By AGOSTINO BONO

HAVANA (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged the Cuban bishops to stretch their outreach into society and criticized Cuban exiles seeking "useless confrontations" with the government of Fidel Castro.

These "sons and daughters of Cuba ... must cooperate, peacefully and in a constructive and respectful way, in the nation's progress," said a Jan. 25 speech given to the Cuban bishops in a private meeting.

The pope encouraged Cubans abroad to adopt "an atmosphere of positive dialogue and mutual understanding" in their activities.

"As much as is possible and in cooperation with other episcopates, help them through your proclamation of the highest spiritual values to be builders of peace and harmony, of reconciliation and hope, and to practice a generous solidarity with their Cuban brothers and sisters most in need; thus they will demonstrate their profound attachment to their homeland," he urged the bishops.

The pope instructed bishops to be "ministers of reconciliation" so that "the people entrusted to you, putting behind them the difficulties of the past, can advance along the path to reconciliation among all Cubans, without exception."

Domestically, the pope encouraged the bishops to seek "a frank dialogue with the institutions of the state and the independent agencies of civil society" so that the church can serve others by meeting their social and material needs as well as their spiritual ones.

"Respect for religious freedom must ensure the opportunities, programs and means by which these three dimensions of the church's mission can be carried out so that, in addition to worship, the church can devote herself to the proclamation of the truth of the Gospel, the defense of justice and peace, and the integral development of the human person," he emphasized.

"None of these dimensions should be restricted; one does not exclude the others, nor should one be emphasized at the cost of the others," he added.

Religious freedom is an "inalienable human right" and not "a permission dependent on contingent situations, political strategies or the will of authorities," he stressed.

The pope asked for greater church access to the communications media and the ability to develop its own communications operations.

"The secular state should not fear but rather appreciate the church's moral and educational role," he said.

The pope also noted that "the Catholic faith is truly part of Cuba's identity and culture" and promotes the integral development of people and their participation in society.

He quoted the prophet Isaiah, who said this includes letting "the oppressed go free."

Yet, working for integral development has been hampered because "limitations of recent years have made the church poorer in material resources and personnel," the pope added.

"The church in Cuba seems strained by the growing numbers of those in need of her various services," he noted.

The pope encouraged Catholic lay people to work "with other people of good will, to seek solutions to the various moral, social, political, economic, cultural and spiritual problems facing society."

Catholics, "like all citizens, have the right and the duty to contribute to their country's progress," he added.

The pope favored greater preparation of Catholics so that "through civic dialogue and responsible participation new areas can be found for the action of the laity."

He listed fighting abortion and divorce as specific fields of action.

CNS photo from Reuters

CHILDREN WITH POPE — A group of Cuban children sing for Pope John Paul II outside the papal nuncio's residence Jan. 22 in Havana, Cuba. The pope was on his historic five-day visit to the communist island nation.

Pope Urges Cuba, from page 1

"every people needs to be religious" to preserve virtue in society.

"As everyone knows, Cuba has a Christian soul," the pope said. "She needs to open herself to the world, and the world needs to draw close to Cuba."

"This is the time to start out on the new paths called for by the times of renewal," he said.

The pope won more applause when he spoke passionately about the church's commitment to the poor and suffering of the world. They should know the church will not betray them, and that "the pope in his heart and with his words of encouragement, embraces all who suffer injustice," he said, his voice nearly raised to a shout.

The pope's remarks about "neo-liberalist" forms of capitalism were equally strong. In an apparent reference to global lending institutions, he criticized programs that impose impossible economic conditions on poorer countries as the price of further economic assistance.

"In the international community, we thus see a small number of countries growing exceedingly rich at the cost of the increasing impoverishment of a great number of other countries: As a result, the wealthy grow wealthier, while the poor grow even poorer," he said.

Castro, dressed in a dark suit and tie, followed the liturgy with respect. At the exchange of the sign of peace, he shook hands, smiled and chatted with many of the bishops and priests who organized the visit.

The pope looked fit and alert throughout the Mass, and shortly before he left the plaza he greeted the Cuban president personally. The two were to meet once more, at a farewell ceremony later in the day.

Cuban-Born Priest Returns For First Time Since 1962

By AGOSTINO BONO

HAVANA (CNS) — For Cuban-born Father Julio Alvarez, the eight-hour round-trip drive to spend three hours with his cousins was worth it.

"I was very excited," he said. "I won't be able to digest the emotions for a while."

It was the priest's first time home since leaving in 1962. He saw about 14 cousins in his Jan. 23 visit to his hometown of Cienfuegos, 150 miles southeast of Havana.

"Many others had gone to Santa Clara for the papal Mass, so we couldn't see each other," he added.

Father Alvarez took 28 pounds of medicine, mostly nonprescription drugs such as pain-relievers and fever-reducers, for his family. He also arrived with prescription medicine and prescription eyeglasses for specific relatives, welcome gifts in a country where these are hard to find.

"Many Cubans send eyeglass prescriptions to friends and relatives in the United States, who then seek ways of sending them back because it's a long wait to get them here," said Father Alvarez, pastor of St. Mark Church in Hyattsville, Md.

In return, his family served a meal in his honor, which Father Alvarez said gave him mixed feelings.

"I know the great sacrifices they have gone through to get the food. They had to get up early, stand in line and use money they had saved," he said.

"They knew I was coming since early December and they began saving" for the meal of rice with seafood, fried bananas and beer, he said.

Father Alvarez also began collecting presents and letters to take back to the United States for Cuban-Americans living there.

In Havana, a young woman gave Father Alvarez a musical clock and a button with Pope John Paul II's face and the dates of his Cuban visit. It was for her uncle, a parishioner at St. Mark.

"There is a lot of metal here. I hope this won't get you into trouble at the airport," she said.

The priest smiled and said, "I'll just wait and see what happens."

Father Alvarez said he left Cuba under trying circumstances; his brother was a political prisoner.

But he saw returning to his country for the pope's Jan. 21-25 trip as an important step for him as a priest and as a Cuban. Father Alvarez was part of a pilgrimage organized by the Northeast Hispanic Catholic Center in New York.

"I am Cuban-born. I want to see my family, my people. I just want to be a part of it," he said.

"As a priest, I see this as an important aspect of my ministry to evangelizing, teach and spread the word of hope," he added.

"The presence of the Holy Father is bringing so much hope to the entire church here. It's quite an important event for the Cuban church," he said.

The pope, who lived under communism in Poland, "brought back peace and harmony" there and can help do the same in Cuba, he said.

Regarding the return of many Cubans living abroad for the visit, the priest said, "We're becoming one — those in exile and the people here. We are seeing faith come back alive."

Father Alvarez said the papal trip could also have political implications by helping end Cuba's isolation because of the U.S. economic embargo.

Regarding opposition by some Cuban-Americans to Cubans making the pilgrimage, Father Alvarez said: "I understand the Cuban-American feelings in Miami and their feelings of solidarity. Maybe if I were in Miami, I would think differently."

But the pope's visit "is a turning point already," he said.

"I firmly believe we should live the historic moment and go on with the Gospel that is love, understanding, forgiveness," he said.

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 7 Number 22 • February 6, 1998

Photo by R Jackson Smith

The above piece, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life," is one of two stained-glass works designed by Our Lady of Mercy Church parishioner Betti Pettinati-Longinotti for the Winston-Salem parish. The design is placed in the church, while another, "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," resides in the eucharistic chapel at Joseph House on the parish grounds.

Protests Go Unheeded

Karla Tucker Executed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (CNS) — Despite protests from Pope John Paul II, American Catholic bishops and other groups opposed to the death penalty, convicted killer Karla Faye Tucker was executed Feb. 3 in Huntsville.

Tucker, given a lethal injection, became the first woman executed in Texas since the Civil War and the first in the nation since 1984.

Before her death, the 38-year-old Tucker apologized to the families of her victims and said, "I hope God will give you peace for this."

Speaking to her own husband and other family members, she said, "I am going to be face to face with Jesus now. I love all of you very much. I will see you all when you get there. I will wait for you."

Less than a week before the execution, Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Domestic Policy Committee, had urged Texas Gov. George W. Bush to "heed the calls of our Holy Father, our brother bishops and concerned citizens in Texas to grant clemency in this case."

"Our call for mercy in this case does not in any way detract from the brutality of Ms. Tucker's crime," Bishop Skylstad wrote Bush. "We can only imagine the depth of the loss felt by the surviving

See **Tucker,** page 6

RCIA Commission Gathers Catechists, Offers Support

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Those who serve the community of faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process in the diocese have a new resource to help them celebrate their ministry.

The recently appointed RCIA Commission of the Diocese of Charlotte sponsored a workshop Jan. 10 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church for RCIA team members, pastoral associates, clergy, and anyone involved in coordinating the initiation process at the parish level. Through such gatherings, commission members hope to offer a network of support to those who make the RCIA process come alive for the men and women preparing for full reception into the church.

"The people here today have various degrees of experience and opportunities to go to workshops and learn," said Joanna Case, who is serving as commission co-chairperson with Father Lawrence Heiney, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon. "This is team training for those who are charged with the responsibility of the catechumentate in their parishes."

Case, a board member of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate, was one of four presenters of ideas, suggestions and resources at the workshop, attended by 75 catechists who traveled from as far away as the Asheville and Greensboro vicariates to attend.

"When you're teaching, you also constantly need to update yourself, so I really think this workshop is great," said Helga Bracke, an RCIA team member at St. Therese Church in Mooresville. Like Bracke, dozens of catechists heard about and experienced ways of incorporating Scripture, prayer, theology, sacred tradition, doctrine and discussion in their RCIA group sessions.

The commission was appointed late last fall by Bishop William G. Curlin, after Father Anthony Marcaccio, diocesan director of liturgy, and Dr. Cris Villapando, director of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, submitted a list of qualified individuals. Its primary purpose, Villapando said, is to "provide service to pastors and parish RCIA staffs."

"This is not a juridical body and does not fit into any official diocesan organizational flow chart," Villapando added. "It is not policy-making. Its reason for existence is service, service and more service."

In addition to Father Heiney and Case, commission members are Linda Schlensker of St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill; Miriam Picconi of St. Thomas Aquinas Church; Carlos Castaneda of St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte; Capuchin Father Martin Schratz, parochial vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Church; and Linda Licata of St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro.

At the workshop, facilitators evidenced various ways to illustrate tenets of Catholicism during RCIA sessions.

"The sense of the tangible is a very important part of our Catholic faith," said Case. Like the sacraments, faith itself includes visible signs — liturgical practices and understanding of history in relation to Scripture, for instance — that give people a very real sense of Jesus and his purpose, she added.

Workshop sessions explored the role of sponsors in the initiation process, the wealth of resources available to presenters, and the variety of prayer styles and forms that can enhance one's faith life. Throughout the seminar pervaded an emphasis on making the process an exciting and experiential one for those in RCIA groups.

"Know who they are and where they are in their faith journey," said Father Schratz to catechists during a session on prayer he led with Picconi. The two are leaders of the RCIA team at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, and they pointed out ways of encouraging and creating meth-

See **RCIA Commission,** page 3

St. Helen Church Makes Most Of African-American Affairs Ministry Programs

By **MIKE KROKOS**
Editor

SPENCER MOUNTAIN — In its mission statement, St. Helen Church conveys a dedication to tradition — that of the church and of African and African-American culture.

One way parishioners continue to gain more insight of their African-American tradition is by taking advantage of programs offered by the diocesan African-American Affairs Ministry, which is partially funded by the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

DSA '98

Barbara Gardin, faith formation coordinator at St. Helen Church, has attended several African-American Affairs Ministry programs in the last few years, including taking part in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. "It gave me a sense of belonging," she said. "I could see my culture coming alive."

History is an important part of any culture, she added. "It takes you back to where you come from, up to where you are now."

Virginia Anthony, a lifelong parishioner of St. Helen Church, has attended many African-American Affairs Ministry programs over the years as well. She said members of her parish enjoy participating in the workshops because they are always educational and build on information presented in previous years. "They reflect on what you've learned and experienced," she said.

Anthony was also among the lay people who attended last summer's National Black Catholic Congress in Baltimore. Evangelization was the theme of the congress, and participants also discussed the National Black Catholic Pastoral Plan. Anthony said she hopes to implement parts of the plan in her parish.

Although the plan's primary purpose is to evangelize and educate, it also focuses on the church family. In the case of St. Helen Church, the congregation is a tight-knit group of 48 families, many have been a part of the parish their entire life, Anthony noted.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vicar for the African-American Affairs Ministry, said DSA funding helps with budgeting in four areas: the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration; a spring workshop; a fall workshop and retreat; and a Black History Month celebration. "The focus of our (DSA) budget is spread out in these programs," he added.

Many of the programs feature nationally recognized speakers who are authorities on such things as African-American liturgy, the education of African-Americans, and black contributions to the Catholic Church.

"The money also pays for these speakers and their travel expenses," Rev. Mr. Todd added.

The African-American Affairs Ministry has received a percentage of its operating budget from the DSA since 1987.

His Excellency, Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following effective February 1, 1998.

Father Damion Lynch, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Charlotte, has been granted a leave of absence from priestly ministry at his own request.

Sister Mary Timothy Warren, RSM, Director of the Lay Ministry Program, has been appointed Vicar for Women Religious. (She will continue her responsibilities in the Lay Ministry Program.)

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Religious, Pro-Life Leaders Denounce Clinic Bombing

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston and other religious and pro-life leaders condemned the Birmingham abortion clinic bombing that killed an off-duty police officer and critically injured a nurse Jan. 29.

"If initial reports are true and this destruction was intentional, we condemn, in the strongest possible terms, such murderous violence," said Cardinal Law, head of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York said, "Regardless of who or what might have been responsible, I am heartsick at the news of this death, injury and destruction."

He added, "No one advances the cause of life by inflicting death."

Birmingham Bishop David E. Foley said Catholics throughout Alabama are "in sorrow over the violent death and injuries at the New Woman All Women Clinic here in Birmingham."

"The intentional bombing of the clinic is against our faith, and is a reprehensible act," he said. "It militates against our prayers and love for all human life."

The 7:30 a.m. explosion killed Robert Sanderson, 35, a Birmingham police officer who also worked as a security guard at the clinic.

Emily Lyons, 41, a nurse and counselor at the clinic, was hospitalized in critical condition. She underwent 10 hours of surgery for extensive injuries to her legs, abdomen and face, including the loss of an eye.

The bomb, which exploded about a half-hour before the clinic usually opened, blew out the windows and door at the clinic entrance and ripped off their awnings. An FBI agent said the bomb apparently had been in a package.

Initial reports of a second bomb proved false. But the area was sealed off for hours, and two dormitories at the nearby University of Alabama at Birmingham, as well as a local day-care center, were evacuated as a precautionary measure.

The Birmingham News daily paper reported Jan. 30 that authorities were searching for a man in a wig seen fleeing the area after the explosion. A witness told police the man removed the wig as he ran and dropped it into a blue bag, according to the Associated Press.

No arrests had been made, but investigators also were reported to be questioning a number of people, including a man who regularly protests at the clinic. He was across the street at the time of the explosion.

In Birmingham, diocesan pro-life director Father John T. Igoe expressed sorrow for the policeman's death and offered prayers for the seriously wounded nurse.

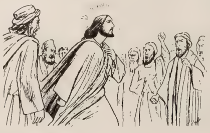
Bishop Foley asked that all Catholic

See **Clinic Bombing,** page 11

Thanks to St. Jude for favors granted.

— B. H.

Rejection at Nazareth



He said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place...." When the people in the synagogue heard this they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.
(Luke 4:25-30)

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

Readings for the week of February 8-14, 1998

Sunday
Isaiah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Monday
1 Kings 8:1-7,9-13
Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday
1 Kings 8:22-23,27-30
Mark 7:1-13

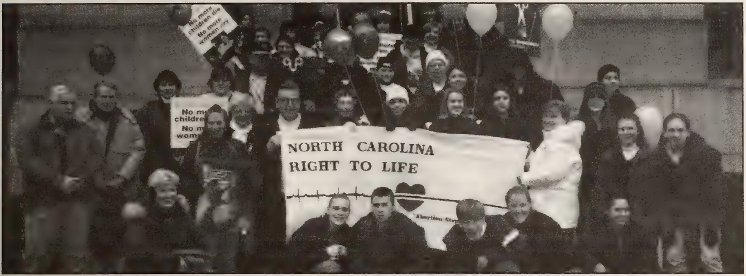
Wednesday
1 Kings 10:1-10
Mark 7:14-23

Thursday
1 Kings 11:4-13
Mark 7:24-30

Friday
1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19
Mark 7:31-37

Saturday
1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34
Mark 8:1-10

200 Area Parishioners March For Life


No more children die No more women cry
NORTH CAROLINA
RIGHT TO LIFE

Parishioners from the Diocese of Charlotte joined the thousands who took part in the annual March for Life Jan. 22 in our nation's capital. Organized groups from several diocesan schools were among the participants.

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

WASHINGTON — On Jan. 22, the 25th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, more than 150,000 people from across the country came together to express their commitment to life. Joining national March for Life events were approximately 200 members of the Charlotte Diocese, including Bishop William G. Curlin.

Cardinal Bernard Law, archbishop of Boston and chairman of the Pro-Life Activities Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, delivered a homily the night before the annual march at the Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Life. Also present at the Mass held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was the Most Rev. Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pro-nuncio to the U.S., who shared a written message from Pope John Paul II. "I assure you of my spiritual closeness to you and my sharing in your concern for the continued Holocaust of innocent lives," the Holy Father said.

Cardinal Law also gave words of encouragement and hope to the large congregation of more than 6,000 people. "We march to say that every human being is created in the image of God and therefore is sacred from the moment of conception to the last moment before natural death, and every moment in between," he said.

On the morning of the march, Bishop Curlin held a special Mass in the shrine's Chapel of Our Lady of Carmel for diocesan pilgrims. "The defense of life is a clear reflection of an inner love for Christ and the lives he creates," Bishop Curlin said.

The diocese was again well-represented by its youth at the national pro-life events. "There was an increase in the number of college students, teens and young children participating," said Jack Sweeney, a member of the pro-life committee at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. In recent years, Sweeney has put much effort into working with youths from around the diocese on pro-life issues, including Charlotte Catholic High School students.

Organized groups from several other diocesan schools were also a part of the march. Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson accompanied a group of 10 college students from Belmont Abbey College as well.

Sweeney has been impressed by the enthusiasm shown by young participants and believes youth will play an important role in the future of the pro-life movement.

"The way to (support the sanctity of life) is to raise young people who are rooted in a firm conviction of the evils of abortion and euthanasia," he said.

One of the vibrant young faces at the march belonged to Megan McDonald, 18, of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory. This was her fifth and most memorable March for Life. "Since I am older now, I felt more focused on why I was there," McDonald said.

"Seeing the thousands of people taking part in this helps me realize that my one voice can make a difference, especially when I am united with others," she added.

RCIA Commission,
from page 1

ods for a personal, enriching prayer life best suited to each individual involved in the process.

With the season of Lent approaching, the commission also presented a session on the rites included in the initiation process. Linda Licata, echoed the significance of meaningful experiences for participants, and she stressed the importance of "seeing the face of Christ" on those being initiated.

Following the workshop, the pews of St. Thomas Aquinas Church were abuzz with excited questions, exchanges of phone numbers and promises of continued correspondence. Many catechists agreed that the RCIA process is an ongoing journey of faith for them, too — one that is carried out through personal witness, community effort and new ways of experiencing faith.

"There is a need to gather folks involved in this ministry so we can continue to share resources and ideas, and to offer support and training," said Picconi. "If we're true to the essence of what the RCIA is about, we really can create a renewal, and they (the initiated) can be the leaven of new generations who have life-giving faith."

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

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Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

From a Christian point of view, what constitues a good death is not the absence of pain but the presence of faith.

— Rev. Andrew Lansdown, "Euthanasia: A Dangerous Enthusiasm"

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 8
9:45 a.m.
Speaker
Myers Park Baptist Church group
Charlotte

February 9-10
Continuing Education Training for
Priests, Religious and Deacons
Catholic Conference Center
Hickory

February 15
11 a.m.
Concelebrating Mass with
Bishop Edward Braxton of the
Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

February 16
Visit from Provincial of
Oblates of St. Francis
Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Hopes Cuba Trip Will Have Effect Similar To Poland Visit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 28.

Dear brothers and sisters,

My pastoral visit to Cuba was a significant event of spiritual, social and cultural reconciliation. The church in Cuba has experienced difficult times, but has persevered in faith, hope and charity. I went there as a pilgrim of peace, to proclaim that Christ is the redeemer of humanity and that the Gospel is the guarantee of the authentic development of society. I stressed the importance of the family and the significance of Cuba's rich Christian heritage in building a society of freedom and fraternity. I called upon young people to open their hearts to Christ as the way to build a world more worthy of the human person. I also called upon the laity to play a full part in society, guided by the church's social teaching. My visit to Cuba was a historical moment in the new evangelization. To Our Lady of Charity of Cobre, patroness of Cuba, I entrust all the aspirations of the Cuban people and the church's mission in the service of the Gospel.

I warmly greet the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from Japan, Denmark, Finland and the United States. Upon all of you I invoke the abundant blessings of Almighty God.

Pope To Visit Three Nigerian Cities In March

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will visit three cities in as many days during his March pastoral visit to Nigeria, the Vatican announced.

The pontiff will fly from Rome to the Nigerian capital Abuja March 21, according to a preliminary schedule released Jan. 30.

On March 22 he is to travel to the cities of Enugu and Onitsha, returning to Abuja for the night. On the next evening he is to fly back to Rome.

The bishops of Nigeria have said the pope's program will include the beatification of Father Michael Cyprian Iwene Tansi, a Nigerian priest who died in 1964.

About 12 percent of Nigeria's estimated 103 million people are Catholic; half the population is Muslim.

Church leaders have been among the critics of the country's military leadership for delaying presidential elections, now scheduled for the end of this year.

The last presidential vote, in June 1993, was voided by the military regime then in power, which had taken control of the country in a 1985 coup. The presumed winner of the 1993 election declared himself president in June 1994 and was jailed 23 days later.

Western countries and human rights groups have placed Nigeria under increasing pressure for alleged human rights violations and the pace of democratic reform.

International sanctions against Nigeria, including suspension from the British Commonwealth, followed the November 1995 execution of playwright and environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight of his associates.

In 1982 Pope John Paul visited five Nigerian cities during a nine-day, four-country swing through Africa.

The upcoming trip will be the 77-year-old pope's 82nd pastoral visit outside of Italy since the beginning of his pontificate in 1978.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

The Blight of Slavery

My admiration goes out to movie producer Stephen Spielberg.

First he taught us about the horror of the Nazi Holocaust in his massive and honest film "Schindler's List." Now, he has given us "Amistad," the story of the landmark 1839 court ruling on the case of 53 Africans stolen from their homes to be sold as slaves.

Chained together on a Spanish slave ship named La Amistad, one man managed to unlock the chains. In the ensuing revolt the Africans killed all but two of their captors. Attempting to sail back to Africa, they were captured by the U.S. Navy off the coast of Long Island, N.Y.

The movie shows how people who found slavery abhorrent used the legal system to free the Africans, who had been born free and were sinned against when they were abducted from their homes.

Spielberg had more than entertainment in mind when he made this movie of a powerful moment in history. His DreamWorks studio also produced a study guide and sent it to some 20,000 college and high school educators. The guide is designed to generate discussion on the blight of slavery and the slave trade, to show that they utterly contradicted what America stood for.

I would love to see more dramatizations of the people in history who found the courage to speak out against slavery, even at great personal price. We could begin with Peter Claver, a saint of the early 1600s, who lived his life trying to help Africans stolen and made slaves by the Spanish.

Another fine man was a French clergyman, Henri Gregoire, who wrote powerful treatises against slavery in the French colonies and was miserably treated by the church's hierarchy for his courage.

Many great Americans found slavery repulsive and spoke out against it, people like John Paul Jones, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, Andrew Carnegie and Susan B. Anthony. That noble woman actually lost her teaching job because she associated with "colored people." Showing her contempt for the authorities who could be so callous, she went on to devote her life to freedom for all.

Perhaps the most surprising one to hate slavery was Robert E. Lee, the Southern general. He condemned slavery in vehement words: "Slavery as an institution is a moral and political evil. I regard it as a greater evil for whites than for blacks." It seems contradictory that he would have chosen to lead the South in the Civil War. But he was a Virginian and felt it a duty to stick by his state.

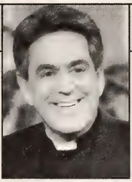
I think it is essential for young and old alike to remember the battles over slavery. It is extremely important that we never stop learning, never stop being shocked by the evils of the past. How else can we work to ensure that they never be repeated?

Some voices complain that Spielberg's study guide is not historically accurate and should be banned. I disagree. I found that while "Amistad" took some liberties with the actual events of a historical incident, it was absolutely accurate in underscoring the humanity of blacks, as it depicted the evil of slavery.

That, to me, is the really important point.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Rethinking the Best-Laid Plans

A farmer owned a mule that was very important to him because he was a good plowing animal. One day the mule got very sick. The farmer called a veterinarian who, after examining the mule, prescribed some pills. Huge pills. "Just give these to the mule and he'll recover," said the vet.

The farmer looked at the pills and asked, "How can I possibly get these big things down the mule's throat?" The vet replied, "That's easy. Just find a piece of pipe with a large enough bore to fit the pills. Then put the pipe in the mule's mouth, put the pills inside the pipe and blow. Before the mule knows what's happening, he'll swallow the pills."

It seemed like a good idea. But a few hours later, the farmer appeared at the vet's office looking very sick. The vet said to him, "You look awful. What happened?"

The farmer moaned, "The mule blew first!"

We go to bed at night, many of us, with only good intentions for the next day: We are going to cure a lot of mules. We are going to do the right thing. Then morning comes. We become distracted or overwhelmed or we may try our best, but the mule blows first.

It is discouraging. If we think that we will achieve everything we set out to do, we set ourselves up for real misery. What's a person to do?

There is nothing wrong with making plans, with trying to achieve goals. On the contrary. It's just that we have to remind ourselves that not all our designs are flawless. We do not always know best. We may not have taken other people into account. Or even examined our ideas as closely as we should. And then, of course, we may neglect to factor in the unexpected, the unforeseeable.

The fact is, we can't control everything. And we don't like to admit it. When we make an important decision, we want to believe that the result will be all we hope for. When we invest our time and effort, we expect to see positive results.

But things can fall apart or just not turn out the way we anticipated. Nobody can see the future. We forget that simply *knowing* that we have done the right thing and made a difference for the better is a gift.

During the war in Vietnam a trauma surgeon, Kenneth Swan, was told by his superior, "I think you ought to know, the other surgeons feel you should have let that fellow die last night." The young soldier they were talking about had taken a direct hit from a rocket. Looking more dead than alive, he had lost both eyes and both legs.

Dr. Swan said, "I was trained to care for the sick and wounded. God will decide who lives or dies." Still he wondered. For over 20 years he never knew if he had made the right decision and done the right thing for that terribly wounded soldier. Finally, he decided to find out.

It took over a year to trace the veteran. When he met Ken McGarity he saw not just a man in a wheelchair, but a man of determination. He could play the piano and trumpet, scuba dive, even change tires and fix the roof of his house in Georgia. He was also married and the father of two children.

His wife, Theresa McGarity, told the surgeon, "I always wanted to meet the man who saved Kenneth's life — to thank you for these 20 wonderful years and for our two beautiful daughters. The decision you made that night ... is responsible for my whole world — for the life of the man I intend to grow old with."

Dr. Swan got a great gift. We can't always know whether our actions, life-or-death or seemingly less significant, ultimately do good. What we need is enough faith to keep trying. And let God be the judge.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

When the Priest Receives Communion

Q. If a priest does not receive Communion at Mass until after he has distributed Communion to the congregation, is this Mass valid?

He is a devout priest, but I'm wondering why he does this and how it affects the Mass.

A. I'm aware that some priests follow this practice today, motivated by the courtesy in other circumstances that the host eats after he serves the guests.

What your priest does has no effect on the validity of the Mass. Don't worry about that.

It also should be noted, however, that the practice indicates considerable confusion about who is the "host" when we receive Communion.

The one who invites and welcomes and feeds us in the sacrament of the Eucharist is not the priest celebrant, but the same one who was host at the Last Supper, Jesus himself.

This meal, as the eternal banquet of heaven, is his. It is his Spirit who gathers "all who share this one bread and one cup," forming those who receive into "a living sacrifice of praise" (Eucharistic Prayer IV).

Some funny things are said too often today about "whose" Mass it is, that it somehow "belongs to" the priest.

The announcement we hear just before Communion ought to help keep everyone's attitudes and actions in proper perspective:

"Happy are those who are called to his supper."

Substituting Wine?

Q. I look forward to your column in our Catholic paper. Many questions there are ones I have had myself.

Your column on "outstretched hands to receive Communion" was a blessing. It never crossed my mind that such a simple act could have such a meaning of respect and humility.

My question now is about our pastor. He wrote us a letter telling us about his alcoholism and his entering a treatment program.

He was honest and brave, and I pray for his recovery. If a priest has this problem, is there a provision for substituting juice for wine? Certainly alcoholic priests do not need to stop offering Mass.

A. The church has tried to offer a variety of solutions for priests who cannot drink alcohol; individual bishops handle the situation differently.

These provisions, however, are too long and complicated to attempt an adequate explanation here.

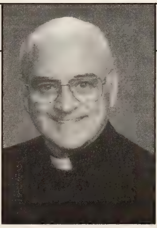
Perhaps it suffices to say that at least the alcoholic priests I know have been able to work out the problem in a way that is appropriate and effective for them.

Perhaps you could ask the question of your pastor when you have an opportunity.

A free brochure outlining basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts, is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Spirituality Today

Father John Catoir



Thought Conditioners to Jump-Start Positive Feelings

Thoughts are like seeds. If you allow your mind too much freedom, you will get caught up in a whole series of negative emotions: fear, anger, resentment, guilt and the like.

Poisonous thoughts produce poisonous feelings, whereas positive thoughts produce positive feelings.

The will cannot control feelings directly. If you are depressed you cannot will it away, but you can begin the process of purging yourself of negative thoughts. This effort will lead not only to good feelings, but good actions as well.

It takes a little time for the process to develop so be patient. However, as the dawn follows the darkness of night, so, too, good thoughts produce good and healthy emotions.

With this in mind I want to give you a series of thought conditioners based on your faith in Jesus Christ. Faith can be of enormous help in turning around your mood swings. You can jump-start your progress once you truly believe in the words of Jesus.

I will state a truth and then give you a first-person statement to help you assimilate the truth so that it will pass from objective, cognitive knowledge to appreciative, healing knowledge.

1. Jesus told you not to be anxious, and Psalm 37 tells us: "If you trust in the Lord, you will be secure." Your response: "I trust the Lord; I am secure; I am happy."

Whether you feel secure or happy is irrelevant. The task before you is to plant positive thoughts so that they will take root and in time produce healthy emotions.

2. Jesus gladly surrendered every sign of self-interest to help you to live a richer, happier life (Jn. 10:10). He died that you might be happy. Honor his love and claim you inheritance. "I am loved. I am cherished. I am happy."

3. Jesus came to save you, not to condemn you. Believe in his mercy. He lay down his life that you might be free of sin and needless guilt (Jn. 10:18). "I am forgiven; I am saved; I am happy."

4. Jesus affirmed his desire to bring you abundant joy (Jn.15:11). You are his child, and he wants you to be happy. "I am secure; I am joyful; I am happy."

5. Jesus promised that the holiness of his followers would be seen in the way they love one another (Jn. 15:12).You are a channel of God's love, you have the power of divine love in you. "I am loving; I am powerful; I am happy."

6. Jesus came to save sinners (Mt. 9:13). He called us to forgive and forget. You are sorry for your faults and failings. That is enough. Do not be too hard on yourself. Jesus wants you to be happy because of the knowledge of his love. Trust him. "I am forgiven. I am cleansed. I am happy."

I promise, if you repeat these ideas over and over again they will cleanse your soul of negative emotions and give you a new life in the Lord.

Read the Scriptures, and make up your own formulas; it will help you even more.

Churches, Family Continue To Pray For Charlotte Teen's Safe Return

CHARLOTTE — Nearly eight months have passed since 18-year-old Kristen Modafferi disappeared in California.

The St. Matthew Church parishioner, who had just finished her freshman year at North Carolina State University, was spending last summer in the San Francisco area, working two jobs, attending classes at the University of California-Berkeley and taking an evening dance class. According to her family, this was part of a true-life experience as encouraged by the Park Scholar program at N.C. State.

But something happened the afternoon of June 23 after Kristen finished working at Spinelli's Coffee Shop at about 3 p.m. She told friends and co-workers she was headed for the beach. It was the last time anyone has seen Kristen.

Her family began an extensive search involving police and private detectives. They also made several trips to the San Francisco area. Missing children's organizations were contacted and many offered their assistance. The media got the word out. And still to this day, no substantial leads or clues.

The family continues to press on in their search for their daughter. Charlotte resident Dennis Mahon spends his days walking the streets of San Francisco looking for leads. A private investigator, he has personally taken up the cause and offered to spend a year searching for Kristen. He lives out of his van and is assisted by money from the Kristen Fund, a campaign begun last summer at St. Matthew Parish to help defray costs in the search for the teen-ager.

Kristen Modafferi as shown in her dorm room at N.C. State University. The St. Matthew Church parishioner has been missing since last summer.

Family and friends recently handed out yellow ribbons as a way to keep Kristen's face and story in the public eye. People are being asked to wear the ribbons to show their support for all of Kristen's loved ones, and as an expression of hope for her safe return.

"As long as people are still searching, caring, and keeping up the faith, there is hope," said Debbie Modafferi, Kristen's mother. "We believe someone out there knows something. We need to have that person come forward and give us a clue."

A $10,000 reward is being offered for information leading to Kristen's safe return. An Internet page has also been set up for Kristen and is linked to a missing persons network. The web site is located at www.yahoo.com. Once entered, type "Kristen Modafferi" in the search block.

How can you help? Please continue to pray for her safe return. "Prayer is the most important thing (people can offer)," said Capuchin Father Edmund Walker, St. Matthew Church pastor. Individuals can also make donations to the Kristen Fund, c/o St. Matthew Catholic Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28277.

Anyone with information in the case is asked to call (800) 521-0917, extension 237, anytime.

Tucker, from page 1

victims. Our prayers and sympathy remain with them.

"We believe, however, that capital punishment diminishes all of us and contributes toward a brutal cycle of violence which is all to prevalent in our society," he added.

Shortly after Tucker's execution, Vatican Radio issued a report expressing dismay that Texas officials decided to put to death a woman who had clearly repented her crime.

The Karla Faye Tucker put to death in Texas was not the same Tucker who committed brutal murders in 1983, said the Vatican Radio report.

"She was repentant; she was contrite. She found dignity in religion, becoming in that way a different soul, a different mind. Only her body remained to give witness to the old crime."

With Tucker's execution, "America could clearly see how a person different from the one who committed the crime was made to die," the radio report said.

In its comments on Tucker's execution, Vatican radio used Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" on the gift of life. In the letter, the radio said, the pope cites the biblical story of Cain murdering his brother Abel, yet enjoying God's protection.

Pope John Paul made an appeal on behalf of Tucker, "as he has done for many others like her," the radio said. "In the name of God, he is saying, respect, defend, love and serve life. ... Only on this path will you find justice, progress, true freedom, peace and happiness."

The radio report reminded listeners of Jesus' words on the cross to the repentant thief, "Today you will be with me in paradise," and said Tucker's death would not be the end of her story, but an opening to the possibility of eternal life.

About two weeks before Tucker's scheduled execution the pope asked Gov. Bush to grant Tucker clemency.

A Vatican Embassy spokesman in Washington confirmed to Catholic News Service Jan. 21 that Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, papal pro-nuncio to the United States, appealed Jan. 5 on the pope's behalf to Bush and to Melinda Bozarth, director of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, for clemency for Tucker.

Walter C. Long of Austin, an attorney for Tucker, told Catholic News Service he had a copy of a letter from Archbishop Cacciavillan expressing papal support for clemency.

Long said the pope's appeal was encouraging to Tucker and her supporters because the last time a Texas governor delayed a death sentence it was because of a papal appeal.

Other religious institutions, including the World Council of Churches, had also issued urgent appeals for Tucker's execution to be called off.

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Entertainment

CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

Ethan Hawke as Finn and Gwyneth Paltrow as Estella share a kiss in the modern film adaptation of the classic "Great Expections." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Great Expectations" Is An Interesting Attempt To Modernize A Classic

By HENRY HERX

NEW YORK (CNS) — A poor Florida youth is given the chance to make good in the New York art world thanks to an anonymous patron in an updated version of Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations" (20th Century Fox).

This time around, the story opens in a sunny shallows on the Gulf Coast of Florida where escaped convict Lustig (Robert De Niro) suddenly emerges from the water to grab 11-year-old Finn and threaten to harm him unless he returns that night with a bolt-cutter.

When he does, Lustig cuts off his leg shackles, gets in the boy's motorboat and tells him to head for Mexico.

Along the way, the convict slips over the side when a Coast Guard launch approaches and tows the boy to shore where he keeps mum about his strange encounter, even after learning the convict was a gangster convicted of murder.

In this inauspicious beginning, De Niro's foul-mouthed convict seems to have escaped from "Cape Fear" rather than prison and the modern setting robs the situations of any sense of wonder or innocence.

Especially out of place in the modern American context is the rich old woman, Ms. Dinsmoor (Anne Bancroft), who's been dotty ever since being jilted at the altar and now seeks her revenge by tutoring her young niece, Estella, to break men's hearts.

Estella practices on Finn, trying out some steamy kisses that have nothing to do with innocence.

What works best in this reworking of the Victorian original is making the grown Finn (Ethan Hawke) a self-taught artist whom a mysterious benefactor sends to New York to prove his talents.

Confirming his belief that Ms. Dinsmoor is his patron, Finn finds Estella (Gwyneth Paltrow) already living in New York and as contrary as ever.

Finn works feverishly to achieve his now-great expectations of an artist's career and wedding Estella but, though his first one-man show is a great success and he eventually beds Estella, his world collapses when she marries another.

It is then that Lustig pops up to reveal he is the one who bankrolled Finn's chance at success out of gratitude for his long-ago help as an escaped convict.

Pursued by rival gangsters, Lustig has to get out of town and Finn helps the old man get to the subway, where he dies in Finn's arms after being stabbed to death by a thug.

Though he's now a successful artist, Finn's life is rather aimless until he eventually finds his true love in a sunny ending.

Directed by Alfonso Cuaron from a script by Mitch Glazer, the movie keeps the core of Dickens' story while making

See **"Great Expectations,"** page 11

MOVIE
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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Air Force One" (1997)

Violent political thriller in which terrorists (led by Gary Oldman) hijack the president's plane in order to force the Russians to release their imprisoned leader, unaware the president (Harrison Ford) is still aboard and determined to stop them. Directed by Wolfgang Petersen, the ensuing cat-and-mouse derring-do is very violent and jazzed up with all manner of complications but none of it is very credible and the suspense grows tiresome. Vicious violence, brutal treatment of hostages, profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"8 Heads in a Duffel Bag" (1997)

Sophomoric black comedy about a gangster (Joe Pesci) pursuing a vacationing medical student (Andy Comeau) who accidentally took a duffel bag containing the heads of eight rivals the gangster was to deliver to a mob boss. Writer-director Tom Schulman's tasteless chase comedy finds redundant humor in the horrified reactions of a half-dozen people who chance upon the decapitated heads but never bother to notify the police. Brief violence with frequent mistreatment of body parts for comic effect, much profanity and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Excess Baggage" (1997)

Mirthless comedy in which a neglected teen (Alicia Silverstone) tries to stage her own kidnapping by getting in the truck of a car which is then stolen by a thief (Benicio Del Toro) unaware of her presence. Directed by Marco Brambilla, the witless narrative rambles aimlessly on as a host of unsympathetic characters vie to cash in on the ransom. Brief violence, underage drinking, sexual innuendo and intermittent profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Hollow Reed" (1997)

Searing drama in which a divorced homosexual (Martin Donovan) sues for full custody of his 9-year-old son on the grounds the child is being physically abused by the live-in boyfriend (Jason Flemyng) of his ex-wife (Joely Richardson). Director Angela Pope movingly explores the characters' human passions and frailties in an insightful tale of prejudice, betrayal and self-deception. Brief homosexual activity with rear nudity, some violence including child-beating, intermittent profanity and instances of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Irish in America: Long Journey Home" (1998)

The first great wave of refugees to America were the Irish fleeing the potato famine of 1845-50 and this documentary series tells the epic story of how these new immigrants fought on both sides in the Civil War, then helped build the country's cities, industries and Western settlements until eventually, despite anti-Catholic prejudice, they became part of the American mainstream. Produced by Thomas Lennon, the four-part PBS series is an objective history of the Irish experience in America, keyed to the lives of major figures, richly illustrated with period photographs and embellished with commentary by Irish-American historians, writers and ordinary citizens. It's an American ethnic saga for all ages.

"Love Seranade" (1997)

Offbeat comedy set in a backwater Australian town where two man-starved sisters (Miranda Otto and Rebecca Frith) compete for the love of the new guy in town (George Shevtsov), a silky-sounding disc jockey who warns them he's an incorrigible Lothario but learns too late how seriously they take a love affair. Writer-director Shirley Barrett stuffs her quirky tale with eccentric characters who have a certain amount of deadpan charm, but the melodramatic climax will leave viewers scratching their heads. Fleeting violence, restrained sex scenes with brief nudity and a morally ambiguous conclusion. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Sister Wendy's Story of Painting" (1997)

Taking viewers on a culture tour of Western art beginning with the wall drawings of prehistoric cave dwellers down through the centuries to the present is Sister Wendy Beckett, an English nun from a Carmelite cloister, whose commentary is always informative, surprisingly fresh and indeed entertaining. Produced by the BBC, the five-part series of one-hour programs brings together an incredibly diverse collection of great paintings, each of which is illuminated by Sister Wendy's personal reflections on its content and technique as well as her assessment of the artists in the context of their times.

See **Videos,** page 12

FAITH *alive!*

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Finding a place for faith at work

By Father David K. O'Rourke, OP
Catholic News Service

I live on the West Coast of America — clearly a land of many religions. This country always was religiously diverse. But now the diversity in our religious backgrounds has been woven through our laws, business practices and individual outlooks on life.

The result of this diversity is that many Americans now keep their religious beliefs and their day-to-day business in separate, non-communicating categories:

—Your church is where you go on Sunday.

—Your values are what you do business by the rest of the time.

> **Many people "now keep their religious beliefs and their day-to-day business in separate, non-communicating categories: Your church is where you go on Sunday. Your values are what you do business by the rest of the time."**

This, at least, is the picture that the social scientists who study behavior now paint of society. A recent dinner discussion with two old friends confirmed just how much we are influenced by this point of view, even those of us who are believing Christians.

■ ■ ■

After dinner Jack and his wife Marie began talking about their hopes for their children and grandchildren. Jack and Marie wanted personal success and financial security for them.

Our generation, the three of us recognized, has had the good life. Now Jack and Marie want the same for their children. They admit that they are more afraid that the children won't make it financially than they are troubled by religious issues.

"Given the choice between a-moral success and church-going poverty, I don't know what I'd prefer for my kids," Jack said.

Our generation, which came into adulthood in the 1950s, was on the receiving end of great financial growth and financial security. And, as we admitted, "we've gotten used to it — probably more than we like to admit."

CNS photos by The Crosiers/Gene Plaisted, Cleo Freelance photo

Religiously, Marie added, we've also had it easy. "We belonged to a supportive, securely Catholic community, which even gave us solid outlets for community service," she said.

But most of this, we concluded, was in the past. This couple's children live and work in a more competitive, less-religious and tougher world.

What about the support systems we were accustomed to? Marie and Jack are concerned that the pluralistic world their children grew up in and married into can't provide the support taken for granted by our generation.

Furthermore, the couple's children daily are exposed to the many problems of the needy and homeless via television and newspapers, which has left them thinking that there is very little they can do to make a difference.

So Jack and Marie have fears for their children. But that is only one part of the picture I want to present.

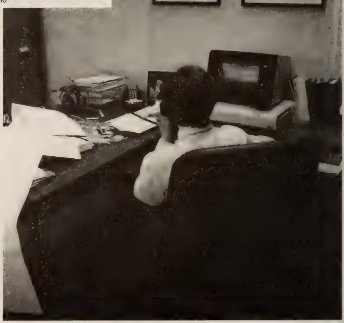
■ ■ ■

The fact is, there are young people today who are determined to live as Christians in the world around them.

In my ministry I see many young people, now in their 20s and early 30s, who want to live their faith in this world's day-to-day contexts.

These young people have grown up in the pluralism of the 1980s and 1990s. And that world also has many good points.

For one thing, it has a tolerant respect for differences. Part of that tolerance is an acceptance of people who want to take their religion seriously.



The result for these young men and women is that while they see society treating religious and spiritual values as personal, private matters that do not belong in the workplace, they believe nonetheless that there is a place for faith that is also public.

In other words, these young people disagree that faith must remain private. And they say so.

One young man, whom I will call Ned, works in a big high-tech company, and he says that he and his friends tackle this head on.

"I know we can't control the way our big corporation does business. But we can talk with each other about business ethics. A lot of our coworkers are religious people. With encouragement they do bring their values to work. And our discussions help us see how much of life can't be reduced to one of our computer programs," Ned explained.

Ned believes that just starting these discussions with good people will have good results.

I find myself marveling at the courage and faith of people like Ned. But I also have learned that the rest of us can do a lot more than just provide silent approval from the sidelines.

What I did not realize — and have since discovered — is how important support and recognition from their religious leaders and parish communities are to these young people. They want the kind of support that my generation once took for granted.

As young people seek ways to synthesize faith and life, they need support and encouragement. They need places to meet like-minded young men and women. Finally, they need recognition — recognition that their effort to bring faith and work together is valid and worthwhile and respected.

Faith can find a place in our work. Because today's marketplace is now so high-tech, locating the place for faith is not easy. But we do have believing men and woman who are trying to show us it can be done. They deserve support.

(Father O'Rourke is a free-lance writer in Oakland, Calif.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

How has faith made a difference for an important decision you faced on the job?

"How to work with different colleagues, or as a manager, bringing up a problem with a co-worker that needs to be corrected ... in a way that is both kind and effective: That's a specific way my faith impacts my work on the job." — Dennis Kurtz, Eau Claire, Wis.

"Whenever I face important questions, I go right to the question, What would Jesus do in these circumstances? Usually, the response is not what I want to do. I also use Scripture as a guide to work with people as a campus minister, and I try to listen to people with the compassion that Jesus would." — Cynthia Yoshitomi, Los Angeles, Calif.

"Our faith was one of the primary reasons my wife and I moved from the East Coast (Washington) to southwest Texas. We came as volunteers to do social work through Catholic Charities. In D.C. we were working with social agencies like United Way, but not church agencies.... We came for two years, and we're still here 16 years later." — Steve Hay, Lubbock, Texas

An upcoming edition asks: What question from a teen initiated a conversation about faith in your home? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

In a Nutshell

- ***Faith doesn't have to remain private, separated from ordinary life and the workplace.***
- ***But as people seek ways to synthesize faith and life, they need support and encouragement.***
- ***Faith's role in the world becomes clearer when we don't just know about "poverty" or "suffering," but know the poor and those who suffer.***

Facts of life: When faith and money meet

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

The proper use of money presented no problem for Jesus' very first followers. They didn't have any.

And when St. Paul extended the boundaries of the early Christian communities to include gentiles, he devoted considerable time to gathering contributions from the new converts. The gentiles often were affluent.

The Jews had a long tradition of almsgiving. Gentile converts, however, had to be educated and motivated. That is why there is so much on the subject of rich and poor in Luke's Gospel. Luke wrote for largely gentile communities.

Luke tells the story of the self-satisfied landowner who had such a bumper crop that he didn't know what to do with it all. His solution: Store it, relax and live a life of ease. Jesus' comment was devastating:

"But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God" (Luke 12:20-21).

As the rest of the Gospel insists, what matters to God is unselfish generosity, especially to the needy poor.

Luke, however, did not want to discourage his readers by seeming to demand that they impoverish themselves. He wanted selfless generosity, not financial suicide.

Luke tells of "Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man" (Luke 19:2). When Jesus invited himself to dine at this man's house, the crowd was shocked at his having anything to do with such an extortioner. Zacchaeus felt forced to defend himself. "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor" (Luke 19:8).

Before the story of Zacchaeus in the Gospel is a passage in which Jesus speaks more generally about riches and discipleship.

"How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" (Luke 18:24). Jesus' hearers were stunned, for riches popularly were considered a sign of God's favor. They asked: "Then who can be saved?" To this Jesus replied, "What is impossible for human beings is possible for God" (18:26-27).

It isn't that money is wrong in itself, but it is dangerous. People can easily become avaricious and, worse, come to believe that they have no need of God.

An oft misquoted verse is "money is the root of all evil." But what the author really said is,
"The love of money
is the root of all evils, and
some people in their desire for
it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains" (1 Timothy 6:10).

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

How faith works itself into our world

By Dan Luby
Catholic News Service

Call him Frank. He's done reasonably well in school and made some good friends in college. Always up for a party, he's also a stand-up guy you can count on when you need help. Like his classmates, Frank is bright and eager, and he looks forward to a life of great promise.

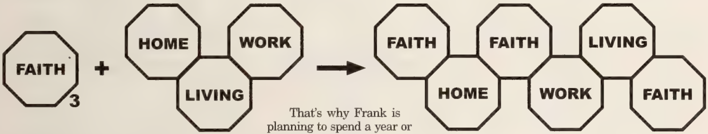
Soon he and his friends will graduate. They have all given serious thought to the question of success.

Frank's roommate has interviews with four banking houses. His girlfriend is polishing an essay for law school. Several friends are thinking about graduate studies.

Frank is looking ahead too. In a special way, he is doing so through the prism of his faith. As such, he feels compelled to plan for his future in light of what Jesus described as the ultimate measure of success.

"What is yielded when faith and life's ordinary circumstances 'mix'?... For Frank, poverty and suffering will not be academic abstractions. He will move beyond abstractions to flesh-and-blood people who have real needs."

As Jesus faced his passion and the end of his earthly ministry, he said that people will be judged not by what they have, but by what they have done; not by whom they have impressed, but by whom they have served. What will count will be feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked, and visiting the imprisoned; welcoming the stranger and caring for the sick.



CNS graphic by Anthony DeFeo

That's why Frank is planning to spend a year or more after college as a volunteer helping others. He has applied to several programs for volunteers and doesn't know yet if he will be teaching in inner-city schools, or working as an advocate for the needs of children and seniors, or serving in a night shelter or in some other way helping to empower the powerless.

Most of us probably do not feel we are in a position to make such an extravagant gesture. But could we review our vision of success and commit ourselves more completely to the Gospel, which measures success by faithfulness, generosity and service?

However else Frank spends his future, he believes that his experience will give him a yardstick for success much different from the one our consumer culture offers.

Frank will live for awhile among people whose access to "success," as the term generally is defined, is severely limited. He will see firsthand what it looks like to be locked out of opportunity by racism or illness or poverty.

And what he sees firsthand will allow him to discover more about the ways faith works itself into life when we don't just know about "poverty" or "suffering," but know the poor and those who suffer.

For Frank, poverty and suffering will not be academic abstractions. He will move beyond abstractions to flesh-and-blood people who have real needs — people with names, with faces, with families and stories and memories and hopes.

Having served people who are deprived, Frank will develop a healthy respect for the importance of material needs like food, clothing, shelter, medical care, jobs, a car.

But he also will come to know, deep in his bones, that it not the acquisition of these things that gives meaning to life. Frank will learn from the people whose lives he shares that much of what passes for success in our world is shallow and self-serving.

In the school of compassionate service he will learn that success that lasts, that transforms society, that gives life is more about fidelity than accomplishment, more about generosity than consumption, more about standing "with" than standing "out."

(Luby is the director of the Division of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Recently my youngest child was learning to balance equations in her high school chemistry class. The underlying principle of this as I understand it (and in simplest terms) is that matter entering into the chemical mix of things cannot actually be lost in the outcome.

Now, chemistry isn't my thing! It's an equation involving faith that I'd like to balance here. The question is, What is yielded when faith and life's ordinary circumstances "mix"?

If what is yielded doesn't include faith, it seems that something — at least from the chemistry teacher's perspective — is wrong.

It's easy to assert that faith always is present in me. But how is it present when I'm budgeting household expenses, paying bills, running weekend errands; when I'm bogged down or bored; when noise pollution afflicts me?

Maybe we act as though God is absent — faith is absent — from the "equation" of real life, at least when life is hectic, when we're busy. And yes, it's a good idea to make some quiet, nonhectic time for God, for prayer.

However, one point to meditate on during that quiet time is faith's potential for transforming life's ordinary events.

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

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FAITH alive!

People In The News

Pope Tells German Bishops To Halt Certificates For Abortions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II instructed Germany's bishops to have Catholic organizations stop issuing certificates that enable women to obtain abortions after counseling. Most lay organizations urged a compromise so that women considering abortions would not stop going to those agencies for counseling. The German bishops' conference said it would consider its options, but comply with the papal instruction. German law lets a woman have an abortion only after obtaining a document from a state-approved social services center that shows she received counseling at least three days before the procedure. Catholic organizations operate 259 of the 1,685 such certified centers in Germany. The Catholic centers are run either by the German branch of Caritas, the Catholic Church's international aid agency, or the Catholic Women's Social Services Agency, known by its initials in German as the SkF.

New Bishop Asks People He Serves To Join In His Mission

ENCINO, Calif.(CNS) — Bishop Gerald E. Wilkerson, ordained as an auxiliary for the Los Angeles Archdiocese Jan. 21, asked the people he serves to share in his mission. "We have many challenges ahead of us," he told the capacity crowd at his ordination Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in Encino. "And I ask you to join me in letting God work through us to build his church." He expressed gratitude to Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, the principal celebrant, for his confidence in him and said he was proud to join his fellow bishops.

Archdiocese Says Gustavo Gutierrez Still Under Scrutiny

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Lima announced that Father Gustavo Gutierrez, considered the father of liberation theology, remained under scrutiny from the Vatican's doctrinal congregation and must clarify some of his writings. The late-January announcement said that earlier in the month, Cardinal Augusto Vargas Alzamora of Lima received a letter from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the doctrinal congregation, "expressing concern for the delay of the solution" of Father Gutierrez's clarifications on his theology. Cardinal Ratzinger's letter asked Peruvian bishops to act in order to speed up the final solution of the problem.

Diplomats, Educators Urge Review Of Cuba Embargo Policy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two former U.S. ambassadors to the Holy See and 28 other U.S. educators, political leaders and former diplomats have endorsed Pope John Paul II's call for the United States to end its trade embargo against Cuba. They asked President Clinton and Congress "to undertake a systematic review" of the embargo, with an immediate goal of lifting restrictions on medical supplies and basic foods and a long-term goal of "the full reintegration of Cuba in the international community." They also endorsed the pope's call for steps within Cuba to restore religious and other human rights. "The Cuban people have a fundamental and inalienable right to determine their own future course," the group said Jan. 27.

Author Calls Pluralist Democracy Greatest Challenge To Church

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Coming to terms with pluralist democracy is the greatest challenge facing the Catholic Church, best-selling author Charles R. Morris said Jan. 30. In a talk at The Catholic University of America, he warned that the rancor found in many so-called liberal-conservative debates within the church poses a serious threat to its vitality because "we are walking on a knife's edge, with a deep abyss on either side." Since its publication last year, Morris' book "American Catholic" has become one of the most widely read and discussed books on U.S. Catholicism in many years.

Pope Extols Franciscan Missionary Priest Murdered In Rwanda

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Franciscan missionary priest murdered in Rwanda is an example of the thousands of religious men and women who completely offer their lives in imitation of Christ, Pope John Paul II said. Father Vijeko Curic, a 40-year-old Croatian missionary in Rwanda since 1983, was shot during the night between Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 near Holy Family Church in Kigali, the Rwandan capital. During his midday Angelus address Feb. 1, Pope John Paul called Father Curic "another victim ... in the long series of missionaries who have confirmed with the sacrifice of their lives their love for Christ and for the African people."

Director Of Pastoral Care For Migrants, Refugees Resigns

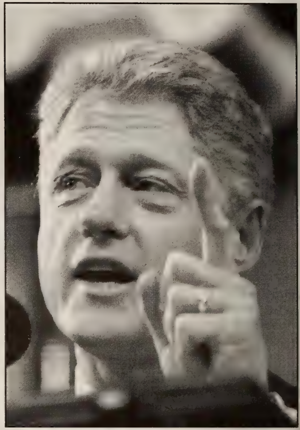
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sister Suzanne Hall resigned Jan. 20 as director of Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees for the U.S. Catholic Conference. Since 1994, Sister Hall, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, had headed the office, which coordinates the church's pastoral outreach to new arrivals in the United States and other people on the move, such as migrant farmworkers and circus workers. The office has a network of pastoral centers and diocesan personnel ministering to a variety of ethnic groups and other migrants.

Former Lansing Church Official Ordained As Kalamazoo Bishop

KALAMAZOO, Mich.(CNS) — Msgr. James A. Murray, former rector and moderator of the curia of the Lansing Diocese, was ordained and installed as the third bishop of Kalamazoo Jan. 27. After thanking members of the diocese for their "strong affirmation" of him as their new bishop, he declared the occasion "a day of rejoicing, a day of rededication." Bishop Murray was named Nov. 18 to head the Kalamazoo Diocese, succeeding Bishop Alfred J. Markiewicz, who died Jan. 9, 1997, from complications resulting from brain cancer.

Clinton Agenda Includes Child Care, Ban On Cloning

By PATRICIA ZAPOR



CNS photo from Reuters

President Clinton delivers his State of the Union speech before Congress Jan. 27. The president pledged to have America lead the world to "new heights of peace and prosperity."

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Clinton's legislative agenda outlined in the State of the Union address includes many items on the priority list of the U.S. Catholic Conference and Catholic Charities USA.

An increase in the minimum wage, subsidies for child care, expanded access to medical care, tax breaks for families and a ban on human cloning were among issues on church agency agendas that were raised by Clinton in his Jan. 27 speech to a joint session of Congress.

The speech mixed recitation of his administration's achievements with dozens of new and ongoing goals.

Most of the issues Clinton raised received little more than a few sentences of reference, but fixing the Social Security funding problems, addressing education deficiencies and making child care and medical care more widely available were dominant themes.

Among the president's points:

— An expected surplus in the federal budget after next year should first be directed toward saving the Social Security system, he said.

Some financial analysts have said the program is in danger of running out of money by the time today's Baby Boomers reach retirement age. Clinton said the White House would sponsor a conference on Social Security this December and host a series of meetings on the subject around the country.

— "In an economy that honors opportunity, all Americans must be able to reap the rewards of prosperity," Clinton said. "Because these times are good, we can afford to take one simple, sensible step to help millions of workers struggling to provide for their families. We should raise the minimum wage."

— "Child care is the next frontier we must face to enable people to succeed at home and at work," Clinton said.

He proposed federal assistance to pay for child care; scholarships and background checks for child-care workers; a new emphasis on early learning; tax credits for businesses that provide child care for employees; and a larger tax credit for child care for working families.

"If you pass my plan, what this means is that a family of four with an income of $35,000 and high child-care costs will no longer pay a single penny of federal income tax," Clinton said.

— He encouraged Congress to pass a consumer bill of rights about medical care.

"You have a right to know all your medical options," Clinton said. "You have the right to choose the doctor you want for the care you need. You have the right to emergency room care wherever and whenever you need it. You have the right to keep your medical records confidential."

— The president said he wants to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to extend its coverage to another 10 million people.

The law requires employers over a certain size to permit their workers to take time off for family emergencies and medical problems. Clinton said the law should be expanded to allow parents to take time off to see their children's teachers or take them to the doctor.

Each of those items was on the agenda of Catholic Charities USA for this year. The board of trustees for the church's domestic social services organization in December approved an 18-item legislative agenda that also included expansion of food stamp availability for immigrants and additional funding for emergency food and shelter programs.

Catholic Charities' top three priorities were child care, food stamps for immigrants and a managed care patients' bill of rights.

The USCC also is pressing for child-care benefits, a minimum wage increase and protection for Social Security and medical benefits.

On other subjects, Clinton reiterated his reasons for keeping U.S. peacekeeping troops in Bosnia and warned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, "You cannot defy the will of the world" in preventing

See **Clinton**, page 13

Clinic Bombing, from page 2

churches in the northern Alabama diocese pray for the victims and their families in the general intercessions at Masses the weekend of Jan. 31-Feb. 1.

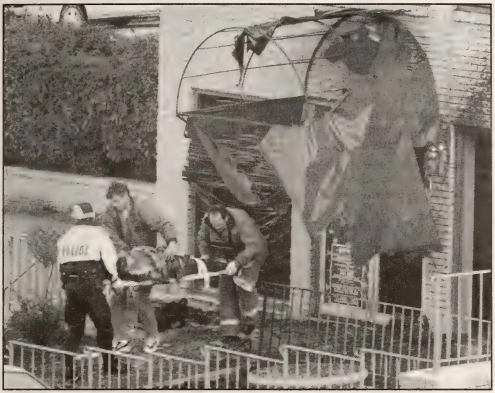
In Chicago, Clarke D. Forsythe, president of Americans United for Life, also condemned the bombing. "We call for an end to the violence," he said in a statement. "Our purpose is to protect and defend human life, not to assault it."

He said his organization would continue "working peacefully through the democratic process to achieve our goal of giving every child in America the legal right to be born."

Joseph Scheidler, executive director of the Chicago-based Pro-Life Action League, said in a statement, "We oppose violence both inside and outside the abortion facilities."

"Pro-lifers denounce any action that takes or endangers human life," he said.

Scheidler said the media and public "are quick to lay blame whenever there is an act of terrorism," but he advised letting investigators determine responsibility. "Don't assume pro-lifers are involved," he said.



CNS photo from Reuters

Emergency workers carry away an unidentified woman who was seriously injured in a bomb blast Jan. 29 at New Woman All Women Health Care, a clinic in Birmingham, Ala., which offers abortions. An off-duty police officer was killed in the blast.

Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council in Washington, denounced the bombing as "lawless violence," and said it is important for all pro-life people to speak out "clearly and unmistakably" against it.

He said in a statement, "These actions do violence not only to their intended targets, but also to the pro-life cause."

"Hearts cannot be turned to the plight of mothers and their children if they have been torn apart by a terrorist's bomb," he said.

David N. O'Steen, executive director of the National Right to Life Committee in Washington, said the organization "unequivocally condemns any such acts of violence used by individuals regardless of their motivation."

"No person who is truly pro-life could commit such an act of violence in the name of protecting unborn children," he said in a statement.

The California ProLife Council, the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, also issued a statement condemning "the bombing and resultant death and injury ... in the strongest possible terms."

In Washington, Feminists for Life pledged $1,000 as seed money to a reward fund "for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the bombing."

"We will not defend anyone who clearly is not pro-life," said Serrin M. Foster, executive director of the Washington-based group, in a statement. "We need to ferret out those who advocate violence by turning them in to the police."

Foster told Catholic News Service Jan. 30 that Dr. Bruce Lucero, the former owner of the bombed clinic who advises Feminists for Life on abortion issues, also has made a pledge to the fund.

The bombed facility is one of four Alabama clinics that are challenging new state laws banning a certain type of late-term abortion. Anti-abortion activists protested outside the clinic Jan. 24, to mark the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion.

The dead policeman is the sixth person killed in abortion clinic violence during this decade. But he is the first to die in a bombing; the others were victims of shootings.

In January 1997 two bombs exploded an hour apart at an Atlanta abortion clinic. Seven people were injured and the case remains unsolved.

"Great Expectations," from page 7

all kinds of changes to adapt it to a contemporary American setting.

By uprooting the story from its Victorian sensibilities, however, the adaptation is only moderately successful as a modern coming-of-age tale.

The melodramatics with the eccentric Ms. Dinsmoor and the grateful ex-con, Lustig, clash uneasily with the realistic setting and the other, more conventional, characters.

As Estella, Paltrow is little more than a beautiful image but, as the tale's narrator, Hawke's Finn has some depth and interest as a character.

What works best is Emmanuel Lubezki's photography which, like Patrick Doyle's music, supplies some emotional feeling and energy to a script in which both are in short supply.

The result is an interesting attempt to modernize a classic but by the end one wonders why they bothered.

Because of some stylized violence, sexual situations, brief nudity and occasional profanity and rough language, The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Videos,

from page 7

For anyone interested in art and its cultural as well as spiritual significance.

"Titanic" (1996)

The epic 1912 disaster which took more than 1,500 lives in the sinking of the title luxury liner is recounted mainly in the story of a torrid shipboard romance between two first-class passengers (Catherine Zeta Jones and Peter Gallagher) and the wooing of a Danish immigrant (Marilu Henner) by a young thief (Mike Doyle) in the steerage section. Directed by Robert Lieberman, the 165-minute TV production largely wastes the human drama inherent in the historic tragedy by focusing on banal fictional characters provided by an inept script, though the re-creation of the majestic vessel and the terrible fate of so many of its passengers is still awesome. Fearsome body count, much menace and some sexual encounters. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Thousands March In Commemoration Of Northern Ireleand's Bloody Sunday

By CHRISTENA COLCLOUGH

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Mikey Bradley, 48, stood on the sidewalk and called out to friends as they made their way to the march for the 26th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

A car accident some years ago damaged Bradley's right leg, making it impossible for him to join his friends in the procession. Now his son, Michael, videotapes the annual commemoration of those who died when British soldiers opened fire at a civil rights march.

At this year's march, more than 10,000 people were led by the victims' families and relatives, who held white crosses, each engraved with the names of those killed. Behind them another row of people carried large posters of the men and boys who died.

A river of people slowly began to wind through the streets of Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second largest city, retracing the steps civil rights protesters took in 1972.

"It started off just like this," Bradley said Feb. 1, pointing to the friendly, jovial atmosphere. "The sun was shining but it was bitter cold. Who could have imagined the way it turned out?"

On Bloody Sunday, Jan. 30, 1972, a 20,000-strong civil rights march through Londonderry turned into a blood bath when British soldiers opened fire on protesters, who they claimed were armed and carrying nail bombs. Thirteen Catholics died that day, another man died some months later as a result of injuries, and dozens more were injured.

Bradley, who was shot in the stomach and arm, remained in the hospital for three months. He told Catholic News Service he is still haunted by the memory of his close friend Jack Duddy, 17, whom he saw lying dead surrounded by a pool of blood.

MICHAEL KELLY

CNS photo from Reuters

Crosses bearing the names of Catholics shot dead 26 years ago on what is now called Bloody Sunday are held by relatives of the 14 victims during an anniversary march Feb. 1 in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced a new investigation into the killings.

The then-British Prime Minster Edward Heath appointed Lord Chief Justice Widgery to investigate the incident. The Widgery Tribunal exonerated the soldiers, saying they had acted in self defense after being attacked by gasoline bombs and sniper fire.

In late January, a new inquiry into Bloody Sunday was announced by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who had come under intense pressure from the Irish government to repudiate Widgery's findings, which it called "willfully flawed, selective and unbalanced."

The Irish government also published a dossier of new forensic and testimonial evidence, including statements of some of the paratroopers that took part in the Bloody Sunday military operation who now deny they came under gunfire, as alleged at the time.

Linda Roddy, 39, was at her aunt's home in 1972 when news came that her brother, William Nash, 19, had been killed and her father, Alexander, had been injured.

She told CNS she welcomed a fresh inquiry, "but the truth is Widgery shattered my trust in the government. I just hope the British do the right thing and end this once and for all.

"Widgery identified my brother as a gunman, though he had no forensic evidence to back that statement up. Our Willie was a joker, a prankster, he was decent and hard working; he wanted to be a boxer like his older brother; he was not a gunman," Roddy said.

At a private wreath-laying ceremony at the Bloody Sunday memorial cross, Father Michael Canny of St. Colmcille's Church prayed with the victims' families.

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For information on the Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207. Telephone 704-331-1709 or 377-6871.

Clinton Agenda, from page 10

United Nations weapons inspectors from searching for banned nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

He encouraged Congress to pay the United States' debt to the United Nations. The Senate has held up payment of more than $800 million in U.S. dues to the world body for several years over objections to various U.N. policies such as those which include abortion in family planning programs.

"It's long past time to make good on our debt to the United Nations," Clinton said. "More and more we are working with other nations to achieve common goals. If we want America to lead, we've got to set a good example."

Clinton also looked farther to the future, predicting that children born this year may well live to see the 22nd century.

"As part of our gift to the millennium, I propose a 21st century research fund for path-breaking scientific inquiry," he said. Funding for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the National Cancer Institute would be significant.

But research in some areas should be limited, Clinton said.

"We must continue to see that science serves humanity, not the other way around," he said. "We must prevent the misuse of genetic tests to discriminate against any American, and we must ratify the ethical consensus of the scientific and religious communities and ban the cloning of human beings."

Bishops Of 4 Denominations Urge Continuing Dialogue

By JOEY REISTROFFER

GREENVILLE, S.C. (CNS) — South Carolina bishops from four denominations joined hands at an ecumenical service, reaffirmed the congregants' baptismal vows and reminded the faithful they are all one in the Lord.

"We have just done a radical thing," said United Methodist Bishop J. Lawrence McClesky about the baptismal renewal. "We have remembered the sacrament which tells us who we are. It gives us an identity. It defines us forever. It takes us back to the root."

The Jan. 18 service drew more than 175 people to Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville.

In addition to the Methodist bishop, the other prelates taking part were: Catholic Bishop David B. Thompson of Charleston; Bishop David A. Donges of the South Carolina synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and Episcopal Bishops Dorsey F. Henderson Jr. and William J. Skilton.

Bishop McClesky called the ecumenical service "radical" because he said many in the congregation have strayed too far from the root of their faith, and that sometimes it takes a radical act to bring them back.

The ecumenical service was a reaffirmation of a 1995 covenant signed by the leaders of the four denominations. In it they pledged to work together to help unify Christians.

Bishop Thompson read the covenant message, which in part says that the approaching millennium and the dialogue between the four denominations "present us with a unique opportunity."

The opportunity is, he read, "to face up to the evil of racism, totally united in the belief that God created us all in his own image and likeness, that he created us all equal and that we all have the same inalienable right."

In his sermon, Bishop McClesky said, "It is important to get identity right. Our baptism tells us who we are. It gives us an identity. It defines us forever. It takes us back to the root."

Bishop McClesky reminded everyone at the service that they are all brothers and sisters in Christ. "Baptism gives us each other. Baptism breaks down barriers that are insurmountable by other means," he added.

Bishop McClesky said Christians of various faiths are called to build a bridge — with baptism as its foundation — to bring all God's people together.

When Bishop Donges invited the congregants to step forward to reaffirm their baptism, he invited them to go to a bishop of a faith different from their own for the blessing.

Many of them did, which Bishop Donges said showed how reaffirmation of baptism could unify the four denominations at the service.

"It was wonderful to see," commented the Rev. Kathleen Chartier, an Evangelical Lutheran minister, who added that she saw much "crossing over" of denominations.

Bishop Donges agreed.

"I had very few of mine come to me," he said. "You can sense when a service has a good spirit, and this one did."

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Diocesan News Briefs

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry sponsors a healing Mass every second Thursday at 7 p.m. in St. Joan of Arc Church. Refreshments follow in the meeting room.

Natural Family Planning

ASHEVILLE — Nazareth Parenting Center of the Basilica of St. Lawrence sponsors a natural family planning meeting Feb. 15 at 3 p.m. in St. Justin Center across from the basilica. The meetings includes a brief overview of NFP, discussion, materials on display and refreshments. Call (704) 252-6042 for further details.

Parents' Weekend

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College's Parents' Weekend is Feb. 13-15. This year's theme is "My Heart Belongs to the Abbey," and events include an address by Dr. Robert Preston, college president; a tour of the abbey church; a basketball double-header; and Mass. For more information, call Augusta Gladd, (704) 825-6888.

Campus Ministry Series

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Campus Ministry group at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte hosts "Voices," a monthly series featuring guest speakers and discussion focusing on the stories and voices of the marginalized. Meetings include potluck dinner. To R.S.V.P., to offer to bring a potluck dish if you wish to have dinner, and to order the resource book "Principles, Prophesy and A Pastoral Response," published by the Campaign for Human Development and the U.S. Catholic Conference (cost is $2), call Barbara Neff Hutchison, (704) 547-4069. The next meeting is Feb. 22 at Aquinas Hall, on the parish grounds of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

CROP Speakers Available

CHARLOTTE — CROP Walk of Charlotte has speakers available to address parish groups during Lenten events. For details, call Frances Daniel, (704) 333-9255.

50+ Club

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club at St. John Neumann Church meets Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m. for a regular meeting, the choosing of the Valentine's Day king and queen, and bingo. Prizes will be awarded to the lucky Valentine's couple. For more information, call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be celebrated in St. Patrick Cathedral Feb. 8 at 4 p.m. Prayer teams will meet at 3 p.m. and after Mass. For more information, call Josie, (704) 527-4676.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to forget the past and start anew. The program begins March 27. For further information, call Nick and Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Separated, Divorced, Remarried Support

CHARLOTTE — A support group for separated, divorced and those remarried "outside the church" meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 6:15-7:30 p.m. at St. Ann Church. For more information, call Kathy Wooley, (704) 376-1503.

Stroke Prevention Screening

GREENSBORO — The 50+ Club of St. Paul the Apostle Church sponsors the Stroke Prevention Life Line Screen for all ages on Feb. 20 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the church. Test results will be sent in three to five days. For information and to register, call (888) 737-7078.

Teen Lenten Retreat

GREENSBORO — The Office of Youth Ministry of the Charlotte Diocese presents a Lenten retreat at St. Pius X Church from Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. until March 1 following an 11:30 a.m. Mass and lunch. The cost is $50, with a $25 deposit due by Feb. 20 and the balance due upon arrival. The fee covers all food and materials for the retreat, including a retreat T-shirt. For details and registration forms, call the Office of Youth Ministry, (704) 370-3243.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — Upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends are scheduled for Feb. 20-22 and April 3-5 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information, call Michael and Stacey Holcolm, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

Faith Formation Workshops

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Church sponsors a series of faith formation workshops presented by Peg Ruble, central region faith formation coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte, Feb. 28 in the school building. Ruble will focus on morality in the 10 a.m. workshop, and the sacraments in the 3 p.m. workshop. Lunch will be provided. To register, call Lynn Rascoe, (704) 728-0739.

Parish Mission

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church sponsors a parish mission called "The Presence of God" Feb. 15-Feb. 18 at 7:15 p.m. each day. The mission's focus is on the manner of God's presence in our lives, the experience of this presence and the transformation that takes place when people connect to that presence. Father Frederick A. Pompei, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., who has traveled extensively throughout the United States in a ministry of evangelization and renewal, is the mission leader. All are invited to attend. For more information, call (704) 664-3992.

ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION
AFE RETURN

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas recently presented checks for $2,320.64 each to the Piedmont and Southern Piedmont chapters of the Alzheimer's Association. Each check represented one-fourth of the proceeds of the Catholic Daughters state court's Safe Return fund-raiser. Pictured from left are Utha Johnson of Charlotte; Victoria Lesse, director of the Alzheimer's Association Southern Piedmont chapter; and Lucille Kroboth, state regent of Catholic Daughters.

Spaghetti Dinner

STATESVILLE — The Knights of Columbus St. James Council 7152 hosts a spaghetti dinner at St. Philip Church on Feb. 15 from 4-6:30 p.m. For more information, call Andrew DeRiso, (704) 873-0166.

Catechetical Conference

WINSTON-SALEM — "Lighting the Fires of Faith III," a catechetical conference sponsored by the northern region of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, is Feb. 21 from 9:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church. The schedule includes morning prayer with Bishop William G. Curlin, addresses and workshops in English and Spanish, and lunch. The conference offers participants spiritual renewal and professional updating for their ministry of catechesis, as well an opportunity to attain another level in the process leading to certification.

Keynote speakers are Father Berard Marthaler, professor emeritus of religion and religious education at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and Dominican Sister Rosa Monique Peña, director of religious education department of the Archdiocese of Miami and chairperson for the Florida conference of diocesan directors of religious education.

Cost is $10, which includes lunch.

Aging Seminar

WINSTON-SALEM — Joseph House of Our Lady of Mercy Parish hosts a continuing series on aging using the anointing of the sick as a model for living one's sacred call in the second half of life. Sessions are Wednesdays at noon until Feb. 18. Bring a bag lunch; drinks and desserts are provided. Call Margaret O'Neil, (910) 765-8775, or Wendy Glen, (910) 924-0400, for more information.

Lenten Series

WINSTON-SALEM — Dr. Beatrice Bruteau shares thoughts from her new book-in-progress, "Holy Thursday Revolution," beginning Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Joseph House at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Subsequent presentations are March 4, 18 and 15, and April 1, 8 and 15. For further information, call (910) 722-0028.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Lenten Musical Drama

"Still," a three-act musical drama, addresses social concerns and the questions people may have when life is not going quite right: "Is there a God? Is he listening?" Act Three focuses on the themes of Lent and Easter, as the actors portray the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. The play is written and directed by Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Belmont and will be presented twice in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The first presentation is March 28 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Michael Church, Gastonia. An encore presentation is at Curtin Hall in Belmont on April 4 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call Sister Larretta, (704) 829-5260.

World And National News Briefs

Survey Shows Change In Catholics' Self-labels On Abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In just over two years, the way Catholics label themselves on the abortion issue has done a complete flip-flop. A poll conducted in January by Baselice & Associates showed that 48 percent of Catholics now describe themselves as "pro-life," compared to 41 percent who called themselves pro-life in December 1995. In the earlier poll, 49 percent of Catholics said they consider themselves to be "pro-choice," while in January 1998 only 41 percent said they would label themselves as pro-choice. Among Catholics who attend church weekly, 61 percent called themselves pro-life in the latest poll, while only 29 percent chose the pro-choice label. The survey results were released by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. The margin of error for the poll was plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Head of Chicago Archdiocese Tackles Racism Issue

CHICAGO (CNS) — "What would a Chicago that's free of racism look like?" the archbishop of Chicago asked a gathering of University of Notre Dame alumni at the city's Union League Club. The lack of people of color at the luncheon — except those serving the food — was a reminder of the pervasiveness of the problem. "Racism is devastating and it is a sin," Cardinal-designate Francis E. George of Chicago told the members of the Notre Dame alumni club. His talk, delivered five days before he was named a cardinal by the pope, was titled, "Racism: Catholic Teaching and Catholic Practice." Those two things, he noted, don't always match.

Vatican Document Urges Vocations Promotion To Entire Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The promotion of vocations must be part of every Catholic Church activity and program and must be addressed to every member of the church, said a new Vatican document on vocations in Europe. "Pastoral work for vocations knows no boundaries," said the document presented at a press conference by the interdepartmental Pontifical Work for Ecclesiastical Vocations. In a culture that emphasizes preparation for a profession and economic security, people need help rediscovering the truth that God calls all people to holiness and that his call is addressed in a specific way to each member of the church, the document said.

Medical Board Initiates De-worming Effort For Central America

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Catholic Medical Mission Board, which usually responds to mission areas' requests for medicines and medical services, has broadened its program by initiating a massive assault on worm infection of children in Central America. Launched in late 1996 with medicine purchased in Europe, the effort has now drawn the support of the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical company, which will donate medicine produced by a subsidiary outside Mexico City and assist with a related health education campaign. Sister Maura B. O'Donohue, a physician with the Medical Missionaries of Mary and program director for the medical board, said, "In Central America, probably 50 percent or more of the children have worms."

Archbishop Urges U.S. Support For Peace In Algeria

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee denounced the continuing violence in Algeria and urged U.S. government support for efforts to bring peace to the region. "As religious leaders we cannot remain silent as hundreds of innocent civilians are killed on a weekly basis," wrote Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., in a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. "We believe that our government has a humanitarian and moral obligation to support and encourage all efforts to bring peace, stability and reconciliation to all sides in the Algerian conflict," wrote the archbishop.

Russian Church Official Criticizes Secrecy Of Moscow Talks

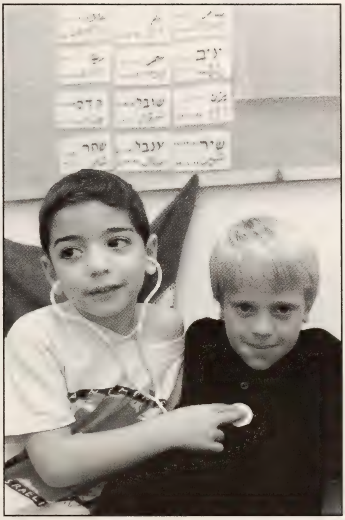
MOSCOW (CNS) — A Russian Catholic church official criticized the secrecy surrounding mid-January talks between Vatican and Russian Orthodox officials and voiced disappointment at the lack of consultation with local Catholics. However, the head of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity said local Catholic representatives were not invited to the talks since discussions did not concern matters within their jurisdiction. "Talks like this have no effect on (improving) Russian Orthodox or local government attitudes" toward the Catholic Church, said Father Viktor Bartsevich, chancellor of the Apostolic Administration of European Russia.

Washington State Farmworkers Face Critical Housing Problem

SEATTLE (CNS) — Although farmworkers in Washington state must contend with federal immigration laws, low pay and few of the benefits enjoyed by most American workers, it is the lack of adequate housing that wears on them every single day. According to estimates by the Washington State Department of Health, 62,300 migrant farmworkers came to the state in 1996. Sixty percent of them had nowhere to live. "In general, growers don't think it's their responsibility to provide housing for migrant employees," said Mike Gempler, executive director of the Washington Growers' League.

In Survey, Many Russians Say Patriarch-Pope Meeting Is 'Desirable'

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — More than one-half of Russians think their country's Orthodox church leader should hold talks with the pope, according to a new survey. However, fewer than one in five think Pope John Paul II's expected February meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin will serve any purpose. In the survey, conducted by the Moscow-based Center for International Sociological Studies, 38 percent of citizens said they favored closer Orthodox-Catholic relations, while 68 percent agreed with the suggestion that a papal meeting with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II was "desirable." However, half claimed to have little or no knowledge of Vatican activities, according to the poll, which was carried out by Poland's state-owned PAP news agency among a representative sample in the Russia's 14 regions.


CNS photo by Debbie Hill

Jewish and Arab children study and play together in the Peace School in Neve Shalom or Wahat al-Salam, the Hebrew and Arab words for Oasis of Peace, in Israel. The community was established 25 years ago by a Dominican priest. It is home to 32 families.

All Dallas Parties Told To Mediate $118 Million Judgement

DALLAS (CNS) — Texas District Judge Anne Ashby signed a record-breaking $118 million judgment against the Dallas Diocese and Rudolph Kos, a former Dallas priest accused of sexually abusing minors. But she ordered the plaintiffs, the diocese and its former insurance carriers to enter mediation to resolve how the judgment is to be paid. Ashby also ordered transfer to her court of a lawsuit the diocese filed last August against Lloyd's of London and Interstate Fire & Casualty Co. The diocese is suing the insurance companies over their refusal to cover its liabilities and legal defense. The companies claim their policies did not provide coverage for conspiracy and gross negligence, which the jury found in holding the diocese liable for Kos' actions.

Armey: Law Banning Human Cloning Should Be Quick, Thorough

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Legislation to ban human cloning should be permanent and extend to all phases of private and government-funded research, according to a supporter of such a bill. House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, said he is heartened that President Clinton supports a ban on cloning, but fears the White House proposal would not go far enough. At a press conference at the Capitol, Armey said a ban on human cloning should be legislative, not just an order of the administration, which could be repealed at the "whim of (Food and Drug Administration) bureaucrats." He also disagreed with the administration's five-year limit on the ban.

South African Catholic Schools Have Highest Graduation Rate

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Catholic schools in South Africa graduated nearly twice as many students as other schools in the country in 1997, said the director of the Catholic Institute of Education. Almost two-thirds of Catholic schools obtained a 100 percent graduation rate, and 68 percent of graduates of Catholic schools obtained university entrance requirements, according to a late-January statement issued by Notre Dame Sister Brigid Rose Tiernan, director of the Johannesburg-based institute. Most Catholic schools operate in black townships and rural areas, which are "usually undermined by poverty and unemployment," Sister Tiernan said.

Souper Bowl Drive Nets $1.5 Million In Pledges

WASHINGTON (CNS) — This year's Souper Bowl campaign to donate money to local food banks set new records in money pledged and churches participating. As of early Jan. 28, $1.48 million had been pledged, and the Rev. Brad Smith, a Presbyterian minister in the Columbia, S.C., suburb of Spring Valley, said he expected the total to break $1.5 million by day's end. And 8,000 churches had called in their pledges, Rev. Smith added.

Chapel of the Redeemer

Parish Profile

Chapel of the Redeemer
Route 25/70
Hot Springs, N.C.
Mail: P.O. Box 1406
Mars Hill, N.C. 28754

Vicariate: Asheville

Pastor:
Jesuit Father Edward M. Ifkovits

Mass Schedule:
Sunday — 10:30 a.m.

Number of parishioners: 20

Number of families: 14

HOT SPRINGS — Catholicism in the mountain region of North Carolina has largely been a missionary entity for the past century, with small faith communities scattered about the hills and valleys of the state's western counties. Numbers of Catholics have grown in recent years, however, and there are now two dozen Catholic churches in the Diocese of Charlotte's two westernmost vicariates. Among them is the Chapel of the Redeemer in Hot Springs, whose history is rich with Jesuit presence and missionary outreach.

During the mid-1800s, a pair of priests ministered to Catholics living in a vast territory ranging from Columbia, S.C., to the northwestern mountains of North Carolina. In 1885, H.T. Rumbrough offered a gift of land to Bishop Henry Northrup of Charleston to build a Catholic church upon. The site was located in the Madison County town of Warm Springs, located along the French Broad River near the Tennessee border.

Warm Springs — renamed Hot Springs in 1886 — had its first Catholic church by decade's end. Named St. John Church, it became a mission of St. Lawrence Parish in Asheville.

By the early years of the 20th century, only one Catholic was living in Madison County, and St. John Church went unused and was eventually dismantled. In 1905 the lone Catholic, Bessie Safford — a member of the Rumbrough family and widow of Andrew Johnson Jr., the president's son — received permission to transfer the church furnishings to a small chapel attached to her home.

The Jesuits arrived in Hot Springs in 1926 to serve in the area, thus beginning a relationship between the small town and the religious order that continues today. Under the pastorate of the Jesuits, Catholics in several mountain counties were served.

By 1930, the increasing size of the Catholic population in the area warranted the construction of the Church of the Little Flower in Revere. The now-defunct church was an instrumental part of the early missionary landscape in Madison, Yancey and Mitchell counties, as it was among nearly a half-dozen Catholic mission stations established in the region by the mid-1930s.

In 1954, the Jesuit serving in Hot Springs at the time, Father Andrew Graves, acquired a parcel of land in town. The site would later become the home of two Catholic institutions in the diocese, the Chapel of the Redeemer and the Jesuit House of Prayer.

The A-frame Chapel of the Redeemer was built in the mid-1960s. On the property, the Jesuits in the mid-1970s also built a hostel for hikers traveling the Appalachian Trail. The site became a frequently visited place of ministry during the 1970s and '80s, as the priests have sponsored the hikers' hostel, a group home for boys, and the Jesuit House of Prayer, a retreat center that remains in use today. Jesuit Father Vincent Alagia has served as retreat director at the House of Prayer since 1982.

Jesuit Father Francis Reese was appointed pastor of Chapel of the Redeemer in 1979. His period of service was one of transition in the Diocese of Charlotte, as a mission in Mars Hill was placed under the care of Hot Springs in 1981 before being established as St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in 1985.

Mars Hill, to the southeast of Hot Springs, had become the population center of Catholicism in Madison and northern Buncombe counties by the 1980s. With the establishment of the new parish in Mars Hill came missionary status, under the pastorate of St. Andrew Church, for Sacred Heart Church in Burnsville in 1986. Chapel of the Redeemer became a mission of Mars Hill in the early 1990s. In addition, the Church of the Little Flower in Revere was a mission of the Chapel of the Redeemer for a number of years. The Revere church has not been in diocesan use since 1996.

The Jesuits have continued to serve in the region. In September 1996, Jesuit Father Edward M. Ifkovits was appointed pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle and its two missions in Burnsville and Hot Springs.

Because of the need for major interior and exterior renovation work, the Chapel of the Redeemer was closed in 1997 to begin that project. Parishioners have gathered for liturgies in the chapel at the Jesuit House of Prayer, and await the return to their refurbished church in the spring of this year.

Twenty registered parishioners currently worship in Hot Springs.

Archive Photo

The Chapel of the Redeemer, pictured in this 1977 photograph, is currently undergoing extensive renovation work.

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 7 Number 23 • February 13, 1998

Pope Urges Negotiated Settlement To Iraq Crisis

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II warned that new military intervention in Iraq would be counterproductive and urged all sides to find a negotiated settlement to the latest crisis.

CNS photo from Reuters

A woman and her daughter sit by the food rations center in Saddam City near Baghdad in Iraq Feb. 9. During his Sunday blessing Feb. 8, Pope John Paul II warned that new military intervention in Iraq would be counterproductive.

The pope's strong words came during a Sunday blessing Feb. 8, as the United States was beefing up its military presence in the Persian Gulf in view of a possible strike against Iraqi targets. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has refused to allow unconditional U.N. inspection of suspected chemical weapons sites in his country.

The pope said he had been following the developments in Iraq with deep concern and wanted to express his hope that international leaders would "use the instruments of diplomacy and dialogue to avoid any use of weapons."

"I am convinced that all sides still have the possibility of understanding each other and reaffirming the principles that peacefully govern international coexistence," he said.

The pope, who was a strong critic of the 1991 Gulf war against Iraq, said the current crisis in the same country illustrates that war never brings real solutions.

"The very situation in Iraq and in the entire region of the Middle East teaches us that armed conflicts do not resolve problems, but create greater misunderstandings among peoples," he said.

He added that the Vatican was encouraging all those working to continue negotiations "in order to avoid actions of war and favor a path of peace."

CNS photo from Reuters

U.S. Navy F-14 jet fighters fly over an aircraft carrier during operations in the Persian Gulf Feb. 7. As the United States stood poised to strike Iraqi chemical weapons sites, church leaders, including Pope John Paul II, were warning against military action.

In his annual address to diplomats in early January, the pope highlighted the suffering of the civilian population in Iraq, which has been under U.N. embargo since 1990. He called on those inside and outside Iraq to show flexibility in ending the ongoing problems.

In recent weeks, U.S. officials have complained that Saddam has refused to allow U.N. inspectors into suspected weapons sites, including the huge presidential compound in Baghdad.

On Feb. 8, a few hours after the pope's latest remarks, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright warned that time was running out for the Iraqi president. She said the United States was preparing a "substantial strike" against Iraqi targets.

Permanent Diaconate An Ordained Ministry of Service

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — It's barely noon when Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning enters his office at the diocesan Pastoral Center, and already he has put in close to a day's work.

This morning, he's spent time tending to parishioners' needs at St. Gabriel Church, the Charlotte parish where he is assigned. He has also stopped by Charlotte Douglas International Airport, where daily he encounters any number of globetrotters pausing from their hectic pace for a moment in the facility's chapel.

Rev. Mr. Wenning is a permanent deacon, a man who has devoted himself to an ordained ministry of service. His is a life that continually keeps him busy, eight years after retiring from the Federal Aviation Administration as deputy chief of the air control tower at the Charlotte airport.

"When I retired, I became the associate airport chaplain," says Rev. Mr. Wenning, ordained as a permanent deaçon in 1988. "I'd already been assigned to St. Gabriel's when I began functioning as a deacon at the airport. Now, I'm at St. Gabriel's, at the chancery, and at the airport."

DSA '98

The passage of time between "then" and "now" has been one of growth for both Rev. Mr. Wenning and the ministry to which he is ordained.

Rev. Mr. Wenning's family life with wife Dot, five adult children and 11 grandchildren brings joys and adventures daily. And ministerial life keeps him on the go, too. In addition to his diaconal duties at St. Gabriel Church, Rev. Mr. Wenning now serves as the airport chaplain, a regional director of the diaconate, and the diocese's diaconate administrator.

It is the latter duty that keeps him most in touch with the more than 60 deacons in this diocese. With the growth of that ministry and of the diocese itself comes the need for constant evaluation of how to best serve the needs of Bishop William G. Curlin and the pastors of parishes throughout western North Carolina.

The Deacon's Role

Promising allegiance to his bishop, the permanent deacon bases his ministry on service to the people of his parish and community. Once assigned to a parish, his duties can include assisting in the celebration of liturgies, reading and preaching about the Gospel during Mass, administering the Eucharist, and officiating at baptisms, weddings and funerals. Many permanent deacons are involved in marriage preparation for couples, education work, and areas of ministry particular to the region they serve, such as multicultural ministry.

While the permanent deacon does not share in the sacramental ministry of consecrating the Eucharist, anointing the sick and participating in reconciliation, he is called by his ordination to minister to people of faith by word and especially by example.

As a member of the third rank of ordained ministry in Roman-rite Catholicism, the deacon is the only ordained man in the church allowed to marry, provided that he is married at the time of his ordination. Most deacons, both in this diocese and across the United States, are married, which brings a unique aspect to their work.

"When we prepare homilies and preach, for instance, in many cases whatever we preach is filtered through the fact that we have wives and families; in my case, there are grown kids who are married and have children themselves," says Rev. Mr. Wenning. "We reflect (on Scripture) from a very interesting stand-

See **Permanent Diaconate,** page 2

Virtue Or Job Performance? Public Standards Different

By **PATRICIA ZAPOR**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Poll after poll shows the American public is more pleased with the way things are going in the country than they are worried by sex-scandal accusations against their president.

That apparently came as a surprise to many political commentators.

But the director of the Center for Ethics at Loyola University in Chicago thinks it demonstrates that the public has a two-pronged sense of what matters to the country — while people want their president to represent national virtue, the possibility that he doesn't meet that standard means far less than whether he meets other standards.

Dave Ozar, who also teaches ethics at the Jesuit university, said recent polls show that public expectations of the president as national leader don't necessarily have much to do with whether he represents an admirable national image of morality.

"The country recognizes there are two parts to the job," Ozar said. "They want a person who is able to do the policy, the administrative job, right. But they also want an admirable person."

He contrasted U.S. expectations of the president to the standard in countries with a parliamentary form of government. A prime minister's job is almost entirely about being a good administrator, Ozar said. But the U.S. presidency carries the additional burden of representing "national qualities."

"The office as we understand it in this society has a special obligation of prudence."

In some ways, Americans expect their president to represent a kind of exemplar of behavior, he said. Recent events show, however, that this standard matters most "when what we learn about someone doesn't fit our picture of him."

Given the history of accusations about Clinton having extramarital relationships with women, the current allegations don't necessarily change most people's image of him, according to Ozar.

"There are no doubt some people who say 'he's a slimeball, but he's a good administrator,'" Ozar said.

In comparison, Ozar noted that former President Jimmy Carter was consistently admired as a moral and ethical man, but he was considered to be fairly inept at the job of administrator-in-chief. Carter was soundly trounced by Ronald Reagan in his 1980 re-election bid.

"Most people don't feel this is going to take the country down," is how Ozar interprets polls showing 67 percent of the public believe Clinton is doing a good job as president. That support increased from about 47 percent in polls taken just before the accusations hit the news Jan. 21.

Whether or not the public believes allegations that the president had an affair with a White House intern and told her to lie about it, his strong support also may reflect public annoyance with the intense media coverage of the subject, according to Ozar.

"Ninety percent of what has been on the national news is 'what ifs,'" he said. "One thing that really troubles me is the extent to which the media seems to be completely as comfortable reporting accusations, guesses and 'what ifs' as they are with reporting actual facts."

"Most ordinary people don't think they've proven anything," Ozar said.

"They don't rule it out," he added. But unless and until there's proof, public opinion is likely to stay on the side of someone they believe is doing a good job as chief administrator of the country.

The 20-point increase in support for Clinton after the Jan. 27 State of the Union address probably had less to do with the content of the president's speech than "the fact that he did it and didn't whine about other things."

"We seem to be able to accept the idea that the 'running the country' job is more important than the 'maintaining private virtue' job," Ozar said.

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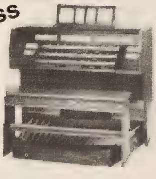

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Permanent Diaconate, from page 1

point, because we live a certain kind of experience."

Restoration and Formation

Fifteen years have passed since Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley ordained the first class of permanent deacons to serve in the Diocese of Charlotte. Following centuries of near-non-existence, the permanent diaconate was restored by Pope Paul VI in 1967, thereby allowing men to become deacons for life.

In this diocese, when Rev. Mr. Wenning was ordained, the formation process for entering the diaconate consisted of three years. Now, the preparation is six years, beginning with the diocese's two-year lay ministry program and continuing with four years of academia and growing in faith.

"We have structured the diaconate to reflect the needs of the Diocese of Charlotte, rather than build on a national or international standard," says Rev. Mr. Wenning, who with Rev. Mr. Louis Pais oversees the diaconate formation program in the diocese.

In recent years, the diaconate has been organized into vicariates, headed by four regional vicars. Rev. Mr. Wenning focuses on the Charlotte area, while Rev. Mr. Andrew Cilone, Rev. Mr. Tim Rohan and Rev. Mr. Jos Vandermeer tend to the western Piedmont, Triad and mountain areas, respectively.

Rev. Mr. Wenning says in addition to the requirement of the lay ministry program, there is now added focus on the understanding of holy orders and matrimony and the development of homilies, areas that will aid in deacons' service to the people of the diocese.

Another area of restructuring is spirituality and prayer life. "The first six months that the current class met — last January to June — was basically a retreat," Rev. Mr. Wenning says. "It was strictly a spiritual journey; all they worked on that first half-year was the ability to take work, marriage and possibly children into the diaconate with an understanding of spirituality."

The current permanent diaconate class consists of 10 interns.

"We introduce (the interns) to many professors over the course of their formation, because we don't want them to get one line of thought on Christology or church history or whatever we are presenting," says Rev. Mr. Wenning.

Given the enthusiasm shown by the people and administrators of the Charlotte Diocese, Rev. Mr. Wenning sees a bright future for the diaconate in western North Carolina. "We really can't go anyplace but up," he says with a grin.

The permanent diaconate is one of the 35 ministries and offices receiving funding from generous parishioners of the Diocese of Charlotte who give to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

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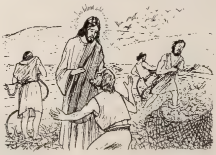

Jesus said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." They caught a great number of fish. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." (Luke 5:4-11)

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

Readings for the week of February 15—21, 1998

Sunday
Jeremiah 17:5-8
1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20
Luke 6:17, 20-26

Monday
James 1:1-11
Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday
James 1:12-18
Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday
James 1:19-27
Mark 8:22-26

Thursday
James 2:1-9
Mark 8:27-33

Friday
James 2:14-24,26
Mark 8:34—9:1

Saturday
James 3:1-10
Mark 9:2-13

Catholics, Lutherans Come Together For The Lenoir Rhyne Colloquium

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

On Feb. 5, two bishops — one Roman Catholic, the other a former bishop of the North Carolina Lutheran Synod — came together to proclaim the Gospel.

Dr. Michael McDaniel, director of the Center of Theology at Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory, invited Bishop William G. Curlin to participate in the inaugural colloquium of the Lutheran College. As the first of seven center-sponsored activities, the colloquium hopes to become a popular forum for laity and clergy of various denominations and backgrounds gather to discuss "original essays on current religious issues," ranging from the authority of the Bible to ethical topics like abortion.

With a topic of spiritual growth, Bishop William G. Curlin highlighted steps for such growth, while pointing out spirituality requires effort and will: "Form a holy disciplined life that will help you stay focused. Although there is a presence of God in our lives through baptism, I am convinced that it does not end there. There must be growth."

Included, he said, are three elements: embracing the Pascal mystery, building an authentic relationship with Christ, and seeing Christ in others. Bishop Curlin offered humorous and sometimes very moving accounts of how to live one's life for God.

"Whenever I fail in some way, it is because my eyes were not on Jesus Christ but on myself," said the bishop, adding that "as disciples of Jesus we must live the Pascal mystery, the dying of the self and the rising of Christ within us." Without this self-sacrifice, a person runs the risk of prescribing to a "veneer religion," gaining only an emotional relationship which lacks depth, according to the bishop.

To improve a personal relationship with Christ, Bishop Curlin spoke of the value of "quiet reflection" and how the sacraments enrich that relationship with God. Other strengths he mentioned were daily devotion to the Blessed Sacrament — an essential element in his own life — and spiritual reading, especially the reading and study of Holy Scriptures. "The Lord's Word is like a diamond. As you turn it, new things are constantly being revealed," he said.

Throughout his talk, he emphasized the need to see Christ in others. He gave several accounts of how Mother Teresa, someone who profoundly influenced his own spiritual life, lived and breathed that message. He recalled when Mother Teresa asked him what he gave the poor who came to the door of his rectory. After he responded she asked, "Do you give love, do you give them Jesus?" Bishop Curlin said that he constantly witnessed the Christ in her touching the Christ in others.

"Believe God is alive in you and you can do anything," he said in conclusion, "but realize that it is God working through you as you surrender your life to him."

"There are times when we feel Heaven is very close. This is one of those times," said Dr. McDaniel of Bishop Curlin's talk.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE PASTORAL CENTER
THE CHANCERY

February 6, 1998

Dear Friends in Christ:

In Central and Eastern Europe, the collapse of communism has radically changed the lives of millions of people. Freedom and opportunity abound, but decades of oppression have left people morally and spritually starved.

Through the past seven annual collections to aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Catholics in the U.S. have provided nearly $37 million to more than 1,400 projects in twenty-one countries. Light is breaking through the darkness. However, what took decades to undermine and nearly destroy will take years to restore.

Our contributions help support seminarians and religion and help in the rebuilding of convents and monasteries. They help to educate people in the Faith, making it possible for them to become catechists and teachers. Surely, our contributions assist in many other ministries — all of them important to the rebuilding of the church in that area.

The collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will be taken on Ash Wednesday, February 25. We ask your generous response in order that we might continue to help rebuild the Church and nourish the faith of the region.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Rev. Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

Our nation stands in judgement now, as it did more than a century ago: are we to be a nation that honors its commitments to the right to life, or not? And if not, then just what does our nation stand for?

—"Light and Shadows: Our Nation 25 Years After Roe v. Wade," National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 15 — 11 a.m.
Concelebrating Mass with
Bishop Edward Braxton of the
Archdiocese of St. Louis
(Bishop Braxton will serve as principal
celebrant and homilist)
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

February 16
Visit from Provincial of
Oblates of St. Francis, Charlotte

February 19 — 10 a.m.
Board Meeting
Foundation of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Charlotte, Charlotte

1 p.m.
Personnel Meeting, Charlotte

February 21 — 9:30 a.m.
Northern Region Catechetical Conference
St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem

February 22 —11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Feb. 4.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis in preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, today we reflect on Christ, who was sent by the Father for the salvation of the world. Jesus defined his mission as one of service. Rather than reveal himself as the glorious Son of Man, he showed his desire to serve, in particular when he washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper. Christ's mission of service culminates in his giving of his life as a ransom for many. He is the universal Savior who offers the gift of salvation to all. He is the one mediator between God and humanity. While Christians recognize the presence of saving elements in other religions, they know that these depend upon the grace of Christ. Following St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, we can say: "Jesus Christ is the 'alpha' and the 'omega,' the beginning and the end of all things. ... We can do all things through Christ, with Christ and in Christ."

I extend a special welcome to the Marist Brothers, and I encourage them to continue to give faithful witness to their special charism. I greet the participants in the Gregorian Chant Study Week and the students from Loyola University. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors I cordially invoke the blessings of almighty God.

Pope Sends Condolences After Cable Car Accident In Italy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II sent a message of condolence after 20 people died in an accident at a northern Italian ski resort. A low-flying U.S. military plane snapped a suspended cable car line at a resort near the town of Cavalese in the Dolomite mountains Feb. 3. The car plummeted about 200 feet to the ground, killing its operator and 19 passengers. In a telegram to the archbishop of nearby Trent, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state, said Pope John Paul wished to communicate his sympathies to the victims' families and friends.

Pope Says Angolan President, UNITA Reps Should Meet For Peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged the leaders of Angola's opposing factions to consolidate a shaky, three-year-old peace agreement by meeting face-to-face in a sign of national reconciliation. The African nation needs such an encounter to help the "culture of violence give way to the culture of peace," the pope said Feb. 7 in a talk to Angola's new ambassador to the Vatican, Jose Bernardo Domingo Quiosa. Implementation of the 1994 Angolan peace agreement has been slow and incomplete. One reason is that UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi has continued to rearm some of his troops in the Angolan countryside.

Coming of Age

Amy Welborn

Untangling Infatuation

What's the difference between infatuation and authentic love?

Think about the following story:

Two teens started dating a few months back. At first it was the usual mutual infatuation at work. You know how that feels.

The excitement of attraction, the pleasure that comes from knowing that someone is attracted to you, the pride in dating someone and the good times from hanging out with someone you like were all a part of it.

But after a couple of months, Sandra started losing interest.

The infatuation passed, and what remained was a certain level of affection, but nothing she could call "love."

But she kept dating the guy.

It eventually got to the point at which she didn't even like kissing him, didn't want to be in a relationship with him.

But she kept dating him.

She even continued to say "I love you" to him.

Why?

There are many reasons people stay in dating relationships even when they're no longer terribly interested in the other person.

There's the fear of the unknown. This is a secure thing, they reason. This person likes me, and as long as I stick with him I'll have someone to hang out with on Friday nights. It might be a little scary to be all alone again.

There's the fear that maybe I'm wrong, maybe this person is right for me and I just need to get over whatever is bothering me.

But probably the strongest deterrent to breaking up, even when the relationship no longer is doing much for you, is this: "I don't want to hurt him.''

Of course you don't. No one with a conscience wants to cause another person pain. It would be really frightening if a person's response to this situation was: "Great! I get to break up with Suzie tonight! It will be a blast to see her cry!''

Heavens, no.

But in a situation like the one I've outlined, clear thinking is in order — clear thinking about what respect is, how we should treat others and our responsibilities toward other people.

—First, in your mind, do a little role playing. What would you want if you were dating someone who wasn't that crazy over you, but only kept it up because of pity? Isn't that kind of insulting?

Wouldn't you want that person to be honest with you, end it, so you can move on and find someone who is really interested in you? Would you want to be wasting your time? Would you want to be lied to? I doubt it.

So if you wouldn't want that, it's a pretty sure bet that the person you're deceiving wouldn't either.

Finally, it is only a shallow sort of respect that prompts us to lie to other people in order to spare their feelings.

If we have a deep, true respect for others based on their integrity as children of God, we know that everyone deserves honesty, and we are obligated to give it to them.

It's not easy. It's not painless. But just remember — the longer you wait, the more painful it will be, and the more your own integrity will be compromised by your own deception, no matter how well-meaning it might be.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

Does God Answer Prayers?

There once was a small Kentucky town that had two churches and one whiskey distillery. Members of both churches complained that the distillery gave the community a bad image. "Besides," they said, "the owner is an atheist." They tried again and again to close the place down, but were unsuccessful. At last, they decided to hold a joint Saturday night prayer meeting to ask God to intervene.

Saturday night came and all through the prayer meeting a terrible electrical storm raged. To the delight of the church members, lightning struck the distillery and it burned to the ground. The next morning, the sermons in both churches were on "The Power of Prayer."

Fire insurance adjusters promptly notified the distillery owner they would not pay for his damages. The fire was caused by an "act of God," they said, and was not covered in the policy. So the distillery owner sued all the church members, claiming they had conspired with God to destroy his building.

The defendants denied absolutely that they had done anything to cause the fire. The trial judge observed, "I find one thing about this case that is very perplexing. We have a situation where the plaintiff — an atheist — is professing his belief in the power of prayer, and the defendants — all church members — are denying the power of prayer."

We can identify with that judge's frustration. A lot of us pray to praise God, to offer gratitude and to express contrition. But mostly, we seem to ask for God's intervention. In a Newsweek poll, 54 percent of American adults report praying on a daily basis. Eighty-two percent ask for health or success for a child or family member when they pray. Seventy-five percent ask for strength to overcome personal weakness.

Maybe the most interesting statistic is the whopping 87 percent who say that God answers their prayers even though the outcome is not what they had prayed for. How do people know that God really answers their prayers? Science cannot prove that an answered prayer is in fact an act of God. Yet many doctors are convinced that prayers can significantly improve a patient's health. Several recent tests demonstrate that individuals who believe in the power of prayer have positively affected their health.

Still, prayer itself can present a problem. We expect so much. After all, Jesus said, "Ask and you shall receive" and when we do not receive the answer we want, we may begin to wonder and doubt.

Have you ever noticed that the Lord's Prayer is made up of several requests or petitions? "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen."

Each subsequent petition depends squarely on our acceptance of the first. When we acknowledge God as God and accept that we are not God, we confront our total dependence and reliance on our Father. By hallowing God, by revering Him, we can finally give up the control we so desperately and mistakenly seek over our lives. What we receive is peace.

In that moment, we will know that God does indeed answer every prayer.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Seeing as God Sees," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Explaining to a Child Why Jesus Died

Q. As I try to explain my Catholic faith to my 5-year-old, I get into a bind on why Jesus died.

All my life I've been told he died for my sins, which sounds like in payment for my sins. This makes God sound like a sadistic accountant.

I know our God is a loving God. I would appreciate whatever explanation you can give.

A. First, it is essential to remember we are dealing here with an awesome mystery, one closely connected to the mystery of the incarnation itself.

How God can become fully human and still remain fully God is a truth we can never completely understand or adequately put into human categories and experiences.

The same is true of this incarnate God's redemptive actions as they relate to us and to his and our Father.

Mystery though it is, Jesus gives us some wonderful glimpses of what was really happening in his suffering and death.

Most important, as he repeats often in one way or another, his sacrifice was a free act of the infinite Spirit of love that flows between himself and the Father.

There is, as Jesus says, no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. Thus, for neither Father nor Son was the cross a humiliation, a degradation, an imposed sentence.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in its treatment of the subject, says the sacrifice of Jesus "expresses his loving communion with the Father. 'The Father loves me because I lay down my life,' said the Lord, '(for) I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father''' (No. 606; Jn 10:17, 14:31).

As I noted, we simply have no human experience of this kind of love to compare it with, to help us understand it.

Which brings us to your question. If it was not the suffering and pain and death for its own sake that made the cross redemptive, then what was it? Again, the Gospels give us numerous insights.

The "sins of the world" to be taken away by the Savior were all to some degree victories of the powers of evil, of the seductive insinuation that somehow human happiness and fulfillment will be found in disobedience to God, in surrendering to the powers of vengeance and destruction rather than to those of love and life.

At least once Jesus had to rebuke the disciples themselves for wanting to take revenge on those who rejected Jesus, to kill them (Lk 9:51).

When gentiles approach the disciples, apparently hoping to provide Jesus an escape from the rising tide of hatred around him, he answers that the grain of wheat must die to produce fruit.

"When I am lifted up from earth, I will draw everyone to myself,'' he said. When I am on the cross, I will attract everyone to me (Jn 12:32-33).

This attractive power was the love he talked about. On the cross he absorbed all the hatred and evil of human sinfulness and turned it back, not in revenge or escape, but in love.

By some mysterious insight his taunters seemed to sense what was happening. Come down from the cross and we will believe, they said. But he did not.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lykes

Family stories have always been well appreciated in our family. They help us better connect with each other, our extended family members who share a common story with us, and our ancestors who often are the subjects of those stories. As the stories move from the oral tradition to the written, there is a concreteness that evolves. As the story gels in the written form, so do those connection we experience with family members.

Andrew's cousin Thom recently wrote an essay on their great-grandmother Cora Chandler Dorsey — "Mama." Mama's story was among the many family stories that shaped our family identity. Over the years her story of her childhood, of how she came to Chicago from Lebanon, Kentucky, of how she found love, and of how she struggled to raise her family has inspired us in many different ways.

Raised by a woman we know only as "Miss Lizzy," a wealthy, white landowner of a prominent Kentucky family, Cora's parentage was questionable. It is not known for sure whether or not Miss Lizzy was Cora's mother. She always referred to her benefactor as "the woman who raised me."

But her relationship with this woman was that of a daughter. Cora's mixed-race characteristics and her relationship with Miss Lizzy were scandalous in the late 19th century Kentucky society.

Despite the controversy, Miss Lizzy defied social norms and devoted herself to the well-being of young Cora.

Miss Lizzy died when Cora was in early teens. For the sake of her safety she was sent to Chicago, as members of Miss Lizzy's family meant to do her harm to protect the family inheritance. In Chicago, Cora struggled through an abusive marriage and eventually found love with a man who died at an early age and left her with four young children to raise.

Mama's story had many parallels with the salvation story rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition. The love she got from Miss Lizzy was an extraordinary love that reminds us of the Covenant relationship between God and the Israelites. Her maltreatment by family members and her eventual exile to Chicago also offer biblical comparisons.

Hers is a story of defiance against evil, of courage, of resilience and of love. As the story has been passed on in the oral tradition, different aspects of the story have been highlighted according to the memory of different family members. Mama's story has taken on different meanings to different people over the years.

Thom's documenting the story and including all of the various sides has given us as a family a much deeper appreciation of the story. Documentation has allowed the story to be preserved.

Similarly the Old Testament story of the Israelites united the 12 tribes by narratives that reported a common heritage and kinship.

Though Mama's story will continue to be retold and refined, having a document to which we can refer will give our family more coherence. Mama's story continues to be a font to which we may go to better remember the virtues from which we come. It is a sacred story that has power in our lives.

Taking the Mystery Out of Probate

By JAMES E. KELLEY
Diocesan Development Director

You may be surprised to learn that many Americans die without a valid will. This means that the estates of well over 50 percent of adult Americans end up being divided under the terms of their state's "laws of descent and distribution."

State-arranged distribution may be satisfactory for individuals whose wishes coincide with state law. For Catholics, however, faithful stewardship suggests more comprehensive planning that provides ways of continuing God's work.

The Role Of Probate

Regardless of whether you live down the street or across the country, the role of probate remains one of the least understood aspects of financial planning. Probate procedures help settle the deceased's affairs by providing:

- A means of proving the validity of a will.
- A procedure through which a will can be contested.
- A court-supervised process for settling an estate when there is no will.
- A forum for creditors to present their claims — and prevent other creditors not involved with probate from making future claims against an estate.

What Does Probate Affect?

Assets not left to specific beneficiaries through other means pass through probate. Because assets such as life insurance, jointly owned property, retirement plan funds, and trusts generally have designated recipients, they are normally exempt from probate — but are considered part of the estate for tax purposes.

Personal property (jewelry, cash, and other items) frequently are transferred only through probate. Yet with careful planning, some of it can pass outside of probate.

For example, you may name a charitable beneficiary to a savings account so that proceeds go automatically to your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, Foundation, or the Diocese of Charlotte when you no longer need them.

Express Your Wishes

In most cases, a special court — often called the probate court — oversees distribution of property not left to designated heirs. It is therefore most important to determine if plans were left to instruct the judge and whether a will names a personal representative to oversee distribution.

Not having a valid will compels the court to distribute property according to an all-purpose "will" drafted by the state legislature. Typically, proceeds not distributed outside of probate are divided among family members based on the closeness of their relationship to the deceased.

Be aware that without a will, heirs' financial needs and other significant factors cannot be considered, and that friends and charitable interests, such as the Church, cannot benefit.

Reducing Probate Costs

- Reduce estate settlement costs through proper planning. Several ways can help speed up distribution while minimizing expenses.
- Maintain an up-to-date will.
- Review a will and other estate plans periodically.
- Consider a revocable living trust.
- Keep life insurance and retirement plan beneficiaries current.
- Use joint ownership whenever appropriate.

Stewardship Is The Key

This is strictly a general overview of the probate process. Consultation with your own advisors continues to be essential. My office is ready to answer questions or provide additional information. Please feel free to contact me, without cost or obligation, at the Diocesan Development Office, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301.

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Your opportunity to help a very poor child is *much* too important to miss. And Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic child sponsorship program* can show you the affordable way.

Through CFCA you sponsor a child for the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide one poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford. CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that *your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.*

Your sponsorship pledge helps provide a poor child at a Catholic mission site with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school and hope for a brighter future. *You can literally change a life!*

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Entertainment

Fuqua's "The Replacement Killers" Is A Dud

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Piercing the silver screen with constant gunfire is the dreary, revenge-themed action movie, "The Replacement Killers" (Columbia).

This marks the American debut for Hong Kong macho star Chow Yun-Fat, the feature debut for music-video director Antoine Fuqua, and an apparent attempt at action-heroine status for Mira Sorvino. Condolences to the trio.

The movie is a dud, a pathetic series of ridiculous shoot-outs in which Chow can mow down any number of professional assassins while they cannot manage to kill him at point-blank range.

The flimsy story suggests Chow is a hit man with a conscience who balks at killing the child of a police detective (Michael Rooker) who killed the gangster son of the crime czar (Kenneth Tsang) Chow works for.

Sorvino enters the picture as the tough babe making his fake passport when newly hired hit men show up to ice him and her for not following orders.

So bereft of any shred of character development is the movie that the actual title characters, "The Replacement Killers," only appear throughout to slaughter and be slaughtered. No acting skills — or dialogue — is required on their part.

Fuqua infuses the film with a very studied, slick look and deliberately slows the pace in spots, but the effect is only to make the story seem all the more artificial.

And in case you didn't know these characters would sooner kill you than look at you, Sorvino's character sports an oversized razor blade around her neck while her male buddy wears a thick gold chain gold with an Uzi pendant hanging off it.

Attempts to make Chow's character seem sympathetic because he refused to kill a child just don't jibe with the calculated pleasure he seems to taking in dispatching an army of killers.

Even avid action fans should be disappointed by the dull predictability of the narrative and may well welcome the cease-fire signaled by the words "The End."

Because of excessive violence, mindless mayhem, some rough language and a few instances of profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Bill Pullman stars as private investigator Daryl Zero with Kim Dickens as paramedic Gloria Sullivan in "Zero Effect." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

CNS photo from Castle Rock Entertainment

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Black Orpheus" (1959)

Vibrant intercultural feast updating the Greek myth to Rio de Janeiro where trolley driver Orpheus (Breno Mello) accidentally kills his beloved Eurydice (Marpessa Dawn) while trying to protect her from a stalker costumed as Death and, after a religious cult fails to revive her, he sets out with her body for burial until another fatal accident intervenes. Directed by Marcel Camus, the appealing leads are supported by a spirited cast who play out the mythic tragedy amid the gaiety of Rio's Carnival with its colorful parades of dancing bands, backed by a haunting music score and spectacular views of Rio's picturesque locales. Subtitles. Stylized violence, sexual situations and innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Home Vision, $29.95)

MOVIE REVIEW LINE
1-800 311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

"Cry, the Beloved Country" (1952)

Compelling British production of Alan Paton's story about bridging South Africa's racial divide as a black Anglican minister (Canada Lee) leaves his rural parish to seek his missing son in Johannesburg, finds him condemned to death for murdering the son of a white farmer and the tragedy brings the two aged fathers together in mutual understanding and respect. Directed by Zoltan Korda, the location photography documents the oppressive conditions in the black slums bordering the city but the story's rich assortment of characters, including Sidney Poitier's pragmatic city curate, puts matters in a human context transcending racial differences. Stylized violence, sexual references and justice questions. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Monterey, $69.95)

"Cry, the Beloved Country" (1995)

Fine adaptation of Alan Paton's novel set in 1946 South Africa where a black minister (James Earl Jones), whose son has killed a white man, reconciles with the victim's father (Richard Harris) in a story exploring the artificial barriers of racial differences. Director Darrell James Roodt emphasizes the human dignity of the characters, the equality of all in the sight of God and the injustice of a society based on racism. Restrained violence and sexual references in a justice context. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Miramax, $19.99)

"Glory" (1989)

The story of the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the first black fighting unit raised during the Civil War, focuses on its enlightened white commander (Matthew Broderick), who molded field hands and runaway slaves into proud, heroic Union soldiers. Director Edward Zwick raises consciousness about the little-known regiment and re-creates some harrowing battle scenes but, unfortunately, gives shallow attention to the themes of racism and the obscenity of war. Stereotyping of key black characters, much grisly wartime violence and some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Columbia TriStar, $19.95)

"The Joe Louis Story" (1953)

Movie biography in which a sportswriter (Paul Stewart) recalls how Louis (Coley Wallace) was guided in his early boxing career by a talented trainer (James Edwards), then became the world heavyweight champion (1937-49) and retired undefeated, until making a sadly futile attempt to regain the title. Directed by Robert Gordon, the dramatization simplifies much, touching on racism chiefly in Louis' two bouts with Germany's Max Schmeling, but by intercutting newsreel footage of Louis in the ring, the result is a convincing tribute to a great prizefighter and a leading African-American of the era. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Nostalgia, $19.95)

"King Solomon's Mines" (1937)

Dated African adventure in which a veteran safari guide (Cedric Hardwicke), his clients (John Loder and Roland Young) and a mysterious native (Paul Robeson) aid a young Irishwoman (Anna Lee) in searching for her father who disappeared into the interior seeking the fabulous diamond mines of the title. Directed by Robert Stevenson from the H. Rider Haggard novel, the narrative builds to a rousing dramatic climax as Robeson's

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Center Offers "New Hope" To Others

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

Bishop William G. Curlin made a recent visit to New Hope Center. Shown, from left: volunteer Denise Gardner; Bishop Curlin; Sister Charlene Lamb; Sister Sarah Fahy; and Jesuit Father Ed Ifkovits.

BURNSVILLE — Joy Booth is no stranger to violence.

As a youngster in Alabama, she grew up in a household where her parents struggled to get along. Booth remembers the constant fighting which eventually led to tragedy: the murder of her mother at her father's hands.

Now a Burnsville resident, Booth is doing her part to help curb domestic violence in Yancey, Mitchell and Madison counties by serving on the board of directors of New Hope Center, Inc., a nonprofit organization offering residents of those three counties various programs which promote mental, emotional and spiritual well-being.

Booth shared her story with Bishop William G. Curlin during his recent visit to New Hope Center, which is operated by Sisters of Notre Dame Charlene Lamb and Sarah Fahy. The sisters arrived in Yancey County in 1994 and have spent the past few years working to make a difference in the lives of others in this rural area of western North Carolina.

"I have an ongoing interest in family violence and how it relates to poverty," Booth explained. "With their work, the sisters are filling a need that has no one has ever filled before. They're helping break a cycle of violence."

Since its inception, New Hope Center has served more than 250 residents of the three-county area. The licensed substance abuse facility offers programs for individuals, couples and families. A certified addictions counselor, Sister Charlene oversees a counseling program that includes addiction education and prevention; treatment of various addictions; interventions to lead to treatment of alcoholism, drug abuse and other addictions; individual or group support following initial treatment; treatment of emotional and psychological problems caused by addictions; stress reduction and time management education; and DWI (driving while impaired) assessments and evaluations.

The center also uses the 12-step philosophy of recovery in treating alcoholism and drug addiction, Sister Charlene added.

With a Ph.D. and background in education, Sister Sara oversees the center's Woman Outreach Meeting A Need (WOMAN) program. It offers resources and support to women as they identify their needs; workshops which assist individuals in developing new skills for living more fully; building self-esteem and improving relationships; retreats focusing on personal and spiritual growth; and educational programs and consulting work on gender issues.

In the rural area New Hope Center serves, the issues the sisters face are sometimes magnified. "In the U.S., there are 10.5 million alcoholics," Sister Charlene said. "Nationwide, the ratio is four alcoholic men for every alcoholic woman. Here, it is 8 to 1 (men to women). We're facing a real problem."

The area's illiteracy rate is another obstacle the sisters are combating. Residents of the three-county area consistently rank near the top of the state in illiteracy. Despite that, many clients demonstrate a yearning to learn. Others have a deep faith unmatched by many.

"One client I am working with told me, 'I know with your help, God will teach me to read,'" Sister Charlene said.

Both sisters agree faith is a key ingredient of their mission. "Our ministry is to show God is good, and God is love," Sister Sarah added.

In its short existence, New Hope Center has gotten its DWI program off the ground, begun quarterly workshops and programs designed for long-term recovery groups, and implemented two 12-step co-dependency groups, among other things. The sisters have also formed a nine-member working board of directors which meets quarterly.

"They're doing all kinds of good things reaching out to the community," noted board member Peg Emerson.

As for the future, the sisters are gearing up to expand their educational programs, increase the number of workshops available, and offer more outreach to area churches. They also recently completed a grant application to try and reach more women with co-dependencies in the area.

For more information on New Hope Center, phone (704)682-4844, or write to Sisters Charlene and Sarah at New Hope Center, 525 W. Main St., Suite 1, Burnsville, NC 28714.

Videos,

from page 7

claim to be his tribe's rightful king unleashes a civil war and the diamond mines are buried in a volcanic eruption. Stylized violence and fleeting partial nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Nostalgia, $16.95)

"Sarafina!" (1992)

Inspired by the arrest of a teacher (Whoopi Goldberg) for encouraging black pride among her students, a teenage girl (Leleti Khumalo) confronts the oppression of South Africa's racist policies in beleaguered Soweto Township in 1986. Directed by Darrell James Roodt, this vibrant musical makes a strongly human as well as political statement about racial injustice, though the abrupt cuts from brutal military actions to the schoolchildren's joyous musical numbers are distractingly ineffective. Frequent violence, including beatings, shootings and torture of youngsters, and a murderous act of retaliation by adolescents. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Hollywood, $14.95)

"Sergeant Rutledge" (1960)

Credible Western in which the black trooper (Woody Strode) of the title faces a court-martial charged with murder and rape. Director John Ford tells the story in flashbacks as the court examines the evidence, with Strode coming across as a strong figure of considerable integrity. Stylized violence in well-treated theme of racial prejudice. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Warner, $19.98)

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Catholic Press Helps Guide Media Choices, CPA President Says

RONKONKOMA, N.Y. (CNS) — In a world of increasingly confusing media choices, the Catholic press offers information and insight "from within the frame of faith," said the president of the Catholic Press Association in a message for Catholic Press Month, observed in February.

"That frame makes a big difference," said Christopher Gunty, president of the CPA and associate publisher of The Catholic Sun, diocesan newspaper in Phoenix.

To mark the month, the CPA released messages from Gunty; Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications at the Vatican; and Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Communications and honorary CPA president.

The theme of the 1998 Catholic Press Month observance —"The Way, The Truth and the Life: The Message With a Mission" — was illustrated by a poster distributed by the CPA, which is based in Ronkonkoma. The poster shows the late Mother Teresa as the way, Pope John Paul II as the truth and the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago as the life.

Gunty said today's media choices include "a hundred television channels to choose from, video stores on every corner, magazine sections in grocery stores filled with choices, and the Internet providing gigabytes of information at a keystroke."

"Some of the media available are quality — well-made and worthwhile, uplifting and inspirational," he said. "But the vast majority lead you astray."

Gunty noted that although print is still the primary format used in Catholic periodicals, Catholic publications also "are embracing new technology, using computers to function more efficiently, as well as to branch out into cyberspace publishing, helping to bring the church to a new arena for evangelism and enhancement of the Catholic faithful."

"As we approach a new millennium, it becomes even more important to know how our faith affects the way we live," he said. "Catholic publications attempt to give you the information so that you can make better choices."

Archbishop Foley described Catholic newspapers, magazines and books as "a continuing reminder of a Catholic home, a Catholic environment, a Catholic commitment."

Focusing on the three well-known Catholics featured on the poster, the archbishop said: "While many media covered the stories of these truly great persons, the Catholic press covered their Christian witness more completely, and offered other news about people and events with a value not only today or tomorrow — but forever."

Bishop Lynch, who recently began a three-year term as chairman of the Communications Committee, said he hoped to "continue the spirit of cooperation which has existed for years between the Catholic press and the episcopal conference of the United States."

"Building on the examples of Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa and Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, I hope we will continue to bring the love of Christ and the glory of the church to countless homes and individuals throughout the U.S.," he added.

Employment Opportunities

Mullen Publications:
Now hiring for two positions in film assembly (strippers) and a press assistant/driver. Please call 527-5111.

Choir Director/Organist:
Position open immediately. Part/Full time. Handbell, chimes choirs. 600 family parish, K-8 school. Faith Formation, RCIA, Sacramental Preparation. Congregational singing. Adult and children choirs. Benefits available. Send resume, salary requirements to Liturgy Search Committee, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 128 N. Fulton Street, Salisbury, NC 28144. Phone: (704) 633-0591. Fax: (704) 647-0126

Director of Music:
1500-family parish seeks part-time professional with liturgical music experience. Potential grows to full-time. Requires organ, keyboard and vocal skills, working with youth and adult choirs. Send or fax resume to: St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Charlotte, NC 28227. Fax: (704) 536-3147

Diocesan Regional Coordinators:
Charlotte Diocese Office of Religious Education has two openings: Northern Vicariates and Southern Vicariates. Diocese seeks persons with master's degree in Rel. Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris V. Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee. Inquiries: (704) 370-3244. Deadline: February 27, 1998, or when filled.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Educators Recognized At Conference By Bishop

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Catholic educators across the diocese gathered at Charlotte Catholic High School recently for a two-day education conference. Highlights included workshops, a Mass presided over by Bishop William G. Curlin, and the recognition of educators celebrating 20, 25 and 35 years of service this school year.

Bishop Curlin, Dr. Michael Skube, diocesan superintendent of schools, and Mercy Sister Mona Wingert, assistant superintendent, presented plaques and congratulations to the teachers.

Pictured above are, from left, Kathryn Claiborne, Jim Oddo, Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, Carolyn Hilderbrand, all of CCHS; Elaine Hoover of Our Lady of Grace School, Greensboro; Ken Hazen of CCHS; Ofelia Alvarez of Immaculate Heart of Mary School, High Point; Lorraine Malphurs of St. Pius X School, Greensboro; Marlene Mode of Our Lady of Grace School; and Helen Horn of Our Lady of the Assumption School, Charlotte.

Not pictured are Randy Belk, Joanna Case and Tony DiDonato, all of CCHS; Michael Browne of Bishop McGuinness High School, Winston-Salem; and Shirley Thomas of St. Gabriel School, Charlotte.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Family Educators Support

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, western North Carolina's Catholic home-school support group, meets every third Friday for a family potluck dinner in Laurentine Hall of the Basilica of St. Lawrence at 6:30 p.m. Call Sheryl Oligny, (704) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (704) 645-6990.

Campus Ministry Series

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Campus Ministry group at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte hosts "Voices," a monthly series featuring guest speakers and discussion focusing on the stories and voices of the marginalized. Meetings include potluck dinner. To R.S.V.P., to offer to bring a potluck dish if you wish to have dinner, and to order the resource book "Principles, Prophesy and A Pastoral Response," published by the Campaign for Human Development and the U.S. Catholic Conference (cost is $2), call Barbara Neff Hutchison, (704) 547-4069. The next meeting is Feb. 22 at Aquinas Hall, on the parish grounds of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Weigh Down Workshop

CHARLOTTE — A 12-week Bible-based weight-loss seminar begins at St. John Neumann Church with a free orientation session Feb. 19 at 7:15 p.m. The seminar cost is $103. To register or receive more information, call Donna Rayle, (704) 545-8916.

CROP Speakers Available

CHARLOTTE — CROP Walk of Charlotte has speakers available to address parish groups during Lenten events. For details, call Frances Daniel, (704) 333-9255.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to forget the past and start anew. The program begins March 27. For further information, call Nick and Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Jesuit House of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — "Dreams: Opening Up To Life" is a March 6-8 retreat for men and women focusing on the place of dreams in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Dr. Eileen Riordan facilitates.

Jesuit Father Vince Alagia and Steve and Marlene Stowe lead a retreat for married couples March 13-15.

"Our Lenten Journey" is a March 20-22 retreat for men and women. Jesuit Father James Devereux, pastor of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, facilitates.

For reservations or more information about these and other activities at the Jesuit House of Prayer, call (704) 622-7366.

Hibernians, Knights Sponsor Parade

CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus co-sponsor a St. Patrick's Day parade March 14 at 12 p.m. in Charlotte. The parade route begins at Stonewall and Tryon streets, proceeds through uptown and ends at Fifth and Tryon streets. Any groups and individuals wishing to march in or help with the parade are welcomed. Call Tim Lawson, (704) 522-9728, or send E-mail to NCAOH@aol.com to volunteer, get a parade application or receive more information.

Stroke Prevention Screening

GREENSBORO — The 50+ Club of St. Paul the Apostle Church sponsors the Stroke Prevention Life Line Screen for all ages on Feb. 20 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the church. Test results will be sent in three to five days. For information and to register, call (888) 737-7078.

Teen Lenten Retreat

GREENSBORO — The Office of Youth Ministry of the Charlotte Diocese of presents a Lenten retreat at St. Pius X Church from Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. until March 1 following an 11:30 a.m. Mass and lunch. The cost is $50, with a $25 deposit due by Feb. 20 and the balance due upon arrival. The fee covers all food and materials for the retreat, including a retreat T-shirt. For details and registration forms, call the Office of Youth Ministry, (704) 370-3243.

Adult Ed Series

GREENSBORO — An adult education series continues at St. Paul the Apostle Church March 10 with "The Pathway to Inner Peace," a discussion facilitated by Hannah Hammer focusing on reaching forgiveness as the means to attain peace. Baby-sitting is available (please R.S.V.P. to Joe Casacchia, (910) 632-0729).

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — Upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends are scheduled for Feb. 20-22 and April 3-5 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information, call Michael and Stacey Holcolm, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

Charismatic Mass

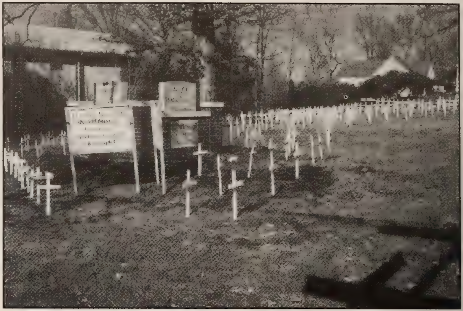
HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated every third Thursday in the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel at 7:30 p.m.

Faith Formation Workshops

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Church sponsors a series of faith formation workshops presented by Peg Ruble, central region faith formation coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte, Feb. 28 in the school building. Ruble will focus on morality in the 10 a.m. workshop, and the sacraments in the 3 p.m. workshop. Lunch will be provided. To register, call Lynn Rascoe, (704) 728-0739.

Parish Mission

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church sponsors a parish mission called "The Presence of God" Feb. 15-Feb. 18 at 7:15 p.m. each day. The mission's focus is on God's presence in our lives. Father Frederick A. Pompei, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., who has traveled extensively throughout the United States in a ministry of evangelization and renewal, is the mission leader. All are invited to attend. For more information, call (704) 664-3992.



St. Joseph Church in Asheboro hosted a candlelight ecumenical prayer service last month on the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision. Pictured above are white crosses surrounding the parish's memorials to the unborn; the crosses represent the 300 abortions performed annually in Randolph County.

Widowed, Separated, Divorced Support

SYLVA — The churches of the Smoky Mountain vicariate have formed a support group for those who are widowed, separated, divorced, or with new or unresolved grief. Meetings are every third Friday in the Fellowship Hall of St. Mary Church at 7 p.m. Call (704) 586-9496 for more information.

Catechetical Conference

WINSTON-SALEM — "Lighting the Fires of Faith III," a catechetical conference sponsored by the northern region of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, is Feb. 21 from 9:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church. The schedule includes morning prayer with Bishop William G. Curlin, addresses and workshops in English and Spanish, and lunch. The conference offers participants spiritual renewal and professional updating for their ministry of catechesis, as well an opportunity to attain another level in the process leading to certification.

Keynote speakers are Father Berard Marthaler, professor emeritus of religion and religious education at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and Dominican Sister Rosa Monique Peña, director of religious education department of the Archdiocese of Miami and chairperson for the Florida conference of diocesan directors of religious education.

Cost is $10, which includes lunch. To register, see your parish catechetical leader, or call (704) 370-3246 for more information.

Lenten Series

WINSTON-SALEM — Dr. Beatrice Bruteau shares thoughts from her new book-in-progress, "Holy Thursday Revolution," beginning Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Joseph's House at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Subsequent presentations are March 4, 18 and 15, and April 1, 8 and 15. For further information, call (910) 722-0028.

Around The Diocese

High School News

CHARLOTTE — The principal and two seniors of Charlotte Catholic High School were recently honored with awards and recognitions.

Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, principal, was awarded the 1997-98 Charlotte Jaycees Outstanding Educator Award. Denise Hill has been named a finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Eddie Chase was awarded the 1997-98 Charlotte Jaycees Outstanding Teen-ager award.

In other CCHS news, the school's Parent-Teacher Organization hosts the junior class family Mass and dinner on Feb. 22 beginning at 5 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — For the past 10 years, Bishop McGuinness High School has sent a delegation to Boston to compete in the Harvard Model Congress against 65 schools and 1,500 students from around the nation.

Twenty-eight BMHS sophomores, juniors and seniors will spend Feb. 18-23 in Boston to compete in this year's program. They are to role play the decisions and actions of senators, Supreme Court justices, lobbyists, journalists and House of Representatives members, and will be faced with such issues as affirmative action and confidentiality in dealing with AIDS. Students received their roles in November 1997. Michael Streich, BMHS history teacher, has organized the school's participation since 1991.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo by Sean Sprague, CRS

RICE SEEDS — A beneficiary of a Catholic Relief Services seed bank project in Goba, Liberia, shows off her rice seeds. CRS' Operation Rice Bowl program for Lent benefits development projects like this one.

Rabbis Join In Effort To Ban Partial-Birth Abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new organization based in the Washington suburbs is working to mobilize the Jewish community on the issue of partial-birth abortion. "There is no basis in Jewish law for this procedure," said Chris Gersten, president of the Institute for Religious Values, which has its headquarters in Bethesda, Md. Jewish law "allows for and even mandates abortion in certain circumstances," such as when a mother's life is at risk, said Gersten in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service. But when the child's head has left the birth canal, as is the case in the partial-birth procedure, "abortion is specifically prohibited at that stage," he said.

Report Says Palestinians Have No Policy Of Persecuting Christians

JERUSALEM (CNS) — A new human rights report says the Palestinian Authority had no policy of persecuting the local Christian community. The report, issued by the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group in late January, concluded that reports of widespread persecution are "utterly without foundation." The report added that evangelical Christian converts from Islam have faced harassment. "There is no evidence that this harassment is organized from above, or that it differs from other cases in which people (land dealers, collaborators) have suffered from the hostility of their local community," the report said.

Sister Helen Prejean Nominated For A Nobel Prize

BATON ROUGE, La.(CNS) — Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille and well-known opponent of the death penalty, said Feb. 2 she has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. Sister Prejean's comments came as she was fielding calls from the media around the world concerning the execution scheduled the next day in Texas of condemned killer Karla Faye Tucker. Sister Prejean, who met with Tucker and others on Texas' death row last fall, said the actual act of putting somebody to death is lost on many in this country, due to the abstractness of capital punishment.

Higher Ed Challenged To Take Up Social Teaching Banner

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic colleges and universities must take the leadership to bring the church's social teaching alive for U.S. Catholics, educators were told Feb. 3 in Washington. "We have not imparted this remarkable body of teaching," said Auxiliary Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan of Brooklyn, N.Y., in a keynote speech at the annual meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. "We have not captured the hearts and minds of ordinary Catholics with the church's social teaching," he said. "In general, it is not preached well from the pulpit at our Sunday liturgies.... Personal experience indicates that preaching the just word is often labeled 'political' and is perceived as partisan or inappropriate in a worship service by many Catholics."

U.S. Archbishop Urges Modifications of U.S.-Cuba Policy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. archbishop urged modifications of U.S. policy toward Cuba in recognition of that government's lifting of some restrictions on religious freedom in preparation for the January visit of Pope John Paul II. "As welcome as these changes are, it is obvious that they fall far short of the measure of a just society repeatedly outlined by the Holy Father. But they are steps along a better path and should be acknowledged as such," wrote Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy. His Jan. 30 statement was released in Washington Feb. 2.

Archbishop Urges Attention To Ethics In Technology Boom

DENVER (CNS) — The leaders of today's communications revolution must keep in mind "the larger ethical questions" raised by the explosion in available technology, said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver. In a guest column for the Jan. 30-Feb. 5 issue of The Denver Business Journal, the archbishop said "tremendous good" can come from "today's remarkable new tools — from software to wireless telephony to digital satellite communications." Calling them "the building blocks of a new global mentality," he said such tools "have the potential to fundamentally rewire the way we think, the way we act, the way we believe."

Life Issues Called Key To 1998 Elections

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Life issues will not go away, but will become instead the "cutting edge" issue of the 1998 elections, according to the president of the Catholic Alliance. The official, Keith Fournier, said in a talk in Arlington that the pro-life cause is the foundational moral issue of our age. "Restoring the dignity of all human life is the foundation stone of this culture," he said, and that involves "confronting the culture of death" and "rebuilding a culture of life."

Teach Holocaust In Broader Context, Catholic Educators Told

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The importance of teaching the Holocaust in the broader context of the history of anti-Semitism and European history was stressed to Catholic educators participating in a Holocaust education program in Washington. "Contextualize the history you are teaching," said Warren Marcus, of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's education department. He spoke Feb. 4 at the museum, focusing on guidelines for teaching the Holocaust. Marcus said there are three contexts to consider: "the long and sordid history of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism"; the history of Europe and Germany from the end of World War I to 1933, when the Nazis came to power in Germany; and the Holocaust period from 1933 to 1945.

Officials Propose Site Outside Rome For Jubilee Events

ROME (CNS) — Young people planning to attend World Youth Day festivities in Rome in the year 2000 should pack a pair of hiking boots. Rome officials said Feb. 4 they had tentatively picked a pilgrimage sanctuary just outside the city for Pope John Paul II's meetings with the youths, as well as for two other jubilee mega-events. But because the site is not well-connected to the rest of the city by public transport, the young people — up to 1.8 million of them — may have to arrive on foot. Vatican and city officials have been debating where to hold the major jubilee meetings after agreeing that St. Peter's Square is too small to hold the massive crowds expected for several of the events.

Analysts Foresee Change In Cuba After Pope

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's recent visit to Cuba will accelerate changes that were already taking place in Cuban society, said a panel of policy analysts discussing the visit Feb. 6. Despite differing views on the U.S. embargo against Cuba, three of the four panelists agreed that an in-depth review of U.S. policy is called for in the wake of the papal trip. The discussion was held at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "A process of profound, fundamental change in Cuba had already begun before the visit of the Holy Father," said author Tad Szulc, whose books include biographies of Pope John Paul II and Cuban President Fidel Castro. "I think from now on the church (in Cuba) will play an absolutely critical role in the economic, social and political change which is going on."

Volkswagen Pulls Religious-Themed Ads After Bishops' Protest

PARIS (CNS) — The French subsidiary of the German car maker Volkswagen canceled a religious-themed publicity campaign after French bishops complained about it. Volkswagen France instructed its advertising agency Feb. 4 to take down billboards and posters in major cities around the country which depicted Jesus at the Last Supper saying, "My friends, let us rejoice, for a new Golf is born." Golf is the name of a Volkswagen car model. But the French bishops' conference said through an attorney that it would continue to pursue a legal complaint against the car company. The complaint, to be filed before a high French court, seeks $700,000 in punitive damages.

Cable TV Industry Produces Parents' Guide On TV Ratings

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The cable television industry will make available for parents several hundred thousand copies of a video guide on the revised TV ratings system. The guide features Bob Keeshan, the original "Captain Kangaroo," and the vocal group Rockapella, known to young viewers from appearances on PBS' "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" The revised ratings, which took effect in October "made sense to American families and worked for Americans," said Decker Anstrom, president of the National Cable Television Association, at a Washington press conference Feb. 5. What is needed, Anstrom said, is to make the ratings and what they mean more widely known.

Five Arrested In Protest Over U.S. Threats To Bomb Iraq

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Five people were arrested Feb. 5 after an hourlong demonstration in front of the White House to protest repeated American threats to launch air strikes against Iraq. A group of 50 protesters, chanting such slogans as "Don't bomb, don't attack, make peace with Iraq," marched in cold, drizzly weather. "Why doesn't God make it a nicer day for such things?" asked Jesuit Father Bruce Bavinger, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Washington and one of the protesters. "In the spirit of nonviolence, we implore the Clinton administration to end its threat of bombing Iraq," said Art Laffin of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House in Washington.

St. Charles Borromeo Church

Parish Profile

MORGANTON — In his 19th-century book "Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia," Rev. Dr. J.J. O'Connell writes of the missionary region of Burke County, where at the close of the Civil War visiting priests and Bishop (later Cardinal) James Gibbons, vicar apostolic of North Carolina, preached at the county courthouse, located in Morganton.

The description by Father O'Connell, the Benedictine missionary who offered the estate that Belmont Abbey was founded on, serves as an introductory report of the Catholic Church in Morganton, where St. Charles Borromeo Parish now exists as a thriving community of faith.

St. Charles Borromeo Church
714 West Union Street
Morganton, N.C. 28655
(704) 437-3108

Vicariate: Hickory

Pastor:
Father Kenneth Whittington

Permanent Deacon:
Rev. Mr. James R. Johnson

Mass Schedule:
Saturday — 5 p.m.;
Sunday — 9 a.m.; Spanish
Mass: Sunday — 5 p.m.;
Hmong Mass — Once a
month, 3 p.m.

Number of households: 400

By the end of the 1800s, the sacrament of confirmation had been conferred in Morganton, although there is no further recorded organized activity — beyond sporadic visits from priests — until the 1920s.

The first Mass in town was celebrated in a private residence in November 1929. Eight people attended. By the mid-1940s, Mass was being said on a weekly basis at the courthouse and in a private home.

St. Charles Borromeo Church was established in the fall of 1947, when the Diocese of Raleigh purchased a tract of land on West Union Street in Morganton that would provide the congregation a place to worship. The first Mass was offered on the newly acquired property in October 1947. The clergy stationed at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory traveled to Morganton to celebrate weekend liturgies.

The parish community grew rapidly in the late 1940s and the 1950s, and Father William T. McShea, who served at St. Aloysius Church, was appointed the first resident pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton in October 1950.

As the number of families worshipping at St. Charles Church continued to grow, the existing church space became inadequate. The present church, located at a different site along West Union Street, was constructed in 1961.

By 1980, about 200 families were registered as parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo Church.

Thanks to the leadership of Father John Murray, pastor, the parish welcomed an addition to the existing church building in 1988. Containing offices, faith formation classrooms, a community hall and a kitchen, the addition now known as Murray Hall — in memory of Father Murray, who died last year — has facilitated new growth as well as spiritual and social life in the parish.

Multi-cultural ministry is strong at St. Charles Church, with Masses being celebrated regularly in English, Spanish and Hmong. The ethnically diverse parish now comprises about 400 households.

Volunteerism is a highlight of parish life as well, with many parishioners devoting time at various outreach centers in Morganton, from the local soup kitchen to a prison, a senior center to a health clinic.

Father Kenneth Whittington has served as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church since 1992.

St Charles
Catholic Church

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NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 24 • February 20, 1998

Auxiliary Bishop Edward K. Braxton of the Archdiocese of St. Louis visited the Charlotte Diocese last week. He concelebrated Mass with long-time friend Bishop William G. Curlin on Feb. 15 at St. Patrick Cathedral. Both served in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

Kansas Bishops Offer Guidelines For Welfare Policy

KANSAS CITY (CNS) — Welfare changes in Kansas must take into account the need to provide adequate income, basic health care, adult education and child care, according to the state's Catholic bishops.

In a statement approved Feb. 3 and released Feb. 13, the four bishops outlined priorities and policy recommendations for pending revisions to state programs for the poor.

The guidelines raise similar concerns highlighted by North Carolina Catholic Bishops William G. Curlin and F. Joseph Gossman in their November 1997 pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind."

The statement says welfare legislation should strengthen families, encourage productive work and protect vulnerable children.

"We believe the target of reform ought to be poverty, not poor families," it said.

The four bishops who signed the statement were Archbishop James P. Keleher of Kansas City and Bishops Eugene J. Gerber of Wichita, George K. Fitzsimons of Salina, and Stanley G. Schlarman of Dodge City.

The statement was timed to coincide with the Kansas Legislature's 1998 term, which runs into May. Several bills dealing with aspects of welfare, medical care and child care have been introduced.

The bishops said lasting welfare

See **Welfare,** page 3

Cuban Prisoners' Release Shows Pope Was Heard

By JOHN THAVIS

ROME (CNS) — Cuba's announced release of more than 200 prisoners marked a "great first step" in reform and shows that the Cuban government was listening to Pope John Paul II during his recent visit, said the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Lindy Boggs.

"I was personally thrilled to see that there had been a special effort on the issue of prisoners," Boggs said in an interview Feb. 17 in Rome.

She said she thought the Cuban regime of President Fidel Castro was trying to tell the pope: "Your message was heard. It was appreciated. We will try to abide by some of the things you expect of us."

Boggs called it a "positive gesture of real importance" and added: "We should all accept it on face value."

The Cuban action came some three weeks after the pope and his aides presented the government with a list of names of prisoners and appealed for their release on humanitarian grounds. The list included political prisoners as well as others.

Boggs said the pope's Cuban visit exemplified many of the positive aspects of U.S.-Vatican relations. Although the United States maintains an embargo on Cuba — which the Vatican opposes — and has other difficulties with the Castro government, Cuban authorities did "everything under the sun" to facilitate travel and transport to the island during the pope's visit, she said.

She said the U.S. government also helped in careful screening of would-be visitors to make sure that no troublemakers turned up in Cuba and helped block an announced plan by Cuban exiles to land a flotilla during the papal visit.

"The U.S. government could not have been more cooperative, nor more proud that the Holy Father would undertake a trip" to Cuba and the Americas, she said.

She said one good aspect of the pope's visit was that it had prompted some deep reflection on the embargo, which has been in place for more than 35 years.

Ministry Aimed to Meet Needs Of Young Adults

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

DSA '98

HICKORY — Deanna Smith and Larry Cadorniga were looking for a way to get involved with their peers.

As members of St. Aloysius Church, they attended Mass regularly and even assisted with the parish's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program. Now, they were searching for an avenue to connect with other parishioners their age with similar interests.

With the assistance of Father Wilbur Thomas, St. Aloysius pastor, the pair set out to start a young adults group. "Father Wilbur told us this was one of the things he really wanted to get started at the church," Smith said.

After forming a planning team and meeting in August, the group held their first function last September — a get-together which kicked off the football season. It was the first of many successful gatherings for the group.

Like many other young adult organizations in the Diocese of Charlotte, the St. Aloysius group is made up of parishioners in their 20s and 30s. At St. Aloysius, the group consists of both single Catholics and married couples without children.

"Our main goals are to learn more about our faith, to get to know each other on a more personal level, and to create a healthy environment to have fun," Smith said.

Other attempts to organize young adults groups at St. Aloysius had not gotten far in the past for various reasons, Smith said. "We are designed to be more than a singles group," she explained. "We start by developing friendships and go from there."

As part of their faith development, the group holds regular formation classes. One recent session focused on Catholic and Protestant issues of the church. The group also held a retreat at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

Although the social aspect is important, learning more about Catholicism is an integral focus of the group. "We must be able to apply God's plan to our lives," Smith said. "We must understand our faith and apply it to our world."

Colleen McDermott, director of Young Adult Ministry for the Charlotte Diocese, said several parishes have active Young Adult groups. In the months ahead, McDermott hopes to form a diocesan-wide steering committee that will help other parishes get young adult ministry started since the number of Catholics in that age group is growing by leaps and bounds.

"There is definitely a need, and we must reach out and meet that need," she said.

"There are 16,000 young adult Catholics in the city of Charlotte alone,"

See **Ministry,** page 3

Pope, Yeltsin Discuss Russia's Religious, Social Situation

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II and Russian President Boris Yeltsin met privately Feb. 10 at the Vatican to discuss social and religious changes in Russia, including the country's new law on religious freedom.

At the same time, top Vatican and Russian diplomatic officials met to discuss the situation in Iraq and specific questions related to the presence of the Catholic Church in Russia, said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

Pope John Paul and Yeltsin met privately for about 55 minutes, continuing even after the pope's personal secretary entered the room to tell the pope that Yeltsin had other appointments.

The pope rose to lead his guest to the door when Yeltsin said, "but we haven't finished." They continued talking privately for five more minutes.

Navarro-Valls said it was Yeltsin who brought up the topic of the Russian law on freedom of conscience and religious associations, which Yeltsin signed in September despite concerns expressed by Catholic Church and human rights leaders.

After widespread opposition to the first draft of the law, including from Pope John Paul and from the U.S. Senate, the wording was changed to recognize "Christianity" — and not only Orthodoxy, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism as Russia's "traditional faiths."

However, the law says churches must have been "active on a legal basis" for 50 years to qualify as Russian organizations, and it requires local church groups to be in existence for at least 15 years before they gain legal rights.

In an interview with an Italian newspaper before the trip, Yeltsin said he agreed with some of the criticisms Pope John Paul made of the first version of the law. The criticisms were contained in a personal letter to the Russian president.

"And, in fact, I used my veto right because I was convinced that all the confessions must live together," Yeltsin said in the interview published Feb. 8 in Corriere della Sera.

"My observations, some of which coincided with those of the pope, were included in the new law, which unlike the first draft, is just," he said.

Navarro-Valls said Yeltsin made similar remarks directly to Pope John Paul, explaining that the pope's concerns were taken into account when drafting the final version of the law.

Russian spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said Yeltsin brought up the law "on his own initiative" and told the pope the final version takes into account "the interests of all communities."

"From the pope's point of view," the Russian spokesman said, "Catholics encounter no obstacles to their activity. The conditions needed by Catholics in Russia exist and the pope has recognized that they are normal."

However, Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, apostolic administrator of European Russia, told Vatican Radio Feb. 10 that Yeltsin's visit with the pope "is a particularly important event because it represents the only possibility to smooth out ... and come to agreement on some of the prescriptions of the law, making it easier to apply."

As is customary, the pope and the Russian president exchanged gifts during the meeting. Pope John Paul gave Yeltsin a bronze bas-relief of the Madonna and Child, and Yeltsin gave the pope two colorful enameled candelabra.

But Yeltsin also prepared a "little surprise" for the pope, Yastrzhembsky said.

CNS photo from Reuters

YELTSIN MEETS POPE — Russian President Boris Yeltsin greets Pope John Paul II at the Vatican Feb. 10. Pope John Paul and Yeltsin met privately for about 55 minutes. Yeltsin last met the pope for a private audience in 1991.

"During the preparations for the visit, we noticed that there did not exist an edition of the poems of Pope John Paul translated into Russian," he said.

Yeltsin commissioned a translation and the printing of a limited edition, the spokesman said.

"The president gave a copy to the pope."

The Russian spokesman said the main topic of conversation was the situation of Russia and of Europe as the year 2000 approaches.

"The two exchanged ideas on this theme, giving special attention to the problems of young people who will build relations between peoples and between countries at the beginning of the coming millennium," said the spokesman.

Yeltsin arrived in Rome telling journalists he would renew the invitation he first made in 1991 for Pope John Paul to visit Russia.

"The pope already has received more than one invitation to visit Russia, but seeing how you are asking me about it, I'll invite him again," the president joked Feb. 9 at Rome's airport.

But after the meeting, the Russian and the Vatican spokesmen said a possible papal trip to Russia was not discussed, nor did Yeltsin mention a possible meeting between the pope and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II. The Vatican has attempted on several occasions to set up an encounter between the two religious leaders.

Vatican officials repeatedly have said the pope wants to visit Russia, but he would not do so as long as officials of the Russian Orthodox Church continue to object.

In an interview published Feb. 7 in the Vatican newspaper, Bishop Joseph Werth, apostolic administrator of Sibe-

See **Pope-Yeltsin,** page 9

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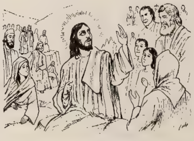

A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear Jesus and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured. Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all. (Luke 6:17-19)

Saints & Scripture

© 1998 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of February 22-28, 1998

Sunday
1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23
1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Luke 6:27-38

Monday
James 3:13-18
Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday
James 4:1-10
Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday
Joel 2:12-18
2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Luke 9:22-25

Friday
Isaiah 58:1-9
Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday
Isaiah 58:9-14
Luke 5:27-32

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

Director Welcomes Development Challenge

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Development has hired Debbie Huffman as its new director of development for Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools.

Debbie Huffman
MACS Director of Development

In her role, Huffman will combine development and communications projects to tend to the needs of the school system's students and their families.

She already feels at home.

"I've felt very welcome here," says Huffman. "The people in the MACS system are wonderful. Everybody's been helpful, and they support what I do."

A native of the Pittsburgh area, Huffman graduated from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in communications, specializing in print media and public relations. A year later she arrived in Charlotte, where she went to work for Community Health Services, a nonprofit United Way agency.

After two years of fund raising and public relations activity with that agency, Huffman became annual fund coordinator of Holy Angels, Inc., a nonprofit organization offering programs and services to persons with mental retardation and disabilities.

She was hired by the Diocese of Charlotte last December.

As MACS director of development, one of Huffman's principal duties is to coordinate MACS' Annual Giving Campaign, a year-long effort to raise money through pledges for programs within the system's seven schools. Since MACS' inception, the campaign has brought in more than $600,000. But that is only one of many elements in her job description that has kept her on her toes since day one.

"There's a lot of diversity on this job — a lot of communications, which I like," she says. "You get to do a little bit of everything."

Whether it's publishing the MACS newspaper, Partners in Learning, or coordinating a matching gift program with local corporations and businesses, Huffman says there are many means of staying in touch with the people of the MACS system.

Seeing a correlation between development and public relations, Huffman utilizes her communications skills in her daily tasks. In her coordinating of mailing solicitations, collaborating on the annual MACS insert in The Catholic News & Herald, publishing Partners in Learning, planning phone-a-thons, writing a biannual MACS Foundation newsletter and organizing the system's annual report, she frequently encounters public relations opportunities.

Huffman is quick to say that in addition to her duties behind the desk, she is eager to befriend and serve the people by being present in the school community. "I don't want the stereotype of sitting in the office and asking for money," she says. "I want the schools to know that I'm available when they need me."

Huffman places a special emphasis on enhancing students' lives, both now and for the future. Programs benefitting from the annual giving campaign include helping parents with tuition assistance if a need exists, reviewing grant applications through the system's Grants for Educational Excellence program, and planning for tomorrow via the MACS endowment.

Huffman is also charged with implementing an annual cultural enrichment program in the schools. "This is a way to freshen their (the students') minds," she says. It's also a way for MACS to collaborate with a half-dozen affiliates of the Arts & Science Council, the organization which provided performers for the school system's 1997-98 enrichment program.

Through such examples of working together, Huffman says, both entities benefit from the spirit of cooperation for the good of young people.

Huffman says she is constantly seeking to maintain that vibrant connection with families in the schools. Through an active and interactive relationship with them, she says she better understands which areas to give the most attention in respect to fund raising.

"You can't ask people for money if you can't tell the story of what the needs are," she says. "You have to find out what people are all about. And there are some really meaningful stories out there."

Welfare, from page 1

changes ought to offer education, training and transitional help to people who are leaving the welfare rolls.

"Government cannot abandon its indispensable role in helping families overcome poverty and meet their children's basic needs," the bishops said.

They also encouraged collaboration between public and private organizations.

"We will continue our long-standing commitment to this collaboration through the multiple services of Catholic Charities, which served over 70,000 Kansans in 1997," the statement continued.

The bishops noted that four out of five children living in poverty in Kansas are in homes where most of the income is brought in by working adults.

Yet the number of Kansans living in poverty has increased since 1990, from 274,000 to 326,000 — or 13 of every 100 Kansas residents. One in every six children in the state lives in poverty.

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Ministry, from page 1

McDermott added.

In years past, young adults were identified in the church as those in their 20s. It later became people in their 20s and 30s. Now, the age has fluctuated to include Catholics in their 20s, 30s, and early 40s, McDermott said.

Another way the diocese hopes to connect with its young adults, McDermott added, is when it co-hosts a conference this fall. Young adults from the Atlanta Province (the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and Dioceses of Charlotte, Charleston, Raleigh and Richmond) will gather in Atlanta Sept. 12 for an all-day retreat.

"This will be the first of what we hope are many diocesan-sponsored events for young adults," McDermottt said.

Young Adult ministry is among the 35 ministries and agencies that are partially or fully funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal. For more information on young adult ministry, call Colleen McDermott, (704) 370-3212.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

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Pro-Life Corner

In spite of the relentless propaganda in favor of abortion, most Americans have not become fully insensitive to the killing of children so weak that they cannot cry for help. Indeed, the 1973 abortion decisions set in motion the broadest grassroots movement this nation has ever seen. Our debt to those who serve the pro-life cause is immeasurable. They are the witnesses and bearers of our nation's most noble aspiration.

— "Light and Shadows: Our Nation 25 Years After Roe v. Wade," National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 21 — 9:30 a.m.
Northern Region Catechetical Conference
St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem

February 22 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

February 25 — 7:30 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

February 26
Ecumenical Meeting with Area Bishops
Hickory

March 1 — 3:30 p.m.
Rite of Election for Asheville Vicariate
The Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

March 3 — 7:30 p.m.
Rite of Election for Charlotte Vicariate
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

March 4
Lenten Speaker
Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Feb. 11.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, the World Day of the Sick is being celebrated at the Shrine of the Holy Family in Loreto. In his earthly life, Jesus showed particular love for the sick and infirm. In his passion and death, he took upon himself all our weaknesses to open for us the way to salvation. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, I pray that the sick, in offering their suffering in union with the redemptive work of Christ, will experience the comforting love of God.

I am happy to greet the students and teachers of the Oslo Handelsgymnasium and the Sotra Vidaregaande Skule from Norway, as well as the students of the Junshin University of Kagoshima in Japan. I welcome all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially the various groups from the United States. Upon you and your families I cordially invoke the blessings of Almighty God.

Pope Tells Rome Parishioners To Spread Gospel To World

ROME (CNS) — Pope John Paul II congratulated members of one of Rome's newest parishes for the speed with which they built a church, but he told them not to be content with living their faith within the church walls.

Like Sts. Cyril and Methodius, for whom the parish on the extreme Western edge of the city is named, the parishioners must go out and proclaim the good news to the world, the pope said during the Feb. 15 Mass.

The Church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius was consecrated in November; it is the first church to be completed under a program the pope inaugurated to build 50 new churches in the Diocese of Rome by the year 2000.

The papal visit came the day after the feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the ninth-century apostles to Central Europe whom Pope John Paul proclaimed co-patrons of Europe.

"While I give thanks to the Lord with you for all you have been able to accomplish so far, with today's visit I would like to encourage you to continue growing in apostolic service," Pope John Paul told parishioners.

He asked the congregation, made up predominantly of young families and recently married couples, to make the Christian education of children the No. 1 priority of the parish.

"In the first five years of the community's life, almost 400 babies have been baptized," the pope said. "This means that in the coming years this parish will see the presence of many children and youths."

The pope also encouraged couples involved in parish life to reach out to newlyweds who move into the neighborhood.

"Let us pray together that the values of the Gospel, particularly those which regard human life and the family founded on marriage, are defended and shared," the pope said.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

The Plight of the Florida Farm Workers

I took a week's vacation in January, flying to the west coast of Florida in search of sun. Being a die-hard journalist, I looked forward to spending a good part of every day reading newspapers — familiar ones like The New York Times and others that I don't ordinarily get to see, like the Fort Myers News-Press and the Florida Catholic.

To my surprise, the major local news story that week had a strong ring of familiarity. The first headline I saw said, "Hunger Strike Hits Home for 200 at Fort Myers Vigil — Residents Gather in Show of Support for Immokalee Farm Workers.''

I experienced a sense of "deja vu" in reading this. It was as if I had gone back in time to the late '60s when I marched with fellow sympathizers in support of the farm workers led by the late Cesar Chavez.

I'm sure many remember this devout man, who was passionately devoted to social justice. Chavez led farm workers in California to struggle, in spite of intimidation, for their dignity and a living wage.

With prayer to sustain him, Chavez went on a 25-day fast in 1968 to bring attention to the plight of the farm workers and to his cause — to organize them as a union. I remember those days so well and how those of us in the East who believed in his cause joined him by boycotting grapes so as to get the attention of the growers by hitting their pocketbooks.

When Chavez ended his fast, Robert Kennedy was there to eat with him. And Cesar Chavez had achieved something of a miracle — organizing the first successful union of farm workers.

Well here we are exactly 30 years later, and the plight of farm workers in southwest Florida would be familiar to Chavez, who died in 1993. They are tomato pickers who, The Florida Catholic explains, earn "about 40 cents per 32-pound bucket, the same amount paid to workers 20 years ago. That wage equals about $9,000 annually.'' It's not a living wage today.

To get the growers to see their desperate situation and begin a dialogue, several farm workers, members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, began a hunger strike Dec. 20 that lasted nearly a month.

What touched me especially in the stories was how visibly the church was there, under the leadership of Bishop John J. Nevins of Venice, Fla. There was even a pastoral visit by Baltimore's Cardinal William Keeler. The coalition itself "had its genesis in the Catholic Church five years ago,'' according to The Florida Catholic.

Bishop Nevins responded with humanity and wisdom. Hoping to promote a dialogue between growers and workers, the leader of 173,000 Catholics in 10 southwest Florida counties invited them to meet on the neutral ground of a Catholic church to discuss their concerns. He was empathetic to both sides, pointing out the pressures on the growers, too, who have lost a lot because of increased competition from Mexico.

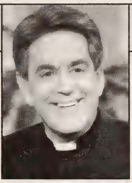
But it was his outreach to the workers that touched me. "Agricultural workers and their families take precedence over all. Workers have a right to the wages and benefits sufficient to sustain life in dignity. A fundamental moral measure of any economy is how the poor and vulnerable are faring,'' the bishop said when he visited the strikers.

Before he left them, giving all of us something to remember, Bishop Nevins embraced each of the hunger strikers.

Moments like these are the real sermons that teach us what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



The Instinct To Teach

Well into the school year, February provides a convenient point for reflecting upon what happens in our classrooms. Just what is essential for true learning to take place?

Most of us have the good fortune of being able to recall a teacher who made a great difference in our lives. There was probably someone — maybe more than one — whose wisdom, knowledge, and simple acts of caring made an impression on us in our formative years that would last a lifetime. In all likelihood, it was a person who sought no special recognition other than the satisfaction of knowing that a young person's mind had been enriched and a spirit encouraged.

But how many of us got around to saying "thanks?"

Luckily, some folks do speak up. At the beginning of term this year at Ivymount School in Washington, D.C., more than 400 people gathered to celebrate the retirement of Shari Gelman and Lillian Davis. These two teachers combined for three-quarters of a century of caring and nurturing children. In the appreciative audience were former students, now adults, who were children with multiple disabilities when they first met this dedicated pair.

From the humblest of beginnings in a single room in a church basement, these two persistent women built a program that in time expanded, first to several rooms in several churches, and eventually to a building that now houses more than 170 children.

Understanding the special needs of their students, Mrs. Gelman and Mrs. Davis created innovative programs in language development, music and art, and computer technologies. As a result, hundreds of young men and women, who otherwise might have been totally dependent, today have the chance to be as independent and productive as any "able" members of society.

"All we can ask in our lives," says Mrs. Davis, "is that perhaps we can make a little difference in someone else's."

It is clear these two teachers realize that no matter how high the social barriers, no matter how constraining the physical barriers, students can be reached at *their* level of comprehension. Their former students recalled that for them teaching was built on praise, no matter how small the act to be complimented. Teaching was caring enough to make critical corrections in positive terms of encouragement.

This is an instinct that all great teachers share — the Gelmans and Davises and the thousands of others who enlighten youngsters in the classroom: the instinct to know what people need, and the wisdom and skill to provide it in a way that is meaningful to them.

Clarence, the angel from the movie classic "It's a Wonderful Life" said it best: "No one was ever born to failure."

It is a lesson not just for teachers and students, but for all of us.

Before summer vacation arrives, quicker than we can imagine, why not let someone who once touched you with a guiding hand, or who is currently making a positive difference in the life of another, know of your sincere appreciation.

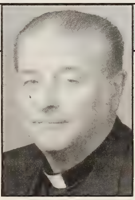
Great teachers and educators are among our society's most prized treasures. But then, so is everyone who makes a difference for the better — for another person.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "For Our Children", write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen



The "Historical" Jesus

Q. Our parish Bible class is studying St. Luke this semester, in conjunction with the current Sunday readings. Some materials we use refer to the "historical Jesus" as if he is different from the Jesus we know. I have, I think, an idea of what is meant, but am not clear enough to explain it to the class.

Is it possible to discuss the subject without becoming confusing? Could you explain simply what the historical Jesus is?

A. The "search for the historical Jesus," as it is sometimes called, has been a significant movement in biblical studies during the 20th century. Properly and very carefully understood, it can help us understand some important elements of the church's teaching about the New Testament, the Gospels particularly.

For starters, your group must be aware of the Catholic teaching that the four Gospels were formed in three time periods or stages.

First came the personal ministry of Jesus himself, what he actually said and did, what concerns he had to deal with, what types of people he was trying to motivate and so on.

A good way to put it, perhaps a little oversimply, is to ask: If a video camera had followed him around, what would it have recorded?

Second came the period of proclamation, when the apostles and other early disciples preached Jesus to the earliest Christian communities, roughly between 35 and 70 A.D.; how they reinterpreted the words and actions of Jesus in a variety of new cultures, new situations, new languages, all so the saving message, the "good news'' of the risen Lord, would take root in new believers.

The final stage was the actual writing of the Gospels, a period covering roughly the years 65 to 100 A.D. During these years, "from the many things handed down," the Gospel writers "selected some things, reduced others to a synthesis, others they explicated as they kept in mind the situation of the churches.''

Thus they compiled a narrative concerning the Lord Jesus "with a method suited to the peculiar purpose each (author) set for himself.''

Their purpose, then, was not to compose a "biography" of the Savior, but to create a portrait of Jesus that would establish a base of faith in the risen Christ.

(This church teaching is found in the Pontifical Biblical Commission's "Instruction on the Historical Truth of the Gospels'' 1964, and in other documents.)

It is important to emphasize here our Christian belief that all this happened under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit Jesus promised would be with his community of believers through the ages (Jn 14).

In no way, therefore, may we fear that the "truth" about Jesus and his message became diluted or confused by the time the Gospels were written.

On the contrary, the process leading up to their writing made the four Gospel portrayals of Jesus clearer and infinitely more revealing than would have been possible (from our human perspective at least) had they been written the day after the resurrection.

Again, it all occurred with the Spirit hovering over the infant church as it was transpiring.

From here on, the answer to your question is brief. The "historical Jesus" is the "actual" Jesus we might discover hidden behind the words and events of the present Gospels.

Scholars (with varying motives and degrees of faith) ask: If we dissect and search beneath the words of the Gospels, what "real" Jesus — what literal words and actions of Jesus as he walked this earth — might we uncover there? That's a valid and potentially illuminating question.

Whatever that Jesus may be, however, he will never replace or detract from the Jesus we know and love by faith, the Jesus passed over to us by the Spirit, the Jesus of the Gospels.

Return to Me

Rev. Francis T. Gignac, S.J.

The theme of Lent is announced by the first reading (Joel 2:12-18). "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart."

The prophet calls for fasting, weeping and mourning because the countryside and now the city of Jerusalem are besieged by a plague of locusts. He hopes that if the people turn to Yahweh, the God of Israel, he will turn and have mercy. But he emphasizes the interior conversion God requires: "Rend your hearts, not your garments."

We no longer believe that God can be manipulated by any actions of ours, or that God's blessings should be in any way proportionate to our devotion. We do not consider an army of invading locusts a sign of the day of God's visitation, or expect the millennium to usher in a final cataclysm. The evils we see all around us remind us of our need of forgiveness, our need to strive for moral improvement.

The Gospel (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18) likewise warns us not to be hypocritical in our religious observances or think that we can achieve justification on our own. This passage conveys the spirit of Jesus' teachings by showing how the classic biblical practices of almsgiving, prayer and fasting must be done with sincerity of heart, and not to win the approval of others or even of God. Like much of Jewish teaching, it advocates religious deeds done for good purposes alone.

"Now is the acceptable time! Now is the day of salvation!" Paul urges in the second reading (2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2). After describing how God has already been at work in Christ reconciling the world to himself, Paul emphasizes in words taken from the book of Isaiah (49:8) how the favorable time of universal redemption is at hand.

The liturgy of the Lenten season invites us to experience God's reconciliation more deeply within us and to reflect it in the way we live our daily lives. Not that this is something that we achieve on our own. Rather, heeding Paul's advice that righteousness comes from God through faith, we must let ourselves be transformed by God's saving power.

If during Lent we become more like Christ in his sufferings and death by living more for God and for others, we hope that we may also share his risen life more fully when Easter comes.

Jesuit Father Francis T. Gignac is a professor and chairperson of the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

1998 Lenten Message

Pope John Paul II Urges Concrete Sign Of Love For Poor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's Lenten message for 1998. It was released at the Vatican Feb. 17.*

"Come, O blessed of my Father, for I was poor, marginalized and you welcomed me!"

1. Dear brothers and sisters! Each year Lent recalls the mystery of Christ "led by the Spirit in the desert" (Lk 4:1). With this unique experience, Jesus gave witness to his complete surrender to the will of the Father. The church offers the faithful this liturgical season so that they can renew themselves internally through the word of God and may express in life the love which Christ instills in the heart of everyone who believes in him.

This year, in preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, the church contemplates the mystery of the Holy Spirit. By this mystery the church is being led in the desert to experience with Christ the fragility of the human being, but also the closeness of God who saves. The prophet Hosea writes: "I will allure her, and bring her into the desert, and speak tenderly to her" (Hos 2:16). The season of Lent is, therefore, a journey of conversion in the Holy Spirit, encountering God in our life. In fact, the desert is a place of dryness and death, synonymous with solitude. At the same time, it is a place of dependence on God, of meditation and of the essential. For a Christian the desert journey represents a personal experience of inadequacy before God, thereby becoming more sensitive to the presence of the poor.

2. This year I wish to propose, for reflection by all the faithful, words inspired by the Gospel of Matthew: "Come, O blessed of my Father, for I was poor, marginalized and you welcomed me!" (cfr. Mt 25:34-36).

Poverty has different meanings. The first which comes to mind is the absence of sufficient material means. This poverty, which for many of our brothers crosses the line to misery, is a scandal. It assumes a multiplicity of forms and is found linked to various painful phenomena: the lack of the necessary means of survival and primary health care; the absence of a home or its inadequacy and the consequent abnormal situations; the marginalization of the weakest from society and the unemployed from the productive sector; the loneliness of those having no one to count on; the condition of international refugees and those who suffer from war and its cruelties; the inequality of salaries; the absence of a family and the grave consequences which derive from this such as drugs and violence. The individual is humiliated by the lack of these necessities of life. It is a tragedy before which those who have the possibility to intervene cannot, in conscience, remain indifferent.

Another equally serious form of poverty exists. It is not the lack of material means but that of spiritual nourishment, of a response to essential questions, of hope for one's own existence. This poverty touches the soul and brings about grave sufferings. The consequences of this are right before our eyes and are often very sad, a life void of meaning. This kind of misery is mostly found in environments where people live in comfort, materially satisfied but without a spiritual orientation. Christ's word in the desert confirms this: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Mt. 4:4). In the depth of his heart, he asks for meaning, he yearns for love.

Take up
the cross
and
follow me

The proclamation of the Gospel in work and deed is the response to this poverty. The Gospel brings salvation and also brings light even in the darkness of suffering because it conveys the love and mercy of God. In the end it is the hunger for God that consumes the human being. Without the comfort which comes from God, mankind is abandoned to himself, always in need and without the true source of life.

The church continually combats all forms of poverty, because as mother she is concerned that each and every person be able to live fully in dignity as a child of God. The Lenten season is a special time for the members of the church to recall their task toward helping their brethren.

3. Sacred Scripture constantly calls us to solicitude toward the poor, because God himself is present in them: "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed" (Prv 19:17). New Testament revelation teaches not to scorn the poor since Christ identifies himself with them. In opulent societies and a world ever increasingly marked by a practical materialism invading every aspect of life, we cannot forget the strong words with which Christ admonishes the rich (cfr. Mt 19:23-24; Lk 6:24-25; Lk 16:19-31). In particular, we cannot forget that he himself "became poor so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9). The Son of God "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, ... he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross (Phil 2:7-8). By becoming fully human, including even in poverty, suffering and death, it is possible that in Christ every person can find himself.

In becoming poor himself, Christ truly became one with each person living in poverty. That is why the words which inspire the theme of this Lenten message are heard also at the Last Judgment where Christ blesses those who recognized his image in the needy: "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). Therefore, those who truly love God welcome the poor. They really understand that God took on this condition so as to be totally united with mankind. Welcoming the poor is a sign of true love for Jesus Christ as proven by St. Francis who kisses the leper because in him he recognized the suffering Christ.

4. Every Christian feels called to share the pain and difficulty of the "other" in whom God himself is only possible in a personal commitment of poverty in spirit. Poverty, in fact, does not exist only in the negative sense. There is also a poverty which is blessed by God. This the Gospel calls "blessed" (Mt 5:3). Thanks to this poverty in spirit, the Christian recognizes that salvation comes exclusively from God and makes him ready to serve his brother considering him "better than yourself" (Phil 2:3). Spiritual poverty entails the fruit of the new heart which God gives us. In the season of Lent such fruit must mature through concrete behavior such as: the spirit of service, the openness to look for the good of the other, the willingness to share with our brother, the commitment of combating that pride which isolates us from our neighbor.

This atmosphere of welcoming is increasingly necessary in confronting today's diverse forms of distancing ourselves from others. This is profoundly evidenced in the problem of millions of refugees and exiles, in the phenomenon of racial intolerance as well as intolerance toward the person whose only "fault" is a search for work and better living conditions outside his own country and in the fear of all who are different and thus seen as a threat. In this way, the word of the Lord acquires new relevance in the face of the needs of so many people who search for housing, struggle for work and seek education for their children. As regards these people, the welcoming of them remains a challenge for the Christian community which cannot ignore its obligation to respond so that everyone is able to find living conditions suitable to the dignity of a child of God!

I exhort every Christian, in this Lenten season, to evidence his personal conversion through a concrete sign of love toward those in need, recognizing in this person the face of Christ and repeating, as if almost face to face: "I was poor, I was marginalized ... and you welcomed me."

5. As a result of this commitment, the light of hope will again be ignited for many people. When with Christ the church serves the person in need, she opens hearts to a new hope going beyond evil and suffering, beyond sin and death. In fact, the evils which afflict us, the vastness of problems, the immense number of those who suffer, represent an obstacle which cannot be humanly overcome. The church offers its assistance, also of a material nature, to relieve these difficulties. At the same time the church knows that she is able and must give much more. That what is expected from her, above all else, is a word of hope. Where material means are not able to alleviate the misery, for example in the case of corporal or spiritual ailments, the church announces to the poor that hope that comes from Jesus Christ. In this time of preparation for Easter, I wish to repeat that proclamation. In preparation for the Jubilee of the Year 2000, the church dedicates 1998 to the virtue of hope and I repeat to all — but in particular those who most feel themselves to be poor, alone, suffering, marginalized — the words of the Easter sequence: "Christ, my hope, is risen." He has conquered the evil which constrains men to darkness, the sin which closes their hearts in selfishness, the fear of death which threatens them.

In the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ, we see light for every human being. This Lenten message is an invitation to open our eyes to the poverty of many. It also strives to indicate the path so as to encounter in Easter that Christ who, giving himself to us as nourishment, inspires our hearts with faith and hope. Therefore I wish that this 1998 Lenten season becomes the occasion for each Christian to experience poverty with the Son of God and to be an instrument of his love in the service of our brother in need.

See Lenten Guidelines, page 8

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Suplemento de The Catholic News and Herald 20 de febrero de 1998

Vicente Finnerty: Un amigo al servicio de la Iglesia

Por ILEANA NIEVES
Corresponsal del periódico
"La Noticia"

Una sonrisa amplia y dotes de un genuino servidor es lo que de inmediato nos llamó la atención en nuestro encuentro con Vicente Finnerty Foyle, apodado "Chente" entre sus conocidos. ¿Y quién es este "Chente" al cual acuden tantos latinos en busca de consejo y ayuda espiritual? Es el Padre Vicente, Director del Centro Católico Hispano ubicado en el 2117 de Shenandoah Avenue en Charlotte. Allí nos dimos cita para conocer un poco al Padre, al ser humano y sobre todo al amigo en la figura de este sacerdote de origen norteamericano, que ha dedicado muchos años al servicio de la comunidad latina.

¿Cómo llegó a Charlotte?

En 1979 fui ordenado sacerdote. Pertenezco a una congregación religiosa que es misionera, los vicentinos. He trabajado en muchos países latinos. Antes de llegar aquí, me encontraba trabajando en México. Allí estuve nueve años. De ahí pasé a Charlotte a dirigir el Centro Hispano. Soy director diocesano de treintidós comunidades. Visito estas comunidades para orientarlas en torno al trabajo de la Iglesia, para organizarlas y orientar a los sacerdotes que no hablan inglés. Sin embargo, principalmente me ocupo de la formación de los laicos.

¿Cuánto tiempo lleva como sacerdote?

Diecinueve años.

¿Sintió inclinación por el sacerdocio desde pequeño o despertó este interés más tarde?

La inquietud surgió después, durante los estudios universitarios, particularmente luego de la lectura de un libro sobre la vida de San Vicente de Paul y por haber conocido a un padre vicentino.

De no ser sacerdote, ¿qué profesión hubiese seleccionado?

Te vàs a reír porque ... en la universidad estudié periodismo; soy periodista, aunque nunca he ejercido la profesión.

¿Qué estudios realizó en el seminario?

Estudié teología y tengo un Doctorado en Divinidad.

Por su modo amigable de ser, deben ser muchos los jóvenes que se acercan a usted en busca de ayuda o consejos, ¿es así?

Casi todo mi sacerdocio he trabajado con la juventud. En Panamá, tres de los siete años que trabajé allí fui el Director Nacional de la Paz Juvenil en la Iglesia católica. Aquí en Charlotte también nos dedicamos mucho a trabajar con los jóvenes ayudándoles a valorizarse a sí mismos y a estimar lo que son como individuos. Esto lo hacemos a través de distintas actividades.

¿Cuáles son sus intereses particulares aparte de su labor como sacerdote?

Disfruto leer, escuchar música y hacer ejercicio, aunque no tengo mucho tiempo para estas cosas.

¿Cómo ha ayudado específicamente esta Iglesia y la que labor hace usted para ayudar a los latinos que llegan a esta área en sus diversas necesidades?

Nuestra labor de ayudar a la gente es un proceso. Cuando llegué encontré en la comunidad gente muy buena, muy sana, de buena formación, con inquietudes muy buenas, gente muy de Dios. El primer año estuve uniendo a la comunidad. Luego de esto surgió una inquietud muy fuerte por tener un centro y una iglesia de nuestra propiedad, ya que todavía en la actualidad se usan las facilidades del gimnasio de una escuela para celebrar las Misas. Actualmente un comité de construcción se encuentra en búsqueda de alternativas que brinden una solución a esta situación, ya que cada día la comunidad latina va en aumento. La diócesis ya adquirió un terreno para levantar las edificaciones para la iglesia. La idea que existe es tener un lugar que sirva como un centro de usos múltiples con oficinas para brindar diversos servicios a la gente, tanto sociales como médicos, entre otros. Se contempla ubicar en el terreno comprado lugares para que los niños jueguen, áreas para deportes. Pensamos construir una guardería para brindar servicio no sólo a la comunidad latina, sino también a otros. La tercera parte de la construcción será la iglesia. Todo se hará al estilo latino; ya que también pensamos tener una plaza como las que hay en nuestros pueblos latinoamericanos, una gruta, entre otras cosas. Estos son proyectos a largo plazo. La primera etapa será el centro de usos múltiples para celebrar las Misas y cualquier otra actividad de la iglesia.

"...además de atender el aspecto religioso y social, se atiende el cultural..."

De acuerdo con lo que acaba de decir, observo que esta Iglesia desea abarcar también el aspecto social de la feligresía, ¿cómo piensan lograrlo?

La idea que tenemos es hacer un Centro Latino no sólo para católicos, sino más bien para toda la comunidad latina, donde puedan encontrar servicios sobre cómo encontrar trabajo, o lugar donde vivir y brindarles información sobre asuntos legales. Ahora mismo trabajamos muy en conjunto con el Lic. Stefan Latorrre.

¿Cuáles son las necesidades más apremiantes de los latinos cuando están en contacto con ustedes?

Primeramente les ayudamos en necesidades relacionadas con el trabajo o la vivienda, pero también respondemos lógicamente al aspecto de evangelización, lo cual está dando mucho fruto. Se están formando muchas pequeñas comunidades cristianas en vecindades. La gente se está reuniendo, se está animando mucho. Están pasando cosas muy positivas en ese sentido. Con esto atendemos también el aspecto social y esa es una manera de evangelizar. Como decía San Vicente: "Muchas veces hay que dale de comer a la gente antes de hablarles del evangelio". Ahora bien, importa mucho cómo das un pedazo de pan, si lo das con un sentido de caridad, fraternidad y sencillez o si lo estás dando con una actitud de superioridad. De acuerdo a cómo lo hagas es una manera de evangelizar.

¿Qué aspecto atienden primero cuando la gente llega donde ustedes, el aspecto social o el religioso?

Se atienden ambos a la vez. Cuando la gente llega de otro lugar siente soledad. La población que llega a nosotros es mayormente masculina, hombres que han dejado esposas e hijos en sus países.

Continua en la paginá 4

Foto John West

Carmen Hilton después de haber recibido el premio "Spirit" en compañía de su esposo Bruce Hilton.

Hispana recibe el premio 'Spirit'

Por LUIS WOLF

CHARLOTTE — El pasado 21 de enero, en una ceremonia efectuada en el Museo de Arte Mint, la señora Carmen Hilton fue una de las seis personas e instituciones que recibieron el premio "Spirit" de 1997 como un gesto de respeto y gratitud por su servicio y compromiso hacia las artes en beneficio de la comunidad.

El premio "Spirit"(Spirit Award) se creó en 1986 y empezó a ser patrocinado por la Compañía Royal Insurance en 1990 conjuntamente con "Spirit Square" para reconocer a personas, organizaciones o corporaciones que han contribuido muy significativamente con su tiempo, talento o recursos a las artes, mejorando significativamente el clima cultural y la calidad de vida de la comunidad de Charlotte/Mecklenburg y áreas adyacentes. Este año este premio fue patrocinado por la Royal Insurance y el Museo de Arte Mint (Mint Museum of Art).

Carmen Hilton, natural de Barcelona, España, es una trabajadora incansable. Ella es presidenta de la Asociación de Mujeres Latinoamericanas, socia de la Coalición Latinoamericana, pertenece a varios consejos de administración culturales y sociales, trabaja de voluntaria en los hospitales y en las escuelas ayudando a los hispanos, colabora en los programas del Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte y en los programa de intercambio de estudiantes extranjeros y está involucrada en tantas otras actividades que la lista se hace interminable.

Otros de los ganadores del premio "Spirit" fueron: Claude R. Alexander, Jr., Barbara Howse-Meadows, Joseph B. Martin, Patricia O'Herron Norman y KPM/PEAT Marwick.

Mensaje de Cuaresma

Rev. Vincent H. Finnerty, C.M.

Con el Miércoles de Ceniza empezamos el tiempo litúrgico de la Cuaresma: un tiempo de preparación, un tiempo de penitencia. En el pasado, en la Iglesia, entendíamos la penitencia única y exclusivamente como sacrificio corporal. Era un tiempo de ayuno, de abstinencia, de caras tristes, de ausencia de música y de alegría, cuando Cristo había prescrito que aun en tiempo de ayuno nos echáramos perfume y nos alegráramos.

La penitencia no tiene este significado en la Sagrada Escritura. **Más bien significa conversión**. Por eso, la verdadera preparación para la Cuaresma, tanto individual como comunitaria, debe consistir en un proceso de conversión profunda de nuestro ser. Esto es algo mucho más serio, más profundo, más trascendental, que el sacrificio corporal.

Este tiempo de preparación para la Pascua, debe ser un **recuerdo, un recuerdo** alegre de nuestra conversión al amor. Es el **recuerdo** de nuestra respuesta definitiva al grito de Cristo: **"Conviértanse y crean en la Buena Nueva"** o **"Busquen el Reino de Dios y su justicia"**. o **"Amense los unos a los otros"**.

Sí, hermanos y hermanas, la Cuaresma es un tiempo cuando **recordamos** que cada uno tiene que decidir, de una vez para siempre, el destino de su vida: o con Cristo, o contra Cristo. Es **una decisión de gran responsabilidad**, porque entra en juego nuestro destino final, lo que será de nosotros más allá del tiempo. Es una **decisión alegre** porque resulta del amor y desemboca en la esperanza. Finalmente, es una **decisión dolorosa.** Dios no nos pide sacrificar a nuestro propio hijo como le pidió a Abraham, sino algo más íntimo, más nuestro, más doloroso: la **libertad.**

Convertirse es devolverle a Dios lo más grande que hemos recibido de El, lo único que puede agradarle: nuestra libertad. Así que, la Cuaresma nos presenta la opción de la vida: escogernos a nosotros mismos o abandonarnos a un amor. a un Dios que llama y promete, pero que no coacciona. Dios invita a la conversión porque sabe que lo que nos libera es el bien: porque siempre tendremos la tentación de darle un "no" a El para salvar nuestra libertad que en realidad acaba con nosotros esclavizándonos, haciéndonos incapaces de amar.

Hermanos y hermanas, la verdadera conversión de Jesús empieza en Getsemaní cuando renuncia a su voluntad para aceptar la de su Padre: **"No se haga mi voluntad sino la tuya".** Y esta conversión termina con su última palabra en la cruz: **"Padre, en tus manos me entrego"**. Que era como decir: **"Me fío de Ti; prefiero tu libertad a la mía"**

Hermanos y Hermanas, ciertamente Cristo no renunció a su voluntad, a sus criterios, a su libertad sin dolor, sin angustia, sin pánico, sin horror. Cristo hubiera preferido escoger un camino suyo: "**Si es posible que pase de mí este cáliz"**. Pero Cristo prefirió a su Padre que a sí mismo.

Así que la verdadera penitencia para nosotros es esta conversión al amor a través del ofrecimiento de nuestra libertad al Creador y Redentor. Esta oferta nos despoja de nuestro orgullo y nos hace disponibles para el encuentro, para la aceptación, para el abrazo del prójimo.

Un filósofo, Sartre, una vez dijo: "El ateo es un hombre de convicciones, el cristiano, de costumbres". Si la Iglesia se hace más comprometida con las angustias de los pobres es porque empezamos a entender que no estar decidida, públicamente comprometida con Cristo, con el pobre, con la historia, es estar contra, enfrente. **La Fe ya no se vive de costumbres. Hoy se debe amar u odiar, creer o negar; y al hombre que rehusa a participar en el juego de sus hermanos, se le empieza a considerar más como bestia que como persona.**

La Cuaresma es una invitación a entregar nuestra libertad a Dios, a hacer un fíat como María. Es una invitación a confesar nuestros pecados, es decir, confesar nuestras profanaciones a la libertad propia y ajena. **Es una invitación a tomar nuestra cruz y aceptarnos limitados, dependientes, inacabados, inseguros, débiles, enfermos, solos.** Es una invitación a seguir a Cristo, a fiarnos, a abandonarnos, porque en realidad El ha vencido al mal.

La decisión a favor o en contra de Cristo, es nuestro fíat, es el momento de nuestra conversión. Y ese momento se realiza en el bautismo. **La ceniza que empieza la Cuaresma y el agua bautismal de la Vigilia Pascual, nos recuerdan la misma realidad: nuestra conversión a Cristo.** El bautismo es el momento de la conversión definitiva de cada uno de nosotros al amor que es Dios. Es también el momento del riesgo, del cambio de una libertad que siente y conoce como propia, por otra libertad que desconoce y que sólo por la fe se cree que es más auténtica. El bautismo es irrepetible. Damos nuestra libertad de una vez para siempre. Se da totalmente, no a medias. **Y si esta entrega es sincera, nos tiene que arrancar de nosotros mismos y lanzarnos al campo del amor fraterno, a Cristo presente en el pobre.**

Hermanos y hermanas, la Cuaresma nos invita a examinar la triste realidad que pocas veces nuestro fíat es definitivo y a cada momento tenemos que enfrentarnos con el espíritu del mal que tienta como Pedro a Jesús cuando le dijo: **"No subas a la Cruz", es decir, no entregues tu libertad, tus proyectos, tu voluntad.** Por eso necesitamos convertirnos cada momento; necesitamos revisar nuestro fíat, necesitamos podar los rebotes de egoísmo para que no ahogue el crecimiento de la generosidad. Y es aquí donde encuentra un lugar la Cuaresma. La mejor forma de prepararse para la fiesta de la alegría Pascual, es mirarnos con valentía, enfrentarnos a nosotros mismos y ante el peligro de que se pueda apagar la llama de nuestro don definitivo, estar dispuestos, en frase evangélica, a cortar, a arrancar, a volver a empezar.

Esta Cuaresma., al recibir la ceniza, demos nuestro fíat, nuestra decisión de estar con Cristo, de hacer la entrega de nuestra libertad a su voluntad. Que esta Cuaresma sea un tiempo de gracia para todos y cada uno de nosotros.

JEFFERSON — La comunidad hispana de Jefferson celebró la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el pasado 12 de diciembre con un rosario, canciones y una gran comida. Aquí vemos algunos de los niños que asistieron a esta celebración. *(Colaboración de Marilyn Riehle)*

Operación 'tazón de arroz' da comienzo a campaña de 1998

BALTIMORE (CNS) – "Alimentemos al Espíritu de la Esperanza", es el tema del programa de la Operación "Tazón de Arroz" para la Cuaresma de este año, auspiciada por los Servicios de Socorro Católicos (CRS en inglés).

CRS echa un vistazo a la vida en algunas de las 80 naciones donde funciona, para recordar a los católicos de la necesidad de alimentos, agua y trabajo en dichas naciones.

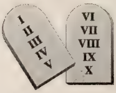
La Operación "Tazón de Arroz", que empieza el Miércoles de Ceniza, 25 de febrero, alienta a los católicos a tomar parte en sus cuatro elementos de oración, ayuno, aprendizaje y generosidad.

Uno de los principales elementos del componente de generosidad es el "tazón de arroz", una caja de cartón pequeña que se distribuye a los católicos al nivel parroquial para llevarla a sus casas.

Se anima a las familias a hacer comidas sencillas y aportar al tazón de arroz el dinero que habrían gastado en comidas más costosas. Ese dinero y otras contribuciones se recogen al final de la Cuaresma.

Décimo mandamiento

"No codiciarás las cosas ajenas."



Mientras el *Noveno Mandamiento* nos prohibe el desordenado deseo de gozar, el *Décimo Mandamiento* nos prohibe el desordenado deseo de poseer. Al cumplir con este Mandamiento nos liberamos de esa voraz e insaciable concupiscencia de los ojos, hecha de avaricia , de codicia, de envidia y de sed de dominio. Por supuesto, el afán de poseer lo ajeno nada tiene que ver con el deseo altamente recomendable de procurar mejorar nuestra condición y la de nuestra familia con medios lícito honestos.

Las personas que no codician los bienes ajenos gozan de una gran libertad interior y su corazón, movido por la gracia y el Espíritu de Dios, se orienta con más facilidad hacia los bienes eternos.

Actitudes equivocadas. Aparte del consumismo imperante, que nos empuja a desear más y más cosas, podemos señalar: el hacer del dinero el fin de la vida y sólo buscar conservarlo y multiplicarlo; envidiar a aquellos que poseen más bienes que nosotros; el negar, por mentalidad mezquina, lo necesario a la propia familia y a los dependientes y negar ayuda a los más pobres. Apegarse a esos malos pensamientos que desembocan en asaltos, estafas, engaños y cualquier indebido aprovechamiento de lo ajeno.

Actitud cristiana. Los cristianos auténticos luchan para purificar su mente y su corazón del desenfrenado deseo de poseer bienes y dinero. Buscan esa evangélica pobreza interior, que es el camino obligado para entrar en el Reino de los cielos. Procuran evitar, aun en pensamientos y deseos, la envidia y la codicia de lo que no es propio. Se esfuerzan y buscan de realizar bien su trabajo, para ganarse honradamente la vida y progresar y, evitando avaricia y el despilfarro, planean servirse de lo mucho o de lo poco que poseen sólo y esencialmente para el bien y cumplir con la ley de Dios, que no quiere que seamos esclavos de las riquezas, sino que las utilicemos para la justicia y la caridad.

Nota de dolor

El pasado 9 de febrero falleció en Rome, New York, la Sra, Anna Finnerty, madre del Padre Vicente Finnerty, Director de la Pastoral Hispana de la Diócesis de Charlotte. Por este medio le hacemos llegar al Padre Finnerty y familiares nuestro más sentido pésame en nombre de toda la comunidad. Notas de condolencia pueden ser enviadas al Padre Finnerty al Centro Católico Hispano, 2117 Shenandoah Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28205.

Papa dice que desgaste de valores familiares es parte de crisis

SANTA CLARA, Cuba (CNS) — Al celebrar su primera Misa en suelo cubano, el Papa Juan Pablo II advirtió que los valores familiares del país estaban desgastándose — como resultado directo, dijo él, de la crisis que aflige a la sociedad cubana en su conjunto.

Al hablar el 22 de enero desde un altar cubierto por un techo rústico en un campo de las afueras de Santa Clara, el Pontífice condenó a la práctica muy extendida y legalizada del aborto en Cuba, la tasa elevada de divorcios, las relaciones sexuales antes del matrimonio y el control de la natalidad.

Entre los factores sociales que contribuyen a dichos males se hallaban los jornales bajos, la vivienda insuficiente, la insatisfacción ideológica y la emigración, de los cuales él dijo que han "desbaratado a familias enteras".

El Papa animó a los cubanos a procurar las respuestas definitivas para estos problemas, no en los programas del estado sino en Jesucristo.

"Ninguna ideología puede sustituir a Su sabiduría y a Su poder infinitos. Por esta razón, hay necesidad de recuperar los valores religiosos al nivel de la familia y de la sociedad", dijo él.

Aplicando alguna presión contra la prohibición gubernamental de las escuelas administradas por la Iglesia, el Papa dijo también que los padres deberían poder seleccionar libremente el contenido ético y cívico y la "inspiración religiosa" de la enseñanza de sus hijos.

"Abran sus familias y sus escuelas a los valores del Evangelio de Jesucristo, que nunca son una amenaza para ningún proyecto social", dijo el Papa.

El Papa presidió una liturgia de dos y media horas en las afueras de Santa Clara, una ciudad interior rodeada por colinas con granjas de frutas y caña de azúcar. Una brisa cálida soplaba a través de una multitud de 40,000 personas que llenaron el lugar de la Misa, junto a un instituto cultural.

La multitud cantaba lemas de bienvenida, tales como: "Juan Pablo II, los cubanos te aman!" y llevaban letreros pintados que proclamaban al Papa como "un navegante por la paz y el amor", mientras que una banda al estilo del Caribe tocaba música animada cerca del altar.

El Papa dijo que él simpatizaba con las muchas familias cubanas que luchan para buscarse la vida en un país de escaseces materiales. Pero empleando una frase que él ha usado muchas veces en otros países occidentales — incluyendo a los Estados Unidos — él criticó a una "mentalidad contraria a la vida" que surge en Cuba.

El calificó al aborto de "crimen abominable" que empobrece a la sociedad, a pesar de lo cual es aceptado en Cuba. La isla tiene una tasa de abortos especialmente alta — seis por cada diez nacimientos vivos desde 1968 — y los expertos dicen que las jóvenes pueden haber sufrido varios abortos antes de establecerse y criar a una familia.

El Papa y Castro se reúnen a puertas cerradas durante casi una hora

LA HABANA (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II y el presidente Fidel Castro se reunieron durante casi una hora a puertas cerradas en el palacio presidencial de La Habana para charlar francamente sobre el papel de la Iglesia en Cuba.

La reunión individual del 22 de enero fue el mayor acontecimiento político de la visita de cinco días del Papa a la nación del Caribe. Sin embargo, nadie reveló exactamente lo que se dijeron mutuamente ambos dirigentes.

El portavoz del Vaticano, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, dijo después: "Fue confidencial".

Antes de la visita, las fuentes del Vaticano dijeron que esperaban que el Papa emplearía la oportunidad — como lo hizo en su mensaje de Navidad para Cuba — a fin de apremiar por la apertura de un mayor espacio de funcionamiento para la Iglesia y sus dependencias.

Un asunto se hizo público. Navarro-Valls dijo que, en reuniones paralelas, los funcionarios del Vaticano, a solicitud del Papa, transmitieron peticiones de clemencia para cientos de presos políticos cubanos. Los funcionarios cubanos dijeron que estudiarían las peticiones con "gran atención".

Castro esperaba con ansiedad el servir de anfitrión al Papa en su propio terreno, y pareció disfrutar del momento.

El dirigente cubano, de 71 años de edad, se reunió con el Pontífice de 77 años de edad a la puerta y lo acompañó por los corredores brillantes del palacio presidencial. El Papa caminaba despacio con un bastón, impulsando a Castro a preguntarle qué tal estaba su pierna y cómo le estaba yendo en el calor. Después de presentar a sus respectivos ayudantes, los dos hombres posaron para los fotógrafos, estrechándose las manos y luciendo grandes sonrisas.

"Deberíamos estar recibiendo paga por esto, pero no estamos recibiendo nada", bromeó Castro al Papa, a medida que destellaban cientos de cámaras fotográficas.

"Sí, es una pena", replicó el Pontífice.

Cuando salieron de su reunión privada cerca de 50 minutos después, sus sonrisas parecían haber desaparecido en alguna medida. Ellos intercambiaron regalos, cada uno de los cuales había sido seleccionado cuidadosamente.

Castro dio al Papa un ejemplar de la biografía del Presbítero Félix Varela, hecha en el siglo XIX. Varela fue un maestro y patriota cubano, cuya causa de santidad está siendo considerada en el Vaticano.

El Papa ofreció a Castro un retrato de Cristo en mosaico.

En La Habana, el Papa insta a Cuba a regresar a su 'alma cristiana'

LA HABANA (CNS) — En una liturgia que señaló un punto de cambio para Cuba y sus católicos, el Papa Juan Pablo II defendió enérgicamente a la libertad religiosa y al papel social legítimo de la Iglesia, y pidió a la nación que regresara a su "alma cristiana".

Al celebrar la Misa en la Plaza Cívica de La Habana (llamada ahora Plaza de la Revolución) el 25 de enero, el Papa dijo que Cuba necesita y quiere un "gran cambio" que transcienda a las ideologías y que permita espacio para la práctica de la fe en todos los campos de la sociedad.

El sermón del Papa produjo un largo aplauso y vítores de una multitud de 150,000 personas y ofreció un reto implícito al régimen socialista de Fidel Castro, que estaba sentado en la primera fila de la plaza.

El Papa en Cuba

Foto CNS de Reuters

EL PAPA Y CASTRO — El Papa Juan Pablo II saluda al presidente de Cuba, Fidel Castro, en el Palacio de la Revolución, antes de su reunión privada el 22 de enero. Los dos se reunieron a puertas cerradas durante casi una hora.

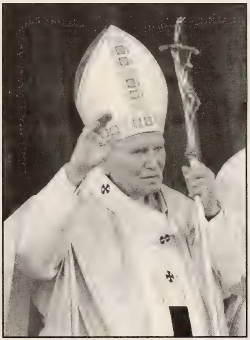


Foto CNS de Reuters

EL PAPA SALUDA — El Papa Juan Pablo II saluda a la multitud de 40,000 personas que se reunió para oír Misa en un estadio al aire libre el 22 de enero en Santa Clara, Cuba. El presidió en una liturgia de dos horas durante la cual alentó a los cubanos a volverse hacia Cristo para reforzar a la vida de la familia.

Foto CNS de Reuters

LOS NIÑOS CON EL PAPA — Un grupo de niños cubanos cantan para el Papa Juan Pablo II frente a la residencia del Nuncio Papal el 22 de enero en La Habana, Cuba. El Papa estaba en su visita histórica de cinco días a la nación isleña sojuzgada por los comunistas.

Presentación de nuestro señor

Foto CNS de Reuters

Una mujer lleva una vela y una figura del Niño Jesús durante la Misa en la Catedral de Ciudad México el 2 de febrero. Los mexicanos llevan tradicionalmente figuras elaboradas de un Jesús joven para ser bendecidas en la Misa a los 40 días después de Navidad.

Viene de página 1

La iglesia es entonces ese lugar donde encuentran un poquito ese sentido de familia nuevamente. Es aquí donde ven cómo Dios les extiende la mano en uno de los momentos más difíciles de su vida. Esto demuestra cómo el aspecto religioso acompaña el aspecto social. Uno de los elementos atrayentes de los grupos que se están formando en las comunidades es precisamente el sentido de familia. Si nosotros como Iglesia no creamos estos ambientes, la gente busca ese sentido de familia en las cantinas, en las drogas y en otras cosas que les hacen perder sus propias vidas y culturas. Así que, además de atender el aspecto religioso y social, se atiende el cultural para que la gente mantenga sus tradiciones que a la vez son devociones religiosas.

¿Cómo están representadas las naciones latinoamericanas en la Iglesia?

Tenemos de todas las nacionalidades, pero la mayor parte es de Centro América y México. También hay una buena cantidad de puertorriqueños y colombianos. Históricamente el Centro Católico fue fundado por la comunidad cubana y ecuatoriana. Aun siguen muchos de ellos muy involucrados en la Iglesia.

¿Cómo dan seguimiento a la feligresía nueva para que no se alejen de la fe?

Lo hacemos a través de las comunidades que se están formando en las vecindades.

¿Cuántos latinos se reúnen los días de Misa?

Alrededor de mil doscientos en las cuatro Misas.

¿Cuáles son los días en que se celebran las Misas y el horario?

Los sábados a las siete de la noche y los domingos a las diez de la mañana, doce del mediodía y siete de la noche. Nuestra gente trabaja mucho y por razón de sus trabajos a veces no pueden venir a la Misa del domingo. Por eso, tenemos Misa dos días distintos con diferente horario para que tengan la oportunidad de asistir en algún momento. Sin embargo, muchas personas quisieran venir y por el mismo trabajo o porque no tienen transportación no pueden llegar. Entonces la idea es que no nos quedemos nosotros en la iglesia con los brazos cruzados esperando que la gente llegue, o preguntándonos por qué no llegan; sino más bien lanzarnos nosotros hacia la comunidad. Si alguna persona no puede ir a Misa, puede nutrirse en ese sentido asistiendo una vez a la semana a los grupos pequeños y leer la Palabra de Dios, orar un poquito con otros y compartir ese sentido de comunidad y de familia.

¿Cómo llevan a cabo el plan de evangelización?

Estamos comenzando todo esto y aun queda mucho por hacer. Tenemos un plan muy fuerte de evangelización. Empieza con unos retiros que han sido muy exitosos. En estos participan las treintidós comunidades, además de que están abiertos para cualquiera otra persona. Estos retiros están orientados a que la gente se comprometa con sus comunidades. Luego hacemos un curso sencillo de evangelización que es de trabajo en grupos. En éste la gente analiza su realidad como comunidad latina en Estados Unidos a la luz de la Palabra de Dios y los documentos de la Iglesia y determina qué nos pide Dios frente a lo que tenemos. Este curso termina preparando a la gente para las visitas a las casas y es así como se van formando los pequeños grupos.

¿Qué mensaje le daría a la comunidad latinoamericana en torno a la búsqueda de Dios?

Le diría que debemos ver la imagen de Dios desde la Palabra de Dios . Ver a ese Dios que es Padre, que es amoroso, que está cercano, que nos dio todo y de modo especial a su Hijo Jesús. Debemos darnos cuenta de que aunque somos pecadores él nos ama , que debemos aceptarnos en nuestros dones y talentos y también en nuestras limitaciones, reconociendo nuestra dignidad como personas amadas. Sabemos que es eso lo que transforma a la gente. No tanto hablar del amor de Dios, sino dejar que el amor de Dios penetre nuestras vidas, que nos transforme. Es esta experiencia con Dios lo que realmente debemos buscar.

*Esta entrevista fue publicada en el periódico **"La Noticia"** en su edición del 30 de enero de 1998*

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO *St. Joseph*, 326 S. Park St. (910) 629-0221	todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE *St. Lawrence*, 97 Haywood St. (704) 252-6042	todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE *Our Lady of the Americas,* 105 Hayde Rd. (910) 428-3051	los domingos 11:30 am y 2 pm confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE *Sacred Heart,* Main St. & Summit	3er. domingo del mes 6 pm
CHARLOTTE *Centro Católico Hispano* Shenandoah Ave.y The Plaza (704) 335-1281	todos los sábados 7 pm domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS *Holy Family*, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. (910) 766-8133	todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON *Sagrado Corazón*, Rt. 601 (910) 632-8009	todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY *Immaculate Conception,* 1024 W. Main St. (704) 245-4017	todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA *St. Michael*, 708 St.Michael's Ln. (704) 867 6212	3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO *St. Mary*, 812 Duke St., (910) 272-8650	todos los domingos 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE *Immaculate Conception*, 208 7th. Ave.W.. (704)693-6901	todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT *Cristo Rey,* 1505 East Kivett Dr. (910) 884-0244	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
JEFFERSON *San Francisco de Asis,* Main y Ivy (910) 246-9151	2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS *St. Joseph,* 108 St.Joseph St.	todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE *Holy Cross,* 616 S.Cherry St. (910) 996-5109	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON *St. Dorothy,* 148 St.Dorothy's Lane (704) 735-5575	todos los domingos 12 pm
MONROE *Our Lady of Lourdes,* Deese y Franklin Streets	todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON *St. Charles Borromeo,* 714 W. Union St. (704) 437-3108	todos los domingos 5 pm
MOUNT AIRY *Holy Angels,* 1208 North Main St. (910) 786-8147	todos los domingos 6 pm
NEWTON *St. Joseph,* 720 West 13th. St., (704) 464-9207	todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO *St. John Church,* 275 C.C. Wright School Rd. (910)838-5562	1er., 3er., 5to. domingo del mes 6 pm
REIDSVILLE *Holy Infant,* 1042 Freeway Dr., (910) 342-1448	todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY *Sacred Heart,* 128 N.Fulton St. (704) 633-0591	todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA *St.Francis of Rome,* Hendrix Rd. (910) 372-8846	1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE *St. Phillip the Apostle,* 525 Camden Dr (704) 872-2579	1er. domingo del mes 2 pm
TAYLORSVILLE *Holy Trinity,* 665 W. Main Ave. (704) 632-8009	2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE *Our Lady of the Highways,* 943 Ball Park Rd. (910)475-2732	todos los domingos 12 pm
WINSTON-SALEM *Our Lady of Mercy,* 1919 S. Main St. (704) 722-7001	todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE *Christ the King,* U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd. (910) 463-5533	todos los domingos 12 pm

Entertainment

CNS photo from Polygram Films

A family of tiny people meddles in the life of an ordinary-size family in the fantasy film "The Borrowers." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The Borrowers" Has Zip

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Big bad John Goodman finds himself up against pint-size enemies in the appealing fantasy, "The Borrowers" (Polygram).

Ten-year-old Pete Lender (Bradley Pierce) wonders why small items have been missing from their house. Mom (Doon Mackichan) and Pop (Aden Gillett) are more worried about being evicted from their deceased aunt's home by her villainous lawyer, the odious Ocious Potter (Goodman), who plans to raze the house in a few days.

This is also calamitous news for the other occupants of the house, tiny people called The Borrowers, a family of four who live below the floorboards, fashioning a home out of bits of fabric, floss and matchsticks they surreptitiously lift from their host family when they aren't looking.

But Pete is looking one day when little Arietty (Flora Newbigin) surfaces and is forced to show him the rest of her family: younger Peagreen (Tom Felton) and frightened mum and dad Homily (Celia Imrie) and Pod (Jim Broadbent).

Pete promises to help them relocate to his new abode but, en route, disaster strikes when Arietty and Peagreen fall onto the streets. Making their way back into their old home, they are spotted by the very vicious Ocious — and his efficient exterminator (Mark Williams).

Fleet of foot, the tiny twosome evade immediate execution but poor little Peagreen manages to land inside an empty milk bottle in a danger-filled dairy. All looks lost when Pete and a veritable army of little people descend upon the dairy and take on the outsized Ocious.

Directed with a pleasing sense of whimsy by Peter Hewitt, the movie is based on "The Borrowers" stories by "Bedknobs and Broomsticks" author Mary Norton.

In film form, the tale casually mixes a nowadays setting with a visual look from decades ago, as well as a Dickensian tone. Adding to this blase approach is a virtually all-British cast while Goodman makes no attempt to sound like anything but a crass Yankee — and he seems to be having a grand time playing the heavy.

The action scenes have zip and visual wit and the contrasts between the Borrowers and the human "beans" are charmingly illustrated.

The film can also be seen as a fable about perseverance by underdogs, the value of a community coming together, and how a little common courtesy can go a long way in gliding over life's nasty little bumps.

At times the movie comes close to overdosing on whimsy, but as it moves along so speedily there is little time to dwell on its imperfections when there is plenty to enjoy.

Despite a fair amount of menace and some comically presented violence visited upon awful Ocious, many children should be able to handle these aspects of the film.

Because of some menace and comic violence, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Critical Care" (1997)

Uneven medical satire concerns the efforts of a caring resident doctor (James Spader) to do what's best for a terminal patient despite the patient's venal daughter (Kyra Sedgwick) trying to blackmail him into pulling the plug immediately so she can collect a huge inheritance. Director Sidney Lumet raises provocative issues about a flawed health care system in seriocomic style, although a contrived ending mutes the points made about greed and dehumanization. Serious treatment of euthanasia, a brief sexual encounter and occasional profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (LIVE, rental)

"The Edge" (1997)

Stranded in the Alaskan wilderness and trailed by a hungry Kodiak bear, a billionaire (Anthony Hopkins) and a fashion photographer (Alec Baldwin) struggle to survive the elements and their mutual mistrust over the rich man's much younger wife (Elle Macpherson). Directed by Lee Tamahori, the harrowing adventure is well acted, tautly edited and psychologically suspenseful, despite a few lapses in logic. Some intense violence, threatening situations, intermittent profanity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox, rental)

"Good Burger" (1997)

Weak comedy about the extremes to which two teen fast-food workers (Kel Mitchell and Kenan Thompson) go to keep a rival burger joint from stealing their secret sauce recipe which is saving their store from bankruptcy. Director Brian Robbins keeps up a peppy pace as the bumbling buddies are put in and out of an insane asylum in their quest to save their jobs. Some slapstick violence, mild sexual innuendo and a few crude expressions. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Paramount, rental)

"Intimate Relations" (1997)

Dreary fact-based tale is set in 1954 England, where a young lodger (Rupert Graves) with a troubled past is seduced by a dotty middle-aged landlady (Julie Walters) whose romantic illusions ultimately lead to a gory domestic tragedy. Writer-director Philip Goodhew takes a sardonic view of the characters and their relationships but the humorous treatment sours as their abnormal behavior grows increasingly bizarre long before the disturbingly violent conclusion. Gory violence, sexual situations and occasional rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (FoxVideo, rental)

"The Keeper" (1997)

Gritty drama in which an idealistic Brooklyn prison guard (Giancarlo Esposito) tries to help a Haitian immigrant (Isaach de Bankole) he believes is wrongly accused of rape by paying his bail and taking him home, then turns on him when he imagines the man is after his wife (Regina Taylor). Writer-director Joe Brewster probes the psychological effects of the prison environment on its workers with some insight before opting for an overly melodramatic ending. Brief violence, several racial slurs and constant rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Kino, rental)

"Most Wanted" (1997)

Murky thriller in which a fugitive Marine sergeant (Keenen Ivory Wayans) is framed by a power-mad general (Jon Voight) for the murder of the president's wife. Director David Glenn Hogan's convoluted conspiracy plot becomes increasingly far-fetched as the narrative strains to showcase constant action scenes. Intermittent violence, fleeting nudity, occasional profanity and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (New Line, rental)

"The Peacemaker" (1997)

Frantic thriller teams an aggressive military intelligence agent (George Clooney) with a nuclear physicist (Nicole Kidman) in tracking stolen nukes across continents until they come face-to-face with a madman intent on setting off a doomsday bomb in midtown Manhattan. Director Mimi Leder packs the rushed narrative with car chases and shoot-'em-ups, resulting in an emotionally sterile story of bogus thrills. Frequent violence, intermittent rough language and a few instances of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (DreamWorks, rental)

"Squeeze" (1997)

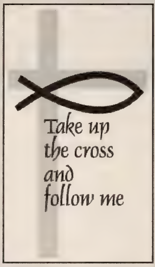
Gritty tale of three ghetto youths (Tyrone Burton, Eddie Cutanda and Phuong Duong) who court danger by stealing from a drug dealer, then are torn between joining a rival drug gang or trying to go straight under the guid-

See **Videos**, page 9

Guidelines For Lent

- The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday in particular are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.



- The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength" are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting binds all Catholics from age 18 to 59.

- Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. Under the present law it does not include egg or milk products, meat-stock soups or gravies. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years old and older.

- The *substantial* observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

- Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended. The Peace Pastoral of the American Bishops, stating that prayer is incomplete without penance, urges Friday abstinences as something all American Catholics should offer up for the sake of world peace.

- Parents and teachers should see to it that even those who are not bound by the laws of fasting and abstinence because of age are brought up in an atmosphere conducive to a sense of penance.

- The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive the sacrament of penance during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for confessions before Easter. Group penance services should not be scheduled for the last days of Holy Week. At *no* time is it permitted to schedule a group penance service for the purpose of giving general absolution without individual confessions.

- The liturgical directions of the Sacramentary and Lectionary *must* be faithfully observed regarding all the special Holy Week rites.

- Funeral Masses are not allowed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The funeral rite outside of Mass can be held either in church or at the chapel on those days, with a funeral Mass later.

- The RCIA is incorporated into the liturgy during Lent. The Rite of Election is celebrated the First Sunday of Lent. On the third, fourth and fifth Sunday of Lent, the Scrutinies take place during Mass.

KNIGHTS NEWS

Knights of Columbus Council 770

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Feb. 27th, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
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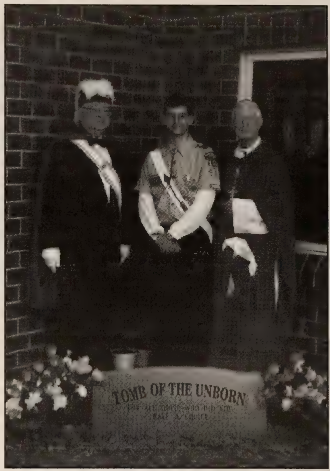

Photo by Mike Krokos

Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated a Monument to the Unborn Jan. 31 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte. The memorial was the undertaking of parishioner Robert Lavarnway, who was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout for his work. Assisting with the project were Knights of Columbus Councils 10505, 7450, and 2208. Also shown is Lavarnway's grandfather, Bob Kachmarik, a parishioner at St. James Church in Concord and member of Knights Council 7450.

New Creation Monastery

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Videos, from page 7

ance of a caring youth worker. Writer-director Robert Patton-Spruill uses the sole perspective of the three teen dropouts to offer an overly sympathetic portrait of kids at risk in a violent but not particularly insightful story. Intermittent violence, crude sexual remarks, drug abuse and continuous rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Miramax, rental)

Employment Opportunities

Mullen Publications:

Now hiring for two positions in film assembly (strippers) and a press assistant/driver. Please call 527-5111.

Choir Director/Organist:

Position open immediately. Part/Full time. Handbell, chimes choirs. 600 family parish, K-8 school. Faith Formation, RCIA, Sacramental Preparation. Congregational singing. Adult and children choirs. Benefits available. Send resume, salary requirements to Liturgy Search Committee, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 128 N. Fulton Street, Salisbury, NC 28144. Phone: (704) 633-0591. Fax: (704) 647-0126

Diocesan Regional Coordinators:

Charlotte Diocese Office of Religious Education has two openings: Northern Vicariates and Southern Vicariates. Diocese seeks persons with master's degree in Rel. Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris V. Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee. Inquiries: (704) 370-3244. Deadline: February 27, 1998, or when filled.

Social Worker — Immediate Opening:

Room at the Inn, a home for single pregnant mothers, is seeking a part-time Social Worker, 20 hours per week. Must have a 4 year degree plus 2 years' experience. Please call Trish at (704) 643-0699 or (704) 525-4673.

Director of Total Youth Ministry:

Grades 6-12: Full time position in 1600 family parish. Primary responsibilities include: coordination of all youth ministry activities — lectionary-based catechetical sessions, retreats, service projects, social events; recruiting, training and supporting volunteers; sacramental preparation for confirmation. Shared responsibility with intergenerational religious education program. Most parish catechetical programs are lectionary-based. Member of Religious Education Team with Children's Coordinator and Catechumenate, Liturgy and Adult Education director. Master's Degree or equivalent in religious education or related field preferred. Excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and references to TYM Search Committee, Saint Patrick's Church, 2840 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304. ATTN: Don Gray, Phone: (910) 323-2410, x106.

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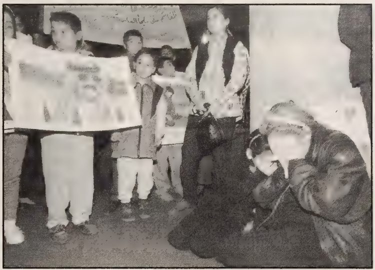

IRAQI REMEMBRANCE — Iraqi women weep on the floor of the Amriya shelter in Baghdad in remembrance of relatives lost seven years ago in an U.S. air raid. Two bombs hit the shelter during the Gulf war, killing more than 400 civilians.

CNS photo from Reuters

Pope-Yeltsin, from page 2

ria, said, "just thinking that the pope could one day be among us is very moving for us. It gives us hope."

"We have seen him as a pilgrim to Cuba and, we say to ourselves, 'Why not in Novosibirsk?"' Siberia's capital, Bishop Werth told L'Osservatore Romano.

Yeltsin spokesman Yastrzhembsky said, "The pope has a standing invitation to visit, but a visit of this kind requires a fundamental change in relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Vatican. This is a sphere in which the state, including the president, does not want to interfere."

Navarro-Valls told reporters Feb. 10 that ongoing tensions in Iraq were chief among the topics on the agenda for the Vatican meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Evgeni Primakov and Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's foreign minister.

They discussed "the precarious condition of peace in the Middle East and the particular situation which has been created in Iraq," Navarro-Valls said.

The spokesman added that Iraq was not a topic of discussion between the pope and Yeltsin, who focused more on the social and political situation in Russia and efforts to build greater unity among European countries.

Yastrzhembsky said that during the pope-Yeltsin meeting, "none of the international problems was touched in a very detailed way."

After meeting Feb. 10 with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, Yeltsin commented briefly to reporters on the ongoing efforts to convince Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to allow U.N. inspections of sites where it is suspected chemical weapons are being produced. The U.S. government has said it would use military force if Saddam did not allow the weapons inspectors to do their jobs.

"Everything must be resolved in a peaceful way because otherwise an uncontrollable conflagration could break out," Yeltsin said.

On Feb. 8, Pope John Paul appealed for continuing diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict.

"The very situation in Iraq and in the entire region of the Middle East teaches us that armed conflicts do not resolve problems, but create greater misunderstandings among peoples," the pope said.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Senior Prom

ARDEN — The high school youth group of St. Barnabas Church invites all senior citizens ages 55 and older to their "Wonderful World," an evening of dinner and dancing, March 21 in the parish social hall. Admission is free. Call Mary Kate Allison, (704) 684-0313, by March 13 for reservations.

Potluck Dinner

ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Men's Group sponsors a potluck dinner Feb. 21 from 6-8:30 p.m. in the parish's gym area. Please bring your favorite dish and gather for an evening of food and fellowship. Call (704) 252-3151 for more information.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to forget the past and start anew. The program begins March 27. For further information, call Nick and Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Hibernians, Knights Sponsor Parade

CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus co-sponsor a St. Patrick's Day parade March 14 at 12 p.m. in Charlotte. The parade route begins at Stonewall and Tryon streets, proceeds through uptown and ends at Fifth and Tryon streets. Any groups and individuals wishing to march in or help with the parade are welcomed. Call Tim Lawson, (704) 522-9728, or send E-mail to NCAOH@aol.com to volunteer, get a parade application or receive more information.

St. Patrick's Day Dance

CHARLOTTE — The St. Patrick's Young Professionals Group and St. Patrick Cathedral co-sponsor a St. Patrick's Day dance March 14 at 7 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Cost is $20 per person, $40 for couples. For reservations, call Jeff Eichenger, (704) 393-3540; Sheri Kwapiszeski, (704) 522-7017; or Bill Jarrell, (704) 372-1090.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated March 8 in St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams gather at 3 p.m. and after Mass. For more information, call Josie, (704) 527-4676.

Interfaith Day of Prayer

GASTONIA — An interactive day of prayer takes place at Christ United Methodist Church, 3415 Union Rd., Feb. 28 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and features interactive perspectives of different faith traditions. St. Michael Catholic Church sponsors the event, which includes addresses on the theology of prayer, Jewish spirituality and prayer practice, liturgical dance, and praying the church's hymnody. Catholic, Hindu, Jewish and other traditions will be discussed.

Cost is $5. To register, call St. Michael Church, (704) 867-6212, by Feb. 25. For more information, call (704) 865-5537.

Teen Lenten Retreat

GREENSBORO — The Office of Youth Ministry of the Charlotte Diocese of presents a Lenten retreat at St. Pius X Church from Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. until March 1 following an 11:30 a.m. Mass and lunch. The cost is $50, with a $25 deposit due by Feb. 20 and the balance due upon arrival. The fee covers all food and materials for the retreat, including a retreat T-shirt. For details and registration forms, call the Office of Youth Ministry, (704) 370-3243.

Adult Ed Series

GREENSBORO — An adult education series continues at St. Paul the Apostle Church March 10 with "The Pathway to Inner Peace," a discussion facilitated by Hannah Hammer focusing on reaching forgiveness as the means to attain peace. Baby-sitting is available (please R.S.V.P. to Joe Casacchia, (910) 632-0729).

Jesuit House of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — "Dreams: Opening Up To Life" is a March 6-8 retreat for men and women focusing on the place of dreams in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Dr. Eileen Riordan facilitates.

Jesuit Father Vince Alagia and Steve and Marlene Stowe lead a retreat for married couples March 13-15.

"Our Lenten Journey" is a March 20-22 retreat for men and women. Jesuit Father James Devereux, pastor of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, facilitates.

For reservations or more information about these and other activities at the Jesuit House of Prayer, call (704) 622-7366.

Faith Formation Workshops

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Church sponsors a series of faith formation workshops presented by Peg Ruble, central region faith formation coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte, Feb. 28 in the school building. Ruble will focus on morality in the 10 a.m. workshop, and the sacraments in the 3 p.m. workshop. Lunch will be provided. To register, call Lynn Rascoe, (704) 728-0739.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Understanding Yourself and Others" is a March 6-8 retreat focusing on self-discovery through the ancient theories of Gurdjieff, the Enneagram and modern psychology. An emphasis will be placed on discovering patterns of growth and relationships leading to understanding of God and self. Dr. Wayne Scott facilitates. Cost is $95.

A Holy Week silent retreat is April 5-12 and will focus on walking with Jesus from Palm Sunday through the solemnities of the Triduum into Easter Sunday. No conferences will take place. Liturgies will be celebrated in St. Margaret Church. Cost is $225.

Special rates for couples and opportunities for self-conducted retreats are available. A $25 non-refundable deposit is required with each registration. To register, get more information, or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Through the new Community Outreach Program at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, students are helping bring warmth to the less fortunate by offering them hand-made comforters. The outreach program began during the fall semester with financial assistance from the Alex McMillan Foundation. Pictured clockwise from left are project participants Donna Vaddakekara, Erin LaRocco, Michelle Kellett, Jessica Roberts, Emily-Veil Miller, Dr. Elizabeth Sechler, Hannah Arel and Sarah Bratsch. Seated in center are homeless advocate Michael Kirwan and Brandi Burke.

Scripture and Children Presentation

WINSTON-SALEM — T.O.R.C.H. of Winston-Salem continues its adult speaker series March 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room B of the St. Leo the Great Church activity center. Father James Solari will speak on teaching Scripture to children. Call Mary Beth Young, (910) 922-0479, for more information.

Group Rosary

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts a group rosary each first Sunday following the 10 a.m. Mass. For details, call (704) 464-9207 weekday mornings.

Lenten Series

WINSTON-SALEM — Dr. Beatrice Bruteau shares thoughts from her new book-in-progress, "Holy Thursday Revolution," continues in Joseph House at Our Lady of Mercy Church on March 4, 18 and 15, and April 1, 8 and 15. For further information, call (910) 722-0028.

Around The Diocese

LIMEX Informational Sessions

The Diocese of Charlotte sponsors informational sessions about LIMEX (The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program), a distance education program for those wishing to earn a master's degree or non-credit continuing education certificate in religious education or pastoral studies through Loyola University of New Orleans.

In Charlotte, sessions are March 8 at 7:30 p.m. in St. John Neumann Church, and March 22 at 7 p.m. in St. Vincent de Paul Church. In the Triad, sessions are March 14 at 10 a.m. in St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, and March 14 at 2 p.m. in the Greensboro Catholic Fellowship center on Friendly Avenue in Greensboro. In the mountain area, sessions are March 8 from 2-4 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, March 14 at 9:30 a.m. at the Catholic Social Services offices in Asheville, and March 14 from 4-6 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church in Boone.

For further information, call Joanna Case, diocesan LIMEX liaison, at (704) 362-0013.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo from Reuters

A family looks over the massive flood damage to a cemetery in Trujillo, Peru, Feb. 12. Mudslides and flooding from El Nino rains have cause more than 200 deaths and have left hundreds of thousands of people homeless in Peru since December.

Reports Paint World Picture Of Right Abuses

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The State Department's 1997 report on human rights paints shocking pictures of abuses. Child labor, slavery, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, religious persecution, uncontrolled police and military agencies, disappearances and the murder of political activists, clergy, street children and journalists were just some of the human rights problems detailed in country-by-country reports released in January. Some of the harshest criticism was aimed at Mexico, Indonesia, Guatemala, China, Vietnam, Russia, Burma, Sudan, Peru, Rwanda and India. It also was quickly criticized by human rights organizations and some members of Congress as treating harsh regimes too kindly, making small advances seem significant and downplaying some types of rights abuses that are politically sensitive in the United States, such as coerced abortion, forced sterilization and government-imposed limits on family size.

Bishops Oppose Return Of Death Penalty To Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (CNS) — As Iowa lawmakers consider reinstating the death penalty, the state's Catholic bishops have reiterated their opposition to it. Iowa's capital punishment law was repealed 33 years ago, and it is one of 12 states that currently do not allow it. Capital punishment would be reinstated in certain types of cases if Iowa legislators pass a bill backed by House Republican leaders. Under the proposal, the death penalty would be imposed in crimes involving a combination of two serious felonies, such as rape and murder, or a prison murder committed by an inmate already serving a life sentence.

Romanian Catholics Appeal To President To Protect Their Rights

BUCHAREST, Romania (CNS) — Leaders of Romania's previously outlawed Eastern-rite Catholic Church have urged President Emil Constantinescu to mark his first year in office with more decisive steps to protect their rights. "Celebrating a year since your election, we beg you to mediate," said an open letter from the Archdiocese of Fagaras and Alba Julia, an Eastern-rite archdiocese. "We insist with all vigor that our church is no longer mocked, and that our efforts to strengthen the Romanian people's dignity are taken into account." The letter said Catholics were still awaiting "legal approval" of their right to set up religious orders and regain confiscated properties eight years after the overthrow of communist rule.

Pastor Allegedly Lost $1.4 Million To Con Artist

LAVALLETTE, N.J. (CNS) — Robert Riggio, 51, who has a record of swindling priests, was arrested Feb. 5 on charges of bilking a 73-year-old New Jersey pastor out of $1.4 million in parish funds. Members of St. Bonaventure Parish in Lavallette were told at weekend Masses Feb. 7-8 that the Trenton Diocese is seeking to recover some of the money. They learned that the abrupt departure on medical leave last October by their former pastor, Msgr. Frederick A. Valentino, came after diocesan auditors discovered that parish funds were missing.

TV Needs To Check Claims, Sources Of Campaign Ads

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Television journalism needs to check the claims made in political campaign advertising and the motivations of those making the claims, said NBC-TV Washington bureau chief Tim Russert. Russert, who hosts NBC's "Meet the Press," came down particularly hard on what he termed "so-called issue advocacy advertising," which has gobbled up a larger share of all political advertising on TV. He said that in 1996, while candidates' own campaign committees spent $400 million for TV ads, 29 independent groups disclaiming any interest to electing or defeating candidates spent $150 million. This included $44 million spent by the Democratic National Committee and $11 million spent by the Republican National Committee, Russert said, adding his doubts of the groups' claims that they had no interest in the presidential election between Bill Clinton and Robert Dole.

Archbishop Calls On Australians To Defend Abortion Law

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — An Australian archbishop has called on Christians to defend the country's law making most abortions illegal, "no matter how fierce the battle be." Archbishop Barry James Hickey of Perth pledged to support financially any woman considering abortion because of poverty. He urged all Catholics to "pray and to stand firm in the defense of life" and not cringe in the face of the emotionally charged nature of the country's abortion debate. He spoke after police charged a prominent abortion doctor and an anesthetist in Perth with the criminal offense of procuring an abortion in 1996. The charge was the first in 20 years of ready access to abortion in Western Australia.

Chilean Bishops Confirms Pinochet Justified Torture

SANTIAGO, Chile (CNS) — A Chilean bishop confirmed statements by a Lutheran minister that the former Chilean president, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, justified torture and human rights violations for ideological reasons. The Lutheran minister, the Rev. Helmut Frenz, said Feb. 9 in Spain that in a meeting with religious leaders Pinochet allegedly said, "Without tortures, Marxists do not 'sing out' (confess)." The Lutheran minister's statements, which received wide coverage in Latin America, were confirmed Feb. 10 by Bishop Fernando Ariztia Ruiz of Copiapo, Chile, vice president of the permanent council of the Chilean bishops' conference.

Dallas Diocese Settles Lawsuits With Five Sex Abuse Victims

DALLAS (CNS) — The Dallas Diocese announced Feb. 11 that it has settled, for $5 million, sexual abuse lawsuits against Robert J. Peebles Jr. and William J. Hughes, suspended priests who were active in the diocese in the 1980s. The announcement was made late in the second day of court-ordered mediation on the $118 million judgment against the diocese for sexual abuse by a third former Dallas priest, Rudolph Kos. The settlements in the Peebles and Hughes cases could help pave the way for a negotiated agreement among the diocese, its liability insurers and the victims of Kos, avoiding what could otherwise become years of legal wrangling and possible bankruptcy proceedings by the diocese. The $5 million settlement involved five plaintiffs in four lawsuits.

National Heads Of Jubilee Year Committees Meet In Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church may launch global celebrations of the year 2000 by having several church doors in the Holy Land opened at the same time as the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica. Vatican authorities and bishops from around the world discussed these and other plans at a Feb. 8-11 meeting of 130 national coordinators of year 2000 activities. "Our purpose is to ensure, no matter what activities take place during the Holy Year, that the essence of these events remains spiritual," Archbishop Crescenzio Sepe, the Vatican official charged with coordinating the commemorations, told journalists. Pope John Paul II praised the delegates to the gathering for their work, adding that their decisions would help "focus pastoral plans in view of jubilee celebrations ... enhancing the significance and spiritual richness of the celebrations of the jubilee year."

New Chinese Bishops' Head Stresses Religious Formation

HONG KONG (CNS) — Strengthening priests' and nuns' spiritual formation should top the priorities of church development in the next five years, said the new head of China's government-approved bishops' conference. Consolidating one's spiritual foundation was not something "you do whenever you feel like and neglect when you don't," said Bishop Joseph Liu Yuanren of Nanjing, China. Spiritual development is a crucial element in the development of future church leaders, he said, adding that it is dangerous for the younger generation of priests to think that everything is complete once they are ordained. Bishop Liu was elected president of the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China during the Sixth National Congress of Catholic Representatives in Beijing in January. He spoke to UCA News, an Asian church news agency.

New Official Says He'll Be Advocate For Refugees, Displaced

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The new U.S. secretary-general of the International Catholic Migration Commission said he hopes to work as an advocate for refugees, migrants and people displaced within their own countries. Bill A. Canny, newly appointed secretary-general, said his commission will pay particular attention to situations in Asia, Africa and South America. "Increasingly we will look at the issues of migration in Asia: economic or work migration; or look at places in South America like Colombia, where there is a tremendous amount of internal violence and strife," said Canny, a native of Binghamton, N.Y. "Also, ICMC is looking forward to increasing its activity in Africa, where we have chronic civil strife.

Pro-Life Groups UnHappy With Surgeon General's Confirmation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pro-life groups expressed their displeasure with the Senate's confirmation Feb. 10 of Dr. David Satcher as surgeon general. Prolifers had tried to derail the Satcher nomination principally on the ground that he supported partial-birth abortion. Despite pro-life opposition, the Senate confirmed Satcher by a 63-35 vote. He was sworn in Feb. 13. "It is a dark day in American history when the Senate confirms as 'America's doctor' a man who condones killing babies as they're being born," said a statement by Judie Brown, president of the American Life League.

Parish Profile

St. Joan of Arc Church

St. Joan of Arc Church
919 Haywood St.
Asheville, N.C. 28806
(704) 252-3151

Vicariate: Asheville

Pastor: Father C. Morris Boyd, D.Min.

Mass Schedule:
Saturday — 5 p.m.;
Sunday — 8:30, 11:30 a.m.;
AIDS Healing Mass — Second Thursdays, 7 p.m.

Number of households: 405

SAINT JOAN OF ARC
CATHOLIC CHURCH

ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church celebrates 70 years as a parish in 1998. As is the case with parishes and missions across the Diocese of Charlotte, the story of this Asheville parish is one that is ultimately defined by the people who compose the faith community.

In mid-1920s Asheville, ever-growing numbers of Catholics were gathering for Masses at St. Lawrence Church on Haywood Street, the only Catholic church in town. The pastor at the time was Msgr. Louis Bour, who in 1926 devised plans to secure a site in order to establish another chapel, thus providing the crowds a new place to worship.

In March 1927, a group of St. Lawrence parishioners found a suitable site located in the working-class community of West Asheville, located near the banks of the French Broad River. The parishioners and Msgr. Bour crafted a chapel and parochial school in the 12-room house located on the newly purchased site, and Msgr. Bour continued to serve both Catholic churches.

In September 1927, the new chapel was placed under the patronage of St. Joan of Arc, the 15th-century French heroine canonized in 1920.

Meanwhile, Mother Mary Gannon, a Sister of Christian Education living at St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines convent in Asheville, directed the staff of the new Catholic school. Seventy-two youngsters composed that first student body.

Continued growth of the faith in Asheville was further evidenced in February 1928, when Bishop William J. Hafey of Raleigh gave St. Joan of Arc Church parish status and appointed Father Frank Gallagher as its first pastor.

By the mid-1930s, some 200 people were worshipping as parishioners of St. Joan of Arc Church. Expansion projects benefitting the parish and school were necessary in the 1930s, '40s and '50s to accommodate the increasing number of Catholic families settling in the Asheville area.

The current church building, originally serving as the school auditorium, was constructed in 1936.

Opportunities for Catholic education in Asheville were becoming well-defined by the late 1940s, as some 160 students were enrolled at St. Joan of Arc School by the turn of the decade. That growth continued into the '50s and beyond, as the educational mission of the church — both at St. Joan of Arc Parish and Asheville's other Catholic churches — was advanced.

With funding from a long-time parishioner's bequest, property on Blue Ridge Avenue in town was purchased, and it became part of St. Joan of Arc Parish in 1961. That site housed a convent where the sisters staffing the school could then live. Sisters of Mercy from Belmont and Sisters of Providence later staffed the school until 1980, when growth prompted more change.

The parochial schools in the Asheville area were consolidated in 1980 with the founding of Asheville Catholic Community School, now known as Asheville Catholic School. St. Joan of Arc School thus closed, and the building was utilized for parish religious education programs. The convent on Blue Ridge Avenue became the parish rectory.

A strong emphasis on loving service has been a parish highlight for decades, from the days of participation in the North Carolina Catholic Laymen's Association in the 1950s to the Caring Heart AIDS Ministry today.

One of most vibrant ministries among the parish's various outreach programs, Caring Hearts was founded in 1994 as the first parish-based AIDS ministry in the Charlotte Diocese. It has received regional and national acclaim, having been honored with the governor's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award in 1996. Last year, Father Morris Boyd, current pastor, accepted the National Catholic AIDS Network's Lumina Award in recognition for the work of Caring Hearts.

The Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry provides constant outreach with a food pantry, care teams, retreats and monthly healing Masses. Through this and other ministries, St. Joan of Arc Parish encourages, invites and empowers people to care for themselves and one another through faith, camaraderie and service.

Capuchin Franciscan Discernment Retreat

Jesus said to him,
"Come follow Me."

St. Francis of Assisi said,
"Lord, what do you want me to do?"

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The retreat will be held in Hendersonville, NC at

Immaculate Conception Friary
March 27-29, 1998

For more information, please contact Br. Kellen Mears, OFM Cap., Capuchin Vocation Director (201) 863-3871 OR Br. Michael Malloy, OFM Cap., Immaculate Conception Friary, (704) 692-0550

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Volume 7 Number 25 • February 27, 1998

U.N.-Iraq Accord Reached; Church Officials Urge Against Force

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Church officials and others voiced opposition to the use of force and called for an end to the U.N. embargo against Iraq days before the U.N. secretary-general and Iraqi officials reached an accord.

The Vatican hailed a written agreement on the Iraqi crisis and expressed hope that the accord would open the way to lifting the embargo against the Persian Gulf country.

The Vatican comment came Feb. 23 after U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan worked out a deal with Iraqi officials to resume U.N. weapons inspections, thus seemingly averting a U.S. bombardment of Iraqi targets. U.S. officials were still cautious about the accord, which was signed in Baghdad, Iraq, after three days of negotiations.

"The Holy See expresses its satisfaction with the agreement, which should eliminate the threat of military action," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. He said he hoped the accord would be ratified by the U.N. Security Council.

Backed by Britain, the United States has threatened to attack Iraq if President Saddam Hussein does not open all sites capable of producing weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, to U.N. inspection.

Details of the Iraqi agreement were not immediately announced, but reports said it gave weapons inspectors unlimited access to eight presidential sites. The sites had earlier been declared off-limits by Saddam.

Annan met with Saddam for three hours Feb. 22 before the agreement was reached.

In a message delivered Feb. 15, Pope John Paul II urged Annan to visit Iraq "as soon as possible."

The pope's message, delivered verbally by Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, was, "It seems that your personal visit will be of great help toward the solution of the present crisis."

The nuncio said Annan attended a World Day of Peace Mass celebrated by Cardinal John J. O'Connor Feb. 15 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. In the homily, Cardinal O'Connor also encouraged Annan to visit Iraq in an effort to prevent war, Archbishop Martino reported.

Annan responded by saying he was "touched" by the expression of papal interest and asked Archbishop Martino to convey thanks to the pope for his prayers, the nuncio reported.

Speaking in an interview with the Italian magazine Il Regno in mid-February, the Vatican nuncio to Iraq, Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, criticized the embargo of Iraq, the U.N. weapons inspection efforts there and what he said were U.S. economic interests behind the threat of military action.

Archbishop Lazzarotto said it was time that world opinion recognize that the tactics adopted against Iraq "are against human rights and, in reality, hide enormous economic interests."

He said the U.S. policy decisions were explained by the fact that oil prices had decreased to the point that oil companies were losing millions of dollars a day.

Iraqi Chaldean-rite Patriarch Raphael I Bidawid said he thought the current crisis in Iraq could be solved quickly if the West would lift the "humiliating" trade embargo against his country.

In an interview with CNS Feb. 18, the patriarch said he did not understand why Americans and others believe Saddam is amassing new weapons or making plans to use them. He character-

See **U.N.-Iraq Accord,** page 2

Photo by Marla Murphy

Asheville Catholic School participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee on Jan. 14, 1998. Classroom finalists from grades 5-8 met during a special assembly. Ben Schroeder, eighth grade, won the competition, receiving a National Geographic medal and a subscription to National Geographic Magazine. A written examination was submitted to National Geographic which may enable Ben to go on to state competition. Sixth-grader Drew Thorp placed second. Shown in the photo are Ben (center) and kindergarten friends (clockwise): Caitlyn Reid, Daniel Bradley, William Fleming, Jeffrey Warren, Katie Finegan and Cicely Upham.

Prison Ministry Brings Church To The Incarcerated

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Sandra is a 23-year-old inmate in Mecklenburg County Jail North. While incarcerated, she battles self-doubt, depression and guilt each day.

Her boyfriend was murdered and threats have been made against her children. She is unsure about what her future holds, yet thanks to the prison chaplaincy at the jail, she is cautiously hopeful for better things ahead.

"I'm in here because of the things I did of my own free will," she says, glancing at the sleeve of her jail-issued orange jump suit, the standard garb for inmates. "And because of the things I did, I felt that I couldn't go to God to ask for anything because I wasn't living right."

"But the chaplain is helping me with all that."

That chaplain is Bill Matevie, who is trying to help Sandra overcome many of her fears through Scripture reading, prayer, journal keeping and trust. As facility chaplain, he says reaching out to society's incarcerated has given him a true, alive meaning of church.

"I believe I'm here to provide hope for the hopeless," Matevie says, as inmates shuffle single-file outside his office en route to their cell pods. To his right, a laminated piece of paper conveys the message of one of the inmates. "You gotta stay prayed up," it reads.

Searching For Hope

In addition to his duties as chaplain of Jail North, which include numerous spiritual, practical and compassionate contexts, Matevie has served as coordinator of prison ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte since 1991.

That means being available to anyone associated with the 45 prisons across western North Carolina, including volunteers, personnel and inmates' families. Their needs vary widely, from phone calls to arranging for the Eucharist to be brought to a cell, and Matevie does his best to grant those requests.

On any given day in the jail, he may encounter murderers, rapists, drug pushers, spouse abusers. Many inmates arrive bitter and filled with hate. And eventually, he says, some begin looking for God.

At that point Matevie becomes lay minister, counselor and advisor.

"The time for change comes when they use the term 'I am sick and tired of being sick and tired,'" Matevie says. Lives dominated by drugs, violence and lack of concern for self and others cause much internal and external pain, he adds, but every person deserves to know that a loving, forgiving God does exist. Even in jail.

"You try to show them a purpose to their life, that life is not over," he says. "St. Paul is an excellent example of someone who did far more serious crimes than anybody in any prison in this country has ever done, and yet ... he was redeemed."

Matevie realizes that the percentage of the inmates he reaches with messages of God's love is not always high. Still, the changes he sees in some provide all the evidence he needs.

He takes exception to the belief in

See **Prison Ministry,** page 2

Prison Ministry, from page 1

the impossibility of the "jailhouse conversion," saying that simple acts of good will can go a long way. "Sooner or later, the inmate finds that anger will carry them just so far, and the next thing you know ... a Bible shows up in their cell," Matevie says. "Maybe combined with that there's a trip down to a Bible study, or they ask to talk to the chaplain to get some guidance."

Once that seed is planted, Matevie says, inmates may come to understand God's unconditional love, regardless of their faith tradition. It is to that same love he attributes his own ability to serve.

"There's a lot of frustration in this job," he admits. "There are people who can almost bring me to tears when I see that they've come back (to jail), because I really thought that in this case it was going to work."

"If I didn't believe 100 percent every day that it is the Lord who does *His* work through me, then I couldn't do this for a living," he says.

Journeying in Faith

It's mid-morning when 35-year-old Anthony knocks on Bill Matevie's door. He has been sent to the chaplain's office to sort paperwork needing to be mailed. Through hard work and determination, traits he says Matevie taught him, Anthony is now a dependable trustee in the jail.

"There are so many things I've learned from Chaplain Bill," says Anthony, convicted more than two years ago. Originally approaching the chaplain's unit with an interest in religious reading material, Anthony has since become something of an in-house minister himself.

Of the 60 men in the pod Anthony is housed in, between 35 to 40 attend daily Bible study sessions. Anthony has become a ministry leader in his pod, too, leading prayer services and commenting on Scripture.

Examples like that of Anthony are what make the ministry so special, says Ed Helms, a volunteer. "To see the results ... of how God has entered into their lives and helped them make a complete 180-degree turn is incredible," he adds.

Anthony acknowledges that turn has been a difficult one to make. "Back in the day, I was hungry for money and drugs and women and all that," he says. "But Chaplain Bill showed me ways of getting closer to God. I talked to the chaplain when I couldn't talk to other people. He comforted me and prayed with me."

"When I came here, I had an opportunity to get really close to God," he adds. "As I submitted, God became more real in my life, and he showed me the proper way to live."

Matevie says that in addition to the treatment, educational, and spiritual programs available to them, the inmates must ultimately decide to make peace with themselves and others whom they've hurt. But Matevie is ready to stand by them, through prayer, Bible study, conversation and faith.

DSA '98

Appreciation

"When God opens a door for you, you don't stand back and ask, 'Am I going through it and doing what God wants me to do?' You do it."

That's Ed Helms talking. Having worked in prison and jail ministry for more than a decade, the devout parishioner of First Baptist Church in Charlotte welcomed Matevie's invitation last year to be his assistant at Jail North.

"I'm so thankful that God has allowed me to be part of what he is trying to do out here," Helms says. "He has put (Matevie) here in this facility for a reason and a purpose."

"The Lord works through him," says Danny, a 30-year-old inmate locked up since 1994. "I feel that in my heart because he's always saying something to encourage you. I'll be feeling bad, and the next day he'll call me down and he'll say something exactly about what's been bothering me.

"He's a blessing to this place, because he helps a lot of people. There's not a person who walks out of here who's not influenced by him, even if it's by his cheerfulness and his attitude."

Matevie shies away from such praise. He says his goal is simply being objective and non-judgmental in everyone he sees — a trait that Sandra appreciates the most about him.

"He looks at the heart and soul of people," she says. "He sees something there worth saving. He gives you hope that there's still another chance, that it's not over — that God hasn't given up on us yet."

Prison ministry is one of the 35 diocesan agencies and ministries partially or completely funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

For more information on prison ministry in this diocese, call Chaplain Bill Matevie, (704) 336-8236.

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U.N.-Iraq Accord, from page 1

ized such accusations as "illusions."

Patriarch Raphael also said he had written to U.S. President Bill Clinton several months ago, urging him not to use "the policy of two measures" when judging Iraqi actions. He said he thought it was unfair for the United States to accuse Iraq of being a threat to peace in the region without making the same accusation against countries like Israel.

Mairead Corrigan Maguire, winner of the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize for promoting peace in her native Northern Ireland, was arrested Feb. 16 for her nonviolent protest of the threatened use of U.S. force against Iraq.

Maguire staged her protest by refusing to leave the Federal Correctional Institution in Petersburg, Va., where she visited jailed peace activist Phillip Berrigan.

The next day, Maguire appeared before U.S. District Judge Richard L. Williams, who dismissed charges at the request of the U.S. attorney's office.

In Bethlehem, West Bank, some 1,500 high school and university students demonstrated against a military strike on Iraq.

Students said the demonstration was in defense of Iraqi children who have been subjected to the seven-year, U.S.-backed embargo against Iraq.

Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem told an international gathering of Christians during the third international Sabeel Conference Feb. 14 that the continuing U.N. sanctions against Iraq and a possible military strike would lead to "tragedy and the violation of human rights."

The conference took place at various locations throughout Bethlehem, and Patriarch Sabbah made his address at Bethlehem University.

Despite U.S.-Vatican differences on the possible use of force against Iraq, U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Lindy Boggs said she believes the Clinton administration and the Vatican share the same basic concerns about protection of humans in the region.

"The United States and the Vatican are as one as far as the protection of human rights is concerned" and in their desire for "peace, goodness and protection of the people who are least able to provide protection for themselves," she said in an interview Feb. 17.

She said the United States, like the pope, is particularly worried about the fate of the children, the sick and the elderly in Iraq.

But Boggs said it was important for people to remember that the U.S. goal is to restrain development of dangerous new kinds of weaponry that threaten the region.

A married couple who visited Iraq in January said children there were the real victims.

John Heid and Jane Hosking, members of a Duluth, Minn., Catholic Worker community known as Loaves and Fishes, made a two-week mission to deliver medical supplies and meet with Iraqi citizens and religious leaders.

"The impact of the embargo is falling squarely on the backs of the Iraqi people," Heid told the Catholic Herald, the diocesan newspaper of Superior, Wis.

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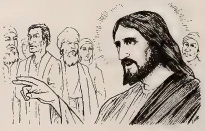
Judging Others



"Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." (Luke 6:37-38)

Saints & Scripture

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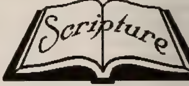


Readings for the week of
March 1 — 7, 1998

Sunday
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

Monday
Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18
Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday
Isaiah 55:10-11
Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday
Jonah 3:1-10
Luke 11:29-32

Thursday
Esther 12:14-16,23-25
Matthew 7:7-12

Friday
Ezekiel 18:21-28
Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday
Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Matthew 5:43-48

Pope Creates 20 Cardinals, Asks Help For Guiding Church

By CINDY WOODEN

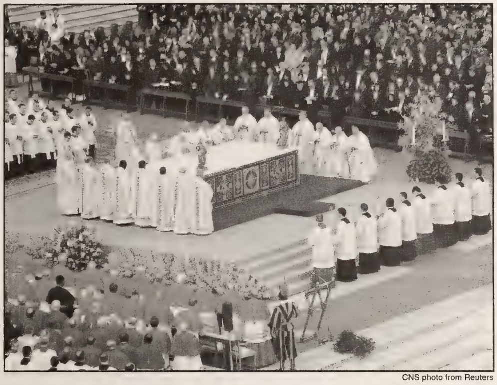
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Creating 20 new cardinals, Pope John Paul II asked them to help him guide the church to the year 2000 and beyond.

"I count on your support and your enlightened and expert advice for guiding the church in the last phase of preparation for the Holy Year," the pope told the new cardinals Feb. 21 as he formally inducted them into the College of Cardinals.

The next day during a Mass, he sealed their new relationship with him and with the Diocese of Rome by slipping a ring on the finger of each of the cardinals.

Among those joining what the pope described as "the senate of the church" were Cardinals Francis E. George of Chicago; J. Francis Stafford, former archbishop of Denver and president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity; and Aloysius M. Ambrozic of Toronto.

With the newly red-clad prelates, the membership of the College of Cardinals rose to 165, 122 of whom are under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.



CNS photo from Reuters

Surrounded by new cardinals, Pope John Paul II celebrates Mass in St. Peter's Square Feb. 22. A day earlier, he bestowed red hats on 20 bishops, including two from the United States, as the newest members of the College of Cardinals.

The consistory, originally scheduled for the Vatican audience hall, was held in St. Peter's Square under sunny, spring-like skies to accommodate the more than 15,000 pilgrims and relatives celebrating with the new cardinals.

New Cardinal Alberto Bovone, head of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, underwent emergency surgery in early February and was unable to attend the consistory. Pope John Paul sent his secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, to Rome's Gemelli Hospital to give the new cardinal his red hat.

The oldest of the new cardinals was an 86-year-old Polish Jesuit, Cardinal Adam Kozlowiecki. As a young priest, he had been imprisoned by the Nazis in the Dachau concentration camp. After the war, he went to Zambia as a missionary and eventually became archbishop of Lusaka.

Although officially retired, he continues living and ministering at the small Mpunde Mission in Zambia in a simple house with an electric generator, but no telephone.

The most solemn moment of the consistory came as the pope handed the three-cornered hat, called a biretta, to each cardinal as he knelt before the pontiff.

The new cardinals were each assigned a church in Rome as a symbol that they were becoming members of the clergy of the Diocese of Rome and even more closely bound to the bishop of Rome, Pope John Paul.

Cardinal George's "titular" church is St. Bartholomew on Tiber Island. Cardinal Stafford received the church of Jesus, the Good Shepherd at Montagnola, in the southern part of Rome. Cardinal Ambrozic's Rome church is Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, just a block from the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

In the jubilee preparation year dedicated to the Holy Spirit, the pope invoked on the new cardinals the gifts of the Spirit.

"Who more than them needs the abundant comfort of these gifts to complete the mission received from the Lord?" the pope asked.

"Venerable brothers, may the Spirit Paraclete dwell fully in each one of you, fill you with divine consolation and allow you to be in turn consolers of those who find themselves afflicted, particularly members of the most harshly tried churches, the communities which suffer the most tribulation for the cause of the Gospel," the pope prayed.

During the consistory, as he did Jan. 18 when he announced the names of the new cardinals, the pope said he was reserving the names of two other cardinals "in pectore," or in his heart. Cardinals are secretly named when for political or other reasons a public revelation of their identities could endanger them or their ministry.

"Venerable brothers, you have been created cardinals at the time when we are taking great steps toward the third millennium of the Christian era," the pope said. "You are called, in fact, along with the other members of the College of Cardinals, to help the pope in guiding the boat of Peter toward this historic horizon."

At the Feb. 22 Mass for the distribution of rings, the pope said the cardinals are united to him in a special way. They "constitute the senate of the church, the first collaborators of the pope in his universal pastoral service."

The rings, he said, are a "sign of the special spousal bond which now unites them to the Church of Rome, which presides in charity" over the universal church.

In the weeks following the consistory, the pope is expected to assign each of the cardinals to be members of one or two Vatican congregations or councils.

"To you, dear and venerable brothers, is entrusted the mission, in a strict communion of spirit and intention with the pope, of being witnesses to the suffering which Christ faces still today in his mystical body; at the same time, you are called to proclaim with word and with your life the hope which does not disappoint," the pope told them.

Pope John Paul said the new cardinals have a new and higher responsibility in the universal church.

"To you is entrusted not only the duty of electing the pope, but also that of sharing his concern for the entire people of God," he said.

The pope prayed that "the radical readiness to give your lives for Christ" — asked of the cardinals and symbolized in their red robes — constantly would be strengthened "by a solid and humble faith."

"Do not let yourselves become discouraged by the inevitable difficulties of life," he said, but know that the Lord will work through them to care for his people.

"You are called to be a visible sign of God's care for his people, imitating Christ, the Good Shepherd, who gathers around him in one flock all of humanity which had been dispersed by sin," Pope John Paul told them.

St. Patrick Cathedral

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Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
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Bishop William G. Curlin

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For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

"I would like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion... if you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the sacrament of reconciliation."

— John Paul II
"Gospel of Life: Evangelium Vitae"

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 1 — 3:30 p.m.
Rite of Election for Asheville Vicariate
The Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

March 3 — 7:30 p.m.
Rite of Election for Charlotte Vicariate
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

March 4 — 11 a.m.
Lenten Speaker
Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte

1 p.m.
Personnel Meeting
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Charlotte

March 5
Visit to Belmont Abbey College, Belmont

March 6 — 7:15 a.m.
Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 10 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Charlotte

March 11 — 6 p.m.
CSS Awards Banquet
Westin Hotel, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Feb. 18.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis in preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we reflect today on the fullness of the salvation which the incarnate Son of God brought. Jesus frees us from the slavery of sin and restores us to friendship with God. This opens the way for the redemption of every aspect of our lives through our restored inner freedom, with the consequent capacity to overcome the barriers which keep people apart. With the new commandment to love, Christ commits his followers to works of justice and charity. Although we cannot avoid difficulties in this life, the paschal mystery enables us to see everything in a new light. Every pain or trial, united to the sufferings of Christ, can be redemptive. In the eyes of faith, death itself is the passage to eternal life. The salvation which Christ offers is therefore directed to the whole person; it affects the spiritual, bodily and social existence of each one of us.

I greet the students of the Spyken Classical School from Lund, Sweden, and the various groups of university students from Japan. I welcome all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Northern Ireland, Australia, Japan, Sweden and the United States of America. Upon you and your families, I cordially invoke the blessings of Almighty God.

Pope Says Authentic Women's Health Care Must Respect Maternity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Promoting the authentic and complete health of women requires ending discrimination and renewing respect for women, including their capacity to bear children, Pope John Paul II said.

Growing acceptance is seen for a distorted vision of women's health which considers "maternity as a burden and an illness," the pope said during a meeting with participants in an international conference on women's health.

The conference in Rome was sponsored by the Institute for Bioethics at Rome's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart and by the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University, Washington.

As conference participants have done, he said, women's health care must be examined from a holistic viewpoint, including "the prevention and cure of illness, respect for her integrity and her procreative capacity, and the psychological and spiritual aspects of the various situations in which she can find herself."

But some people, the pope said, and even some international organizations have limited women's health care to ensuring women do not get pregnant, justifying "contraception, sterilization, abortion and even euthanasia."

"This deformation must be corrected because there will never be justice, equality, development and peace for women and for men unless there is an unshakable determination to respect, defend, love and serve life — every human life in every phase and in every situation," the pope said.

Authentic health, he said, must "insert physical, psychological and social well-being into a relationship of harmony with moral and spiritual values."

Coming Of Age

Amy Welborn

When Teens Are Mean to Other Teens

A biology instructor was teaching a section on sociobiology — the study of how human behaviors are possibly related to biology, particularly genetic factors.

As a way to get the class started, he asked them to compose a question. If you could ask God to explain any human behavior, what would that be?

He told me later that one question popped up with more frequency than any others: "Why are people so mean to each other?"

I later used this story as a discussion starter on a retreat and then asked the students to respond to that question. They said:

"So they can feel better about themselves."

"Because they think it's funny."

"So they can look cool."

"Because they're just mean."

All accurate observations.

I then asked the group a question that bothers me even more than the first one. "Why do people — OK, let's be specific — why do kids stand by and watch their classmates pick on other kids? Why don't they stand up and stop them?"

That question was easy to answer too.

"Because you don't want to look like a goody-goody."

"If you stick up for someone who's a geek or a nerd, then everyone will think you're their friend."

"Then those people will turn on you, and you'll be the next victim."

Don't get me wrong. I'm sure there are plenty of instances in which good kids have defended others who are the victims of bullying. But I haven't seen it much, to be honest, and neither have many teachers I've talked to.

One year I had a class of seniors who would come to me every day after art class, having witnessed for the umpteenth time the victimization of one of their classmates by two boys. They wouldn't physically hurt her, but they'd tease her incessantly in the countless sneaky ways human beings create to make each other miserable.

She was meek, quiet, had never really "fit in" with the rest of the class since her arrival in the 10th grade, so she was an easy and silent target.

"It's terrible," these honors students would tell me, walking into class.

"You won't believe what Jim said to Kelly today."

"And what did the teacher do?" It's a reasonable question.

"Oh, she doesn't notice. She's in her own world."

"And what did you do about it?"

Silence.

"Did you stick up for her?"

Shrugs.

"Did you tell him to cut it out?"

More silence.

"Why?"

"Because then we'll be next, and you know how vicious Jim is."

I tried to make sense of this.

"Let me see. There are 10 of you who think this is awful and maybe two who are doing the victimizing. You're saying that they have more power than you?"

They can't answer.

"Have you ever even tried?"

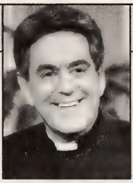
Of course they haven't, and they never did, the entire year.

They didn't condone it by laughing or joining in, but Jim was their friend, and they never let him know

See **Welborn,** page 13

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Destined For Sainthood

Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing LeVar Burton on the set of our syndicated television program, "Christopher Closeup." Twenty years after his stunning performance as the slave Kunta Kinte in the groundbreaking mini-series *Roots*, and after a long-time role on "Star Trek: The Next Generation," he relishes his continuing involvement with the Emmy Award-winning children's series, "Reading Rainbow." He is currently directing a documentary for his own production company on the golf phenomenon Tiger Woods.

On camera, we touched upon LeVar's deeply felt belief that each individual has the capacity to change the world for the better. While attending St. Pius X Seminary in California he was struck by the truth that each individual has a divine mission.

"I used to think that looking for an experience of God meant looking outside myself....The starting point is to remember that we are all on a spiritual path, whether we are aware of it or not. The challenge we face as human beings is to remember *our* divinity."

LeVar's reflection invites a closer look. Each of us *is* destined for holiness, for sainthood.

There is an old allegory in which an angel approached the throne of God to make a special request. "What do you ask of Me?" said God. "I wish to help Your people," the angel replied. "Let me fly down and rescue them." Gently, God answered, "You want to rescue My people and yet your eye is bright and your heart beats with a joy that has never been dimmed. Your hands are clean. Have you not beheld my Son?" But the angel remained silent, for he was a new angel and did not understand.

God said to the angel, "Go for a season and dwell with My people and see what you will see." The angel went. After some time, the angel came again before the throne of God. The Lord said, "Your eye is dim with pain and your heart is broken and your hands are stained with blood."

And the angel answered, "I have seen sorrow and pain and sin. Many of Your people cheat one another for wealth, and spill blood for power, and misuse others for their own gratification. When I saw all this my eyes were dimmed, and when I loved my heart was broken, and when I tried to lift the fallen, my hands were stained with blood. But still, Lord, I ask You to let me return to Your people because I cannot help them unless I stand and suffer with them."

There are times we don't want the anguish of being human. We rather say, "Lord, make my eyes bright and clear and keep my heart beating with joy and my hands clean and soft."

But we are not angels, nor were we meant to be. Angels have their divine destiny and we have ours.

We are meant for sainthood. A saint is nothing more or less than one who is in union with God in a relationship of intimacy and trust. A saint is one who can accept not only his or her dependence on each and everyone of us to fulfill our mission of loving God through each other. That's the hardest part. Every day can be difficult and messy, even painful. But this human life is also one of hope and joy and generous service.

It is our destiny.

For a free copy of The Christopher News Note "Live Joyfully," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

The Gospel of Thomas

Q. In the past months I have heard reference several times to the Gospel "according to Thomas." Is there really such a Gospel?

If so, why is it not included in the New Testament, and why don't we hear more about it? Who decided this Gospel should not be in the Bible?

A. Yes, there is a Gospel of Thomas, but let's take your other question first. Why were some "Gospels" accepted in the Scriptures and others not?

Theoretically, the answer is simple. We believe that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the communities of believers in Jesus gradually realized which writings were to be in the "canon," the official list of books which would constitute the standard or rule for Christian belief and life.

Many letters, Gospels and other writings about the life and teachings of Jesus passed back and forth among the early churches.

Eventually, by a kind of common intuition, certain of them were recognized as normative; they provided a norm or model for any authentic Christian faith or church.

By about the year 400, popes and councils had endorsed a basic list. Confusions remained, however, until the Council of Trent (1546) identified those books to be accepted as the Catholic Church's sacred, canonical Scriptures.

As I said, it sounds simple. In reality the process was not so neat. For one thing, a number of supposedly significant documents were just "lost."

At least one letter of his own, which St. Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 5:3, simply disappeared somewhere along the line.

The same is true of a document containing quotations from Jesus in Aramaic, supposedly written by an apostle.

Other writings encountered opposition because they did not seem to meet the criterion of origin with the apostles, which was considered necessary for acceptance.

Even in those first centuries, for example, leading Christian scholars already questioned whether Hebrews and Revelation were really written respectively by Paul and the apostle John.

The fact that the original forms of the Gospels later underwent changes and additions further complicated the process. Sometimes these revisions resulted from sayings of Jesus passed down by word of mouth well into the second century.

To repeat, our Christian belief is that the same Spirit who inspired the authors of Scripture when they wrote, also inspired the churches, the communities of faith, as they discerned and chose which "sacred" writings would constitute the norm of Christian discipleship.

Several early Christian Gospels are not included in the canon of the New Testament. Perhaps the most famous, at least

See **Dietzen,** page 12

Spirituality For Today

Father John Catoir

Giving Hope to the Hopeless

Eva's Village is the largest comprehensive poverty program in New Jersey, and we recently celebrated a different kind of graduation ceremony. Fifteen recovering addicts completed their nine-month period of rehabilitation in our treatment center. The men were all clean and sober, returning home to their loved ones.

At Eva's we also feed about 250 homeless people every day, 365 days a year. More than 2 million hot meals have been served since 1982. The emergency shelter for men, women and children provided 21,741 bed nights in 1997.

The graduation was attended by parents, wives, children, relatives and friends. As the executive director of Eva's Village, I thanked God for making this event possible. These men turned their lives over to their Higher Power, and we were proud of each one of them.

After they accepted their certificates and expressed feelings of appreciation to everyone who helped them, we invited their family members to say a few words. The mothers and fathers praised their sons and thanked the staff. Tears of joy flowed in abundance, and the applause was heartfelt.

For the first time in years, the future looked hopeful for these men. They had been in bondage to drugs and alcohol abuse, and now were free to make a new start.

The highlight of the evening came when an 8-year old girl raised her hand and asked if she could say something. Of course, I said, speak up. She rubbed her eyes sheepishly and whispered, "I just want to thank Eva's for giving me my daddy back.'' With that, her father burst into tears and hugged her tightly to his breast. There was not a dry eye in the room.

All of these tough-looking, former prison inmates were weeping and embracing one another. I thought to myself, what a difference the 12-step program can make in a person's life. I felt God's presence that night.

Moses once asked the Lord, "May I see your face," and God replied, "No one can look upon my face and live, but you can see my glory passing'' (Ex. 33:20). At that graduation, I saw God's glory and power. I saw God's love flowing from person to person.

The family members, the staff, the clients, everyone was sharing in the miracle of healing. It was not an instantaneous miracle, but one which took nearly a year to ripen. You might say it was 15 miracles and even more. We have a separate building for the women's halfway house. The recovering women guests were also getting ready for their own graduation.

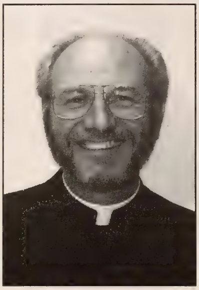
I have attended many commencement ceremonies in my life, but never one as moving as this. Most of these men had been at death's door many times in their lives. Now, for the first time in years, they were free and full of hope.

We follow up on them as best we can in our aftercare program to see that they are attending their AA and NA meetings. This has helped us to maintain a high rate of recovery.

Please keep us all at Eva's in your prayers as we go about the work of helping broken human beings to become good citizens once again and strong family members. Thank you and God bless you.

Gambling: Development or Dependency?

By FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH



Father John S. Rausch

The sound of thunder momentarily cracks people's concentration while a mile of white neon flashes like lightning above the rows of video gambling machines. Every time someone wins over $2,000 at Harrah's casino in Cherokee, N.C., the effects of the artificial Smoky Mountain storm remind customers that easy money can rain on them. An excited voice announces the name of a man who just won $12,500, half of the $25,000 maximum allowable prize. Most players, however, some with tubs of coins, others with credit cards inserted in machines, continue concentrating undisturbed on the rolling images of dice, cards or gold bars.

Because North Carolina law prohibits games of chance, the casino offers no table games or dealers. Instead row and row of video machines provide games of "skill and dexterity," known as "lock and roll" or "respin." Translated: the player gets to touch the screen to change or select a second choice for an additional spin before the game is over.

The casino which opened last November promises an economic boon to the Eastern Band of the Cherokee people. The agreement with Harrah's gives the tribe 73 percent of the profits and creates 900 jobs in an area of scarce opportunity and poverty. Yet, among the Cherokee, as among the other 183 Native American tribes with gambling interests, no consensus exists about commercial gaming.

Tribal councils view a slice of the national gambling revenues as a ticket to self-sufficiency for Indian people. Americans now legally bet over $550 billion annually in casinos, racetracks, lotteries and other gambling operations. Gambling generates more revenue than movies, theme parks, spectator sports, cruise ships and recorded music combined! Currently 27 states allow casinos, and Indian people own 150 of them. Last year Cherokee members of the Eastern Band received over $2,000 per capita from tribal gambling.

But, critics argue jobs and revenue from gambling bring unacceptable social and moral costs. While comprehensive data on the effects of legalized gambling remains scarce, studies point to easy abuse and skewed personal and civic priorities. Robert Goodman in his book, "The Luck Business," cites three credible consequences. First, gambling attracts local consumer dollars away from other area businesses. Second, 40 percent of all white-collar crime has its roots in gambling, and 60 percent of pathological gamblers commit crime to support their habit. Finally, people in the lowest income bracket spend four times as much of their income on gambling as those in the highest. Other sources identify gambling as contributing to personal bankruptcies, broken marriages, child abuse, lost jobs, depression and suicide. Because of gambling's addictive nature, Gamblers Anonymous now meets in Cherokee, and area ministers report a growing concern about gambling related problems.

Indian gambling began when Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. After policies of extermination, removal, containment and assimilation, Congress wanted to push tribes towards financial independence. Many Native Americans hope that gambling will return self-respect and economic self-sufficiency to their people. But, gambling with its dangerous social and moral costs substitutes a market solution for a comprehensive public policy that could insure wholesome opportunities for Native Americans and better serve the common good.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches at the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky. He has a master's degree in economics and has worked in community ministries more than 20 years.

In Brief:

Pastoral Implementation Training

CHARLOTTE — Training for parish implementation of "Of One Heart and One Mind," North Carolina Catholic Bishops William G. Curlin and F. Joseph Gossman's economic justice pastoral letter, will be held for Charlotte-area churches on March 14 from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr. This session is for parish leaders, social concerns members, educators, business people and all interested persons. There is no cost, but registration is required by March 6. Bring a bag lunch (drinks are provided). Joanne Frazer, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, facilitates. To register, call (704) 370-3231.

Weigh Down Workshop

CHARLOTTE — A 12-week Bible-based weight loss seminar begins March 5 at St. John Neumann Church in classroom 14 at 7:15 p.m. The seminar includes lectures, video tapes, audio cassettes, student guides and group discussion. To register or get more information, call Donna Rayle, (704) 545-8916.

50+ Club Annual Luncheon

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church presents its annual corned beef and cabbage luncheon March 11. A regular meeting begins at 11 a.m., followed by the luncheon at noon. A square dance group will perform. For more information, call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745.

St. Patrick's Day Dance

CHARLOTTE — The St. Patrick's Young Professionals Group and St. Patrick Cathedral co-sponsor a St. Patrick's Day dance March 14 at 7 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Cost is $20 per person, $40 for couples. For reservations, call Jeff Eichenger, (704) 393-3540; Sheri Kwapiszeski, (704) 522-7017; or Bill Jarrell, (704) 372-1090.

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"An Encounter With Jesus" — March 20-22, 1998

Come join other women to be renewed & refreshed by the Holy Spirit. The weekend is held at Living Waters Reflection Center, Maggie Valley, NC. Fr. Ray Berg will be the celebrant.

Deadline for registration is March 13, 1998.

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Entertainment

"Palmetto" Is Neo-Film Noir Reduced To Pulp

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Palmetto" (Columbia) evokes more of the unpleasant emotion of finding a palmetto bug in your bathroom than the pleasant sensation of watching a lovely palmetto tree sway in the breeze.

That's not because the story is dark and mean. After all, that is an essential part of the film-noir genre that "Palmetto" aspires to. However, a good movie is supposed to hold water and this plot has more holes than a fishnet.

In a nutshell, we have bitter Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) finally released after two years in the slammer for a crime he didn't commit. He'd just as soon never set foot back in Palmetto, Fla., scene of his disgrace, but former girlfriend Nina (Gina Gershon) lures him right back to her bed and abode while he job hunts.

When a sexy mystery woman (Elisabeth Shue) sashays past Harry — and offers him an unnamed assignment for big bucks — he discovers she is Rhea Malroux, married to a dying millionaire (Rolf Hoppe) who apparently isn't generous enough to her or his teenage daughter Odette (Chloe Sevigny).

Soon, sultry Rhea and just as hot-to-trot Odette have convinced Harry to pretend to kidnap daddy's darling daughter so they can split a $500,000 ransom. Since there is no real kidnapping, no one gets hurt and all three get handsomely rewarded.

But Harry's troubles are just beginning when he picks up the reward and returns to Odette, who is waiting in his rental cottage. She has been murdered in the interim and the attache case is stuffed with newspaper.

Looks like Harry's been framed again, only this time he's not going down for the count.

Volker Schlondorff directs a screenplay that time and again has characters or situations that don't ring true.

That Harry was an investigative reporter in this small town, yet he didn't know about its richest couple, the Malrouxs, is unlikely. That his sharp girlfriend Nina isn't suspicious early on when Harry starts acting weird and lying to her is unbelievable. That the district attorney would hire this ex-con as press liaison when the kidnapping is reported is pretty contrived.

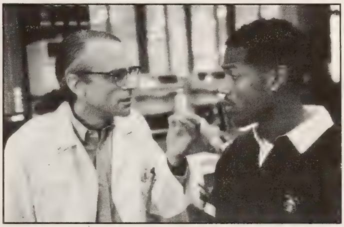
And when Harry is accused in a room full of cops, that he can flee on foot and, despite being shot, not be caught is ludicrous. And so on.

Adding to the unconvincing nature of the movie, Shue is a shoo-in for most laughable performance of the year for her ridiculously overdone sex-kitten antics. A 7-year-old would see through her, no less a cynical journalist who's already been burned.

There are more plot complications than explained above, but as all depends on the villains knowing precisely how Harry will act or react, again there is the question of credibility. Since that is fatally compromised throughout, the dark humor that runs through the script is also blunted.

In the long run, it is hardly even enjoyable as campy or trashy escapist fare; it is a neo-film noir reduced to pulp.

Because of some violence, discreet sexual encounters, much rough language and occasional profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.



CNS photo from Dimension Films

Brad Dourif (left) and Marlon Wayans star in the sketch comedy "Senseless." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Faraway, So Close" (1993)

Poetic fantasy of invisible guardian angels watching over the untidy affairs of people living in contemporary Berlin, until one of them (Otto Sander) becomes a mortal man in order to save a child's life, then suffers a series of misadventures as a human. German director Wim Wenders' playfully creative but overlong journey is one of discovery in seeing modern life as experienced by a pure-hearted former angel trying to cope with such things as alcohol, pornography and arms trafficking. Subtitles. Some stylized violence and sexual references. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Columbia TriStar, rental)

MOVIE REVIEW LINE
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"The Horn Blows at Midnight" (1945)

Trumpet-playing angel (Jack Benny) is sent to Earth to destroy the troublesome planet by tooting a few notes from the top of a New York skyscraper but his good intentions — and two fallen angels — get in the way. Director Raoul Walsh's whimsical fantasy features Benny in a role well-tailored to his deadpan style of comedy but the humor of the situation fades well before the sentimental ending. Apocalyptic premise may be confusing for youngsters. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (MGM/UA, $19.98)

"Heaven Can Wait" (1978)

Charming remake of the 1941 comedy, "Here Comes Mr. Jordan," has a past-his-prime quarterback (Warren Beatty) die prematurely but the angel responsible (James Mason) places him in the body of an eccentric millionaire just as he is done in by his wife (Dyan Cannon) and her lover (Charles Grodin). Enlisting the aid of his former coach (Jack Warden) to get his new body into playing form, the now-rich quarterback returns to the gridiron and wins the love of a good woman (Julie Christie). Directed by Beatty and Buck Henry, the entertainment succeeds in being very innocent and yet wise and funny. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Paramount, $14.95)

"I Married an Angel" (1942)

Thin musical comedy about an Hungarian count (Nelson Eddy) who dreams he has married an angel (Jeanette MacDonald), then awakens to make it come true. Directed by Maj. W.S. Van Dyke II, the limp plot hinges on the count's position as the head of a Budapest bank which faces ruin unless he reforms his playboy ways, but the Rodgers and Hart songs and bizarre settings are the main attractions. Romantic situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (MGM/UA, $19.98)

"Ocean of Mercy" (1998)

Inspirational documentary chronicles the lives of St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest martyred at Auschwitz, Blessed Faustina Kowalska, a nun who was a mystic, and Pope John Paul II, while exploring how these three Polish religious have been channels of divine mercy for the church and the world in the 20th century. Written and produced by John B. Clote, the 65-minute video combines extensive filming of present Polish locales with period photographs and film footage as well as makes good use of interviews with family members and friends of the three, especially in the segments dealing with Kolbe. Appropriate for all ages. (The Mercy Foundation, 1-888-286-3729, $24.95)

"Mother Teresa: In the Name of God's Poor" (1997)

Convincing dramatization of the early labors of Mother Teresa in the slums of Calcutta from 1946 until her religious congregation, the Missionaries of Charity, is approved in 1950, then jumps to her 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. Directed by Kevin Connor, the 93-minute TV production is unusually good in dealing with the spiritual dimensions of the subject and Geraldine Chaplin does surprisingly well portraying such a well-known and beloved world figure. For all. (Videos with Values, (800) 233-4629, $19.99)

"Wings of Desire" (1988)

Art-house film follows the lonely work of two angels (Bruno Ganz and Otto Sander) who wander about and above Berlin listening to the joys and travails of people in libraries, a circus and even on an American movie set (with Peter Falk as himself). One angel chooses to shed his wings for the chance of expressing human emotions and love for a woman. German director Wim Wenders is by turns ponderous, playful, reflective and philosophic. Subtitles. Some sexual situations, fleeting nudity and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV —adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropri-

See **Videos,** page 13

FAITH alive!

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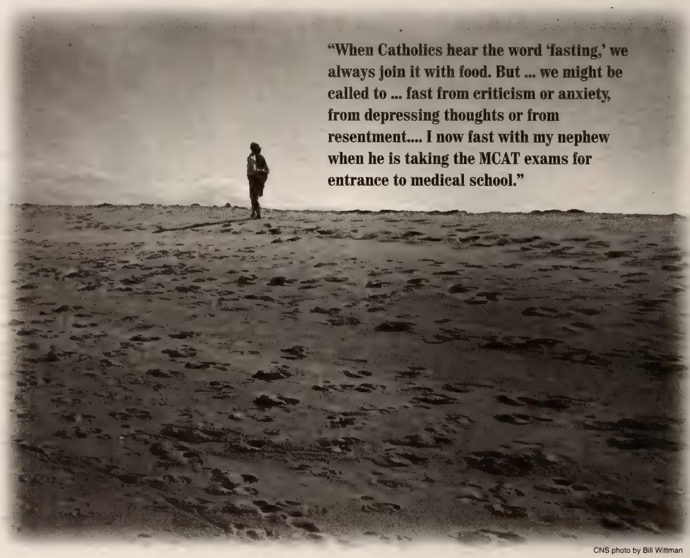
What good is fasting?

By Father Richard Rice, SJ
Catholic News Service

"Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting" (Joel 2:12 — First reading on Ash Wednesday).

"One full meal and two smaller meals that do not equal the full meal" was the first of the Lenten household commandments that I grew up with. I am certain that we had a scale in the kitchen that Mom and Dad used to stay within the confines of that command.



"When Catholics hear the word 'fasting,' we always join it with food. But ... we might be called to ... fast from criticism or anxiety, from depressing thoughts or from resentment.... I now fast with my nephew when he is taking the MCAT exams for entrance to medical school."

CNS photo by Bill Wittman

Suddenly, in 1966, the law and the scale disappeared because neither had much meaning for us anymore.

Ironically, almost as quickly as we Catholics dropped the practice of fasting, others picked it up. Through the '70s and '80s, the pages of our newspapers featured pictures and articles of Dick Gregory fasting against the Vietnam War and prisoners in northern Ireland fasting unto death for their cause.

Fortunately, we Catholics have been humble enough to realize that we had a treasure in fasting, and slowly we are reclaiming it.

In the Archdiocese of St. Paul/ Minneapolis, Archbishop John R. Roach wrote a pastoral letter in 1991 urging all to fast for peace as the United States declared war on Iraq. The community of St. Olaf in downtown Minneapolis presently is leading an ecumenical effort of prayer and fasting for an end to violence in that city.

We are remembering the inspired reasons we long had for fasting, and we are again choosing it.

Fasting is universal in world religions. Jews fast on Yom Kippur; Muslims fast by day during the month of Ramadan.

The motivation for fasting is rich and varied. People fast:

—As a petition for a profound desire, as David did for the health of his son (2 Samuel 12).

—As an expression of sorrow for sin and of desire for conversion.

—As a statement of mastery over one's compulsions, and

—As a slight taste of identification with the hungry who are forced to fast involuntarily.

Common to all these inspired reasons is the desire to empty ourselves before God, who alone can fill us; the willingness to wait in that emptiness for God to act; and, the commitment to finding the resurrected Jesus in our midst.

■ ■ ■

When Catholics hear the word "fasting," we always join it with food. But Father John Catoir, formerly of the Christophers and now executive director of Eva's Village in Paterson, N.J., has been particularly helpful in awakening us to the realization that we might be called to a more appropriate fast: from criticism or anxiety, from depressing thoughts or from resentment.

The invitation from God might well come in any area where we are filled with ourselves and where we are not at peace.

Like most every other Catholic, when we no longer had to fast, I no longer did fast. I was quite unaware of the rich tradition that supported fasting. I watched with puzzlement the protesters who fasted in the '70s and early '80s.

In 1987 I was invited to speak as part of a Lenten series. In my research and reflection, I realized that prayer, fasting and almsgiving are three aspects of the same reality.

—When I fast, I hollow out my space.

—When I pray, I hollow out my time, and

—When I give alms, I hollow out my closet and my bank account.

They are connected ways to embody the two great commandments: prayer as love of God; fasting as appropriate love of self; almsgiving as true love of neighbor.

No wonder Jesus groups them together in Matthew's version of the Sermon on the Mount, the Gospel for Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18).

Gradually, in the last 10 years, I have also come to realize that the more I pray, the more I fast, the more I give.

The fasting I have been called to and have been able to sustain is a fasting of solidarity and petition.

■ ■ ■

I now fast with my nephew when he is taking the MCAT exams for entrance to medical school, with a young couple going to Colombia to adopt a baby, with a friend who is having a biopsy to determine if she has cancer.

God knows whether God takes my petitions more seriously when I fast. I do know that I couple my fast with calls to the Poor Clares and the Visitation Convent, begging their prayers and fasting as well.

I do think God takes more seriously those who take God seriously, in contrast to those who fire an occasional spiritual 60-yard "Hail Mary" pass.

The word "Lent" means springtime in its Anglo-Saxon roots. This season offers the possibility of becoming a delicious springtime for our spirits if we pause to ask what form of fasting God is inviting of us, and then pray for the courage to choose that fast this Lent.

(Father Rice, a Jesuit, is a spiritual director with Loyola, a spiritual renewal resource in St. Paul, Minn.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Fasting is an ancient practice among Christians. "To fast" usually meant eating less — cutting down on the amount consumed, while "abstaining" meant cutting an item out altogether.

Why fast? Recently church leaders have been discussing this.

Bishop Anthony Pilla of Cleveland suggested in 1996 that people "might do well to fast from all that seeks to strangle God's life breath within us — all manner of violence, negligence and addiction; all manner of hurt, harm and bigotry."

Another bishop wrote that the reason to fast is "to shake awake our spirit, to see some things we hadn't noticed." That was Bishop Kenneth Untener of Saginaw, Mich.

Some Catholics fast for an end to abortions, for world peace, for solutions to community violence. Pope John Paul II more than once asked people everywhere to fast for peace in Bosnia. He suggested in 1994 that one way "to revive a Lenten fast" might be to fast for goals — "for this aim, that purpose."

Currently the U.S. bishops are studying whether there are ways to revive Friday fasting and abstinence. Why? To counter attacks against human life and dignity such as abortion, euthanasia, war, violence and drugs.

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

In a Nutshell

- *Fasting is universal in world religions. Its motivation is varied.*
- *Isn't fasting more than dieting? Fasting takes off "pounds of self" so that we give God and others more weight in our lives.*
- *Fasting — a wake-up call to sleepy disciples — provides a chance to think how our time, money and energy are being spent.*

The good news and the bad news about fasting

By Father Paul J. Schmidt
Catholic News Service

Jesus tells us in one Gospel passage that when we fast, we should present a clean, well-oiled face to the world. So what do we do on Ash Wednesday? We walk around all day with ashes on our foreheads! Fortunately, God has a sense of humor.

But fasting, it seems, can have a negative as well as positive side.

The Bible tells us that there is something good about fasting:

—The prophet Joel tells the people to fast and pray to avert punishment for sins.

—The Book of Acts tells how the apostles combined fasting with prayer before appointing Paul and Barnabas to a special ministry or appointing presbyters for the early Christian communities (Acts 13:2; 14:23).

St. Paul lists "frequent fastings" as one of the hardships he bore for the sake of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 11:27), though these may have been imposed by circumstances rather than willingly chosen.

Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the response of Jesus to those who charged that his disciples did not fast, while John the Baptist's disciples did. Jesus said that there was a time to fast and a time to refrain from fasting.

Something dangerous also is linked to fasting, the Bible says:

—Jesus spoke of putting on a show for others to see.

—Centuries earlier, the prophet Isaiah write at length about fasting as a smoke-screen to conceal injustice. Much of Isaiah, Chapter 58, is a call to a genuine fast, a fast of the heart, not simply the body.

Everyone has met the person who gave up smoking for Lent and became impossible to live with. Isaiah had met people like this too. He wrote, "Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight, and to strike with a wicked fist."

Isaiah also knew about the kind of person who gets enthusiastic about fasting, but fails to see the things that really need to be denied. "Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers."

Isaiah describes the outward signs of fasting: "bowing down the head like a bulrush, lying in sackcloth and ashes." Then he challenges: "Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?"

The poet Robert Herrick echoed this centuries later: "To show a heart grief-rent:/To starve thy sin/Not bin: And that's to keep thy Lent."

Isaiah tells the kind of fast the Lord wants: "to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, to share your bread with the hungry, to shelter the homeless, to clothe the naked." For this prophet, a true fast is to recognize the poor and oppressed as one's "own kin."

The prophet Joel meant something similar when he said, "Rend your hearts, not your garments."

The church connects prayer and almsgiving to fasting.

—Fasting is contrition.

—Fasting also is charity.

Fasting is a willingness to "waste time" with God and "waste money" on our brothers and sisters in need. It is depriving ourselves so that others can be enriched.

Jesus gave himself totally for us. To fast authentically, we must imitate Jesus' generosity.

Fasting, then, is much more than dieting (though it has dieting's good side-effects). Fasting is a discipline of sacrifice for the sake of service. Fasting is taking off pounds of self, so that we give the Lord, and our brothers and sisters, more weight in our lives.

(Father Schmidt is the director of Priests Personnel for the Diocese of Oakland, Calif.)

Fasting: A wake-up call for sleepy disciples

By Dan Luby
Catholic News Service

The television clearly needed repair. The antenna looked like bad wire sculpture made of coat hangers and fluttering scraps of aluminum foil. Coaxing a decent picture out of the old set was a chore.

So when Ash Wednesday rolled around, the couple decided to make it a TV-free Lent. They didn't watch all that much on television anyway — just the news, a little PBS and an occasional late-night movie.

CNS photo by Michael Hoyt

"Jesus tells us ... that when we fast, we should present a clean, well-oiled face to the world. So what do we do on Ash Wednesday? We walk around all day with ashes on our foreheads!"

But fasting from television was harder than expected.

The first night, the husband noticed in the newspaper that his hometown basketball team's game would start in half an hour. Suddenly, he remembered their television fast, and he groaned.

As the week unfolded, the couple became painfully aware how much more television they watched than they'd believed; not hours every night, but more than just a few shows a week.

At first they pretended not to miss television. After a few days, they admitted that they missed plopping down in front of the news at the end of the day and, truth be told, watching that gossipy little show about movie stars afterward.

But as the days and nights passed, the couple began to miss television less acutely. And the benefits of their fast began to come into focus.

Now it was easier to go to the Lenten mission in the neighboring parish when they got home from work. Also, the couple started walking in the evening before supper, opening up more time and opportunity to talk.

Instead of watching PBS wildlife specials, the woman started reading a book about Dorothy Day. The man decided to write to his old circle of high school friends, which led to a soul-satisfying gathering with a couple of people they had lost touch with.

When the couple saw an article in a magazine at church about couples praying together, they decided to try it. It was a little awkward at first, but it blossomed into a meaningful nightly ritual, enriching their relationship with God and their own closeness.

The couple came to see that giving up television was a true fast: voluntarily doing without something that in itself is not bad, but can assume too large a place in one's life.

The couple never got the television fixed. When Lent ended, they found their lives freer without television, so they gave it away.

Fasting, whether from food, television, recreational shopping or a host of other possibilities, offers a wake-up call to sleepy disciples. It interferes with our routine; it frees us up and gives us a chance to think more carefully about how we spend our resources of time, money and personal energy.

(Luby is the director of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Forth Worth, Texas.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What form(s) of fasting are practiced in your faith community?

"While giving something up as a form of fasting can bring us to our roots, many times we need to practice sharing what we have — through giving to our food pantry, for example — to better the lives of our neighbors. Another way can be a form of positive action, to be more informed of our faith and its responsibilities." — Jan Slattery, Chicago, Ill.

"Actually, what I talk to my kids about is not giving up something they weren't interested in in the first place — plus trying to give up something that can make a difference and that they can achieve." — Sharon Kincaid, Rudolph, Wis.

"My family and parish fast and abstain on Ash Wednesday and abstain from meat every Friday during Lent, and, of course, fast and abstain on Good Friday." — Brenda Cantella, Live Oak, Fla.

An upcoming edition asks: What do people value about the sacrament of penance? As a priest, how would you answer from your experience? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

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FAITH alive!

Diocese Extends Educational Opportunities With LIMEX

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Thanks to a co-sponsorship between the Diocese of Charlotte and the Loyola Institute for Ministry, Catholics in western North Carolina involved in a variety of ministries can now enroll in a locally facilitated master's degree program set to begin this fall.

Father James Hawker
Diocesan Vicar for Education

The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program, or LIMEX, will be initiated in the Diocese of Charlotte in September. The program was founded in 1983 by Loyola University in New Orleans, and has since been implemented in more than 40 dioceses in the United States.

"It was created to respond to the needs of dioceses that have no local institution of higher education equipped to grant a degree on the master's level in the areas of religious education and pastoral ministry," said Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education.

Limited opportunities for non-credit continuing education certificates will be available as well, he added.

Participants complete 12 courses over a period of about four years. The initial six courses focus on Scripture, the Creed, the sacraments, morality and spirituality. The next four courses deal with ministry in relation to the personal, socio-cultural and institutional contexts. The final two courses attend to particular focus areas, such as religious education or pastoral life.

"This program was formulated for people who are presently involved or intending to participate in ministry within the church or world," said Father Hawker. It serves lay, religious and ordained people engaged in educational and pastoral outreach by integrating knowledge of Christian tradition and the application of that knowledge within a number of contexts.

Interest in diocesan sponsorship of LIMEX has been discussed extensively among the members of the education vicariate for almost a year, said Father Hawker. The vicariate is composed of the diocesan offices of schools, faith formation, youth ministry, young adult ministry, campus ministry, evangelization and lay ministry.

"During our monthly meetings, the leadership from these offices have been concerned with making available or strengthening various programs and services intended to assist in forming and informing persons on the local level," Father Hawker said.

The members of the vicariate agreed on the value of the LIMEX program, and Bishop William G. Curlin recently approved diocesan sponsorship.

Father Hawker called the program's approach to learning "multi-dimensional," explaining that each course includes written lectures, videos, required readings, papers, group reflections and discussion. "The approach recognizes the value of experience and relates church teaching to the lives of the participants and to the culture," he said.

Each 10-week course is led by a LIMEX-certified facilitator. Groups usually consist of 12 to 15 people who meet weekly for three hours at a local site. In preparation for each session, between six to 10 hours of reading time is required, in addition to the time necessary for writing papers. Meeting times and places are flexible and are determined by each learning group.

The cost of each master's-level course is $515, plus the cost of textbooks, which averages about $40 per course. The cost of non-credit courses is considerably lower. Father Hawker noted that there will be a concerted effort to gather a limited amount of funds to assist applicants in need of financial aid.

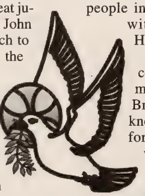
Informational sessions have been scheduled throughout the diocese in the upcoming weeks. In Charlotte, sessions are March 8 at 7:30 p.m. in St. John Neumann Church, and March 22 at 7 p.m. in St. Vincent de Paul Church. In the Triad, sessions are on March 14 at 10 a.m. in St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, and March 14 at 2 p.m. in the Greensboro Catholic Fellowship center on Friendly Avenue in Greensboro. In the mountain area, sessions are March 8 at 2 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, March 14 at 9:30 a.m. at the Catholic Social Services offices in Asheville, and March 14 at 4 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church in Boone.

For further information about the LIMEX program, call Joanna Case, diocesan liaison, at (704) 362-0013, or Connie Milligan, diocesan committee member, at (704) 364-3344.

Diocese To Celebrate Faith Formation Week March 1-8

CHARLOTTE — "One in the Spirit" is the theme for the Diocese of Charlotte's second annual Faith Formation Week March 1-8.

The theme coincides with the church's preparation for the millennium, said Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation. As part of the spiritual preparation for the great jubilee of the year 2000, Pope John Paul II has called on the church to reflect on the Holy Spirit and the virtue of hope in 1998.



"It was also chosen to help people get a sense of unified ministry," Dr. Villapando added. "We are one, and all building the same body of Christ."

Bishop William G. Curlin has issued a proclamation recognizing catechists who have served the diocese for five or more years. Parishes will host a variety of activities to celebrate Faith Formation Week as well.

Father James Hawker, vicar for education for the diocese, said Faith Formation Week is a time:

1) to celebrate the identity and mission of church as mother and teacher;

2) to acknowledge our calling to become ever more intimate with Jesus;

3) to challenge us to be more faithful as disciples and witnesses of the Lord;

4) to stress the importance of family in nurturing faith;

5) to express thanks to those who serve as catechists in parishes, including in RCIA programs and Catholic schools.

As the diocese celebrates Faith Formation Week and prepares to move into the millennium, they now have a revised version of the general directory for catechesis recently issued from Rome. "In this document, we are reminded that the primary purpose of the catechetical component of faith formation is to put people in communion, in intimacy with Jesus Christ," Father Hawker explained.

As members of the Diocese of Charlotte's Faith Formation Advisory Board, Carol Brown and Earlene Wilkins know firsthand about the efforts of the 3,300 catechists whose task is passing on the faith to others.

Wilkins, who chairs the committee and also serves as faith formation coordinator at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, sees the diocese placing a stronger emphasis on adult catechesis in the future.

"We realize the limited participation of adults in formation. They need to recognize it is a lifelong pursuit," she said. "We need to contrive a program that will market formation as a lifelong journey."

As faith formation program coordinator at St. Elizabeth Church in Boone, Brown agrees that involving and reaching more adults is a major concern. "A lot of people grow up thinking once they're confirmed, their faith formation is finished," she said. "But it's an ongoing growth process."

Research Places Garden Of Eden In Southern Africa

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recent genetic research has helped place the Garden of Eden on the map, probably somewhere between what is now Tanzania and South Africa, a Jesuit scholar told a Vatican conference.

Father Angelo Serra said Feb. 23 that researchers in molecular evolution have been able to locate what is referred to as a "mitochondrial Eve," based on analysis of DNA transmission through many generations of humans, in cell structures called mitochondrions. The experts later discovered a genetic "Adam" in the same way, he said.

The studies use DNA as a "molecular fossil" of man's earliest beginnings. Father Serra said he saw no theological problems in the findings.

"Eden, where man appeared for the first time with the biological structure of the modern human being about 100,000-200,000 years ago, should correspond to a region of southern or southwestern Africa," he said.

"From there, modern man appears to have spread out toward Asia and Europe, where about 30,000-50,000 years ago were formed the populations from which the current ones are descended," he said.

The priest noted there is still dissent about exactly where, when and how the first humans emerged. But he said it was clear that the process was an evolutionary one and involved genetic transformations — all of which is consistent with the Christian concept of creation, he said.

"We know God intervened in our creation, but let's say he left us with the intelligence to find out where and how this happened," he told Catholic News Service after his address.

He said that evolutionary biology appears as a "universal law" to modern researchers. This does not diminish the power of divine creation, he said, since even if evolution is a law, "it requires a legislator."

Father Serra made his comments in a speech to the fourth general assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, which was meeting to discuss recent efforts to complete the human gene-mapping project. Father Serra is a retired professor of human genetics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome.

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Diocesan Regional Coordinators:

Charlotte Diocese Office of Religious Education has two openings: Northern Vicariates and Southern Vicariates. Diocese seeks persons with master's degree in Rel. Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris V. Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee. Inquiries: (704) 370-3244. Deadline: February 27, 1998, or when filled.

Social Worker — Immediate Opening:

Room at the Inn, a home for single pregnant mothers, is seeking a part-time Social Worker, 20 hours per week. Must have a 4 year degree plus 2 years' experience. Please call Trish at (704) 643-0699 or (704) 525-4673.

Director of Total Youth Ministry:

Grades 6-12: Full time position in 1600 family parish. Primary responsibilities include: coordination of all youth ministry activities — lectionary-based catechetical sessions, retreats, service projects, social events; recruiting, training and supporting volunteers; sacramental preparation for confirmation. Shared responsibility with intergenerational religious education program. Most parish catechetical programs are lectionary-based. Member of Religious Education Team with Children's Coordinator and Catechumenate, Liturgy and Adult Education director. Master's Degree or equivalent in religious education or related field preferred. Excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and references to TYM Search Committee, Saint Patrick's Church, 2840 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304. ATTN: Don Gray, Phone: (910) 323-2410, x 106.

Principal:

St. Thomas More School, an accredited PreK-8 school, seeks an experienced replacement for its retiring principal. The school, with 475 students and a brand new middle school facility, is located in a growing, dynamic Vatican II parish in a university town. Successful applicant is a practicing Catholic with a Master's degree in administration and is eligible for NC certification. Strong people and communication skills must. Send letter, resume, and references by April 15 to: Principal Search Committee, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Position abailavle 7/1/98.

Director of Youth Ministry:

St. Thomas More Church and the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish, growing and dynamic Vatican II communities in a university town, seek a full-time director for their joint youth ministry serving both parishes beginning 7/1/98. Present ministry involves 300 students between grades 6-12, uses the Total Youth Ministry model and includes Confirmation preparation. The program uses a lectionary-catechesis approach and the Confirmation program uses a sacramental-catechesis approach. Successful applicant possesses relevant college degree as well as strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills. Experience preferred. Professional salary and benefits commensurate with background offered. Send letter, resume, and references by April 15 to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Principal:

St. Raphael Catholic Church, a dynamic, Jesuit parish in Raleigh, North Carolina, is seeking a vital addition to its ministry team in the role of school principal. Our school, grades K-4 (which will expand to double grades K-5 by 2002) has established an excellent curriculum within the Catholic tradition. Applicants must: be a practicing Catholic; have or be eligible to have a North Carolina Principal's Certificate; have 5 years teaching experience with some administrative and financial responsibility. We offer an attractive compensation package, including a comprehensive benefits program. Applicants interested in this challenging position should submit their resume with references and salary history to: Principal Search, St. Raphael Catholic Church, 5801 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh, NC 27609. Application deadline is March 31, 1998.

Youth Minister:

Would you like to serve starting in June, 1998 as a full-time Youth Minister in a young, growing, Catholic Community in central North Carolina? Candidate must be a faith-filled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team oriented person. Qualifications: BA in Theology; 3 years experience in Youth Ministry; knowledge of *Life Teen* desirable. Salary and benefits commensurate with degree and experience. Send resume and a statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Rev. James W. O'Neill, O.S.F.S.; St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Academic Dean:

Bishop England High School, a coeducational, 9-12 Catholic School in Charleston, SC, is seeking candidates for the newly established position of academic dean. The person selected will assume direct responsibility for developing curriculum, supervising teachers and addressing academic concerns. Interested candidates should possess an advanced degree, have background of secondary school administrative experience and be familiar with the mission of Catholic Schools. Deadline for applications is March 15, 1998. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and credentials. Applicants should submit a letter of application, resume and a statement of educational philosophy to: David Held, Bishop England High School, 203 Calhoun St., Charleston, SC 29401-3522. No phone calls please.

Youth Minister:

Full-time staff position in active 650 household parish located in the Blue Ridge Mountains. To work in established Total Youth Ministry Program for 6-12 grades. Degree, Certification of Equivalent experience. Send resume to Search Committee, St. Barnabas, P.O. Box 38, Arden, NC 28704 by April 15.

1998 Colonel Francis J. Beatty Award Recipient Named

Dianne English To Be Honored At Annual CSS Dinner Set For March 11

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services will present the seventh annual Colonel Francis J. Beatty Award to Dianne English, executive director of Mecklenburg Ministries, at a reception and dinner March 11 at the Westin Hotel.

The award was established in 1991 and named for the late Colonel Beatty, a Catholic layman whose strong religious faith prompted effective church-related and public service in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and its larger region. In every area of life, he set exemplary standards: in the military, the cotton textile industry, the trucking business, through Rotary, Johnson C. Smith University, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Boys Scouts and various hospital boards.

Past recipients of the award include James S. Babb, Jr.; Charles L. "Chuck" Grace; Ray S. Farris, Jr.; John C. Engler; Peter Keber; and Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke.

In announcing English's selection, Pam Paroli, co-chair of the CSS Board of Advisors, said: "The work that Dianne English accomplishes here in Charlotte-Mecklenburg epitomizes the essence of the Beatty award. She observes different aspects of the community and works to bring them together into an effective unifying whole."

As executive director of Mecklenburg Ministries since 1991, English has put her faith into action. She has embraced the mission of Mecklenburg Ministries with her passion for life and her compassion for others, without regard to denomination, race or age. Mecklenburg Ministries has developed programs such as BridgeBuilders, InnerChange and Youth Breaking Barriers. English describes Mecklenburg Ministries as a "place of hospitality where strangers can become friends."

English has also served as director of the Community Building Task Force since last April. The goal of the group is to create an active community building process among people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

English credits her mother and father (a Methodist minister) for the gift of her inward and outward spirituality.

For outstanding volunteer service to CSS, the annual Spirit Award will be presented to Charlotte Catholic High School. Accepting the award will be Patrick Cahill and Lacy Niedosik, student council president and treasurer, respectively.

CSS in Charlotte is a professional social service agency providing services without regard to religious affiliation since 1948. Assistance is provided in pregnancy support, individual and marriage counseling, substance abuse prevention and adoption.

Ty Boyd and his daughter, Ann Boyd Gellman, will serve as master and mistress of ceremonies for the evening.

Cost to attend is $60 per person. For reservations and information, call CSS, (704) 370-6155, weekdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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CRS Diocesan Committee Awards Mini-Grants

CHARLOTTE — Programs linking parishioners at St. Michael Church in Gastonia and villagers in Chacraseca, Nicaragua, and St. Barnabas Church in Arden and homeless residences in Kingston, Jamaica are among the five initiatives with an international focus receiving up to $500 each from the Diocese of Charlotte's newly formed mini-grants program. The mini-grants were inaugurated by the five-member Catholic Relief Services Diocesan Committee this year to promote local initiatives on international issues or topics. CRS programs are coordinated through the Office of Justice and Peace.

Seventy-five percent of each year's Operation Rice Bowl contribution is forwarded to national CRS for its worldwide programs. With the 25 percent that remains in the diocese, the recently formed CRS committee established the mini-grants program to promote solidarity between our churches and global communities. In 1997 diocesan ORB donations totaled $15,491, a 15.7 percent increase over 1996.

Kay Bonin and her husband, Irv, spearhead the sister parish committee at St. Michael. Some 28 parishioners from St. Michael have been to Chacraseca, where the average annual wage is $200, with 80 to 90 percent unemployment. The Bonins recently returned from a visit and say they are "astounded at the progress these people have made in the last five years."

Parishioners at St. Michael provide scholarships for approximately 35 students to attend school, and they have raised money to build a block factory and to purchase a truck for the Chacraseca community. Each fall they collect, pack and ship school supplies for the children in their sister parish. The mini-grant is financing efforts to secure a clean water source and to provide health and medical supplies.

According to Maria Horton, coordinator of the Jamaica Mission Committee, St. Barnabas will use its mini-grant to purchase educational materials for a nurse to use in teaching first aid to the brothers who run homeless residences in Kingston. Horton and other parishioners have made two visits to Kingston during the inaugural year of this sister parish relationship. She said "the parish was excited to receive the grant, and to help, even if it is mostly by proxy. Many parishioners offer support through prayer as well as contributions." Parishioners from St. Ann parish in Charlotte and St. Eugene in Asheville also participate in this program.

Other mini-grant recipients include:

- The Voices program of the Catholic Campus Ministry at UNCC. At monthly Voices meetings, students reflect on Catholic social teaching. The grant will finance presentations by speakers involved in ministry to immigrant, migrant and international communities. The students also participate in service projects.

See **Mini-Grants,** page 13

Catholic Relief Services Official Visits Diocese

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Mike Duffy listened intently as the statistics about world hunger were revealed.

"I never knew there was a Catholic-based organization that helps the less fortunate overseas," said Duffy, a junior at Charlotte Catholic High School.

Duffy and his classmates got a glimpse of life in third-world countries thanks to Corryne Deliberto, manager of Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl program. Deliberto recently spent four days in the Charlotte Diocese visiting parishes and schools, sharing how CRS' work helps the less fortunate around the globe. For Charlotte Catholic students, this was a preview for a second-semester class as well: the 11th-graders are now studying social justice.

Fact File

- Each year, 12.4 million children under the age of five die from malnutrition and preventable diseases.
- There are 800 million people in the world suffering from hunger.
- 1.3 billion people in the world live on less than a dollar a day.
- The U.S. spends less than 1 percent of its budget on foreign assistance.
- 80 percent of the sickness and disease in the world results from water pollution or unsafe water and poor sanitation.

"This was a quiz to give you a sense of the world picture," Deliberto told the students. "Hopefully, this will broaden the way we examine the social situations we face today."

Catholic social teaching, Deliberto said, teaches life is sacred and places human dignity at the forefront of its vision. "God challenges us to respect diversity," she told the students. "We need to be in solidarity with all our brothers and sisters of the world." That, Deliberto added, is the basis for all of CRS' work.

One way to demonstrate solidarity is to support people overseas, Deliberto said. When asked how they could do that, students responded with prayer, volunteering their time and donating goods, many of the same tenets of the Operation Rice Bowl program.

Corryne Deliberto of Catholic Relief Services talks to CCHS students about her visit to Ethiopia last summer.

As a ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte, CRS programs are directed by the Office of Justice and Peace, which works in partnership with parishes to alleviate hunger, suffering and deprivation throughout the world.

During her presentation at CCHS, Deliberto shared slides she took during a three-week visit to Ethiopia last summer. The images expose a culture where poverty abounds and residents struggle to make ends meet. There is also an extremely high illiteracy rate among women in the northeast African country, the CRS official said.

An annual Lenten program of prayer, fasting, education and almsgiving, Operation Rice Bowl began Ash Wednesday. Its theme this year is "Nourish the Spirit of Hope." During Lent, families are encouraged to place symbolic rice bowls on their tables to help eliminate the causes of hunger, injustice and poverty by providing material and spiritual assistance in the form of prayer and sacrifice. Of the funds collected, 75 percent goes to the national office to be used in responding to worldwide human needs, while 25 percent stays in the diocese.

An international and relief development agency of the Catholic Church since 1943, CRS has offices in 80 countries around the world.

For more information on Operation Rice Bowl and other CRS programs, call Joanne Frazer, director of the Office of Justice and Peace, at (704) 370-3225.

Dietzen, from page 5

today, is the one referred to as the Gospel of Thomas.

This gospel is quite unlike the four we know, consisting solely of 114 "sayings" of the "living Jesus."

Written most likely before the year 100, its existence had been known for centuries, through references and occasional quotes in other documents.

The discovery of the entire text in 1945, however, in an ancient library along the Nile in northern Egypt, is a significant archeological event in the history of New Testament scholarship.

Because of its antiquity, its importance in studying the life and words of Jesus can scarcely be exaggerated.

The relatively brief text is available today in several publications. If you read it, however, don't look for it to have the interest or the impact of the four Gospels in our New Testament.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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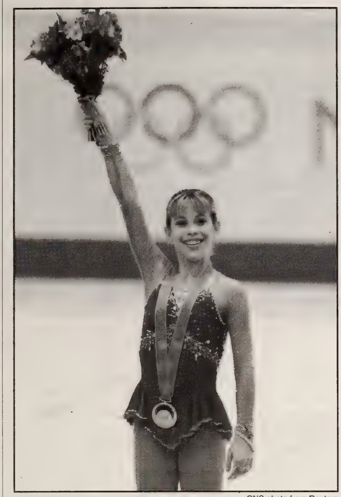
Communities In Schools Of Asheville Receives St. Anthony's Society Award

ASHEVILLE — In celebration of Black History Month, parishioner and executive director of Communities In Schools of Asheville Lonnie Gilliam, received the St. Anthony's Society Award for $1,000 from the Basilica of St. Lawrence. The presentation was made by Msgr. John J. McSweeney, rector of the Basilica, during a special evening for African-American parishioners — former Catholics and St. Anthony's School.

The school closed in 1966 when St. Anthony's and St. Lawrence merged to form one parish. The society began after the historically and predominantly African-American church and school closed. With this closing, the disintegration of African-American Catholics has been a cause for alarm.

St. Anthony's Society was formed to rejuvenate the rise to the call of evangelization under the leadership of Msgr. McSweeney. Communities In Schools of Asheville was chosen as this year's recipient for the outstanding community service they provide, as evidenced by the interest and leadership they have rendered to children who are at risk of dropping out of school.

In accepting the award, Gilliam said there was an urgent need for men and women in the African American community to involve themselves with programs that develop our youth. He recognized that the Basilica of St. Lawrence has formed a partnership with Communities In Schools of Asheville to support this effort, and urged not only African Americans but all people to get involved with our children. "If we do not start to take care of them now, we will certainly pay to take care of them later," he said.



CNS photo from Reuters

U.S. Olympic gold medalist Tara Lipinski waves to the crowd after receiving her award in Nagano, Japan, Feb. 20. Lipinski, an admirer of St. Therese of Lisieux, became the youngest Olympic women's figure skating champion in history.

Mini-Grants, from page 12

• The El Salvador Project at St. Peter Church in Charlotte. A visit to Charlotte by Wes Calendar, executive director of Voices on the Border, was financed by the grant. Calendar has visited St. Peter's sister city, Segundo Montes, El Salvador, as well as other central and South American areas, and has become a liaison between the people in El Salvador and St. Peter parishioners.

• The Twin Parish Relationship between Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Kharkov, Ukraine. The grant allowed OLG parishioners to supplement earlier purchases of computer equipment enabling parishioners in the Ukraine to produce Russian translations of Catholic publications.

• The Padre Pio Hispanic Ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson. The grant funds the purchase of video tapes in Spanish for use in faith formation instruction for migrant families in western North Carolina. The migrants live in remote areas, usually have no transportation, and often have unconventional work hours.

***Want to know more about CRS mini-grants?** Call the Office of Justice and Peace at 704(370-3231) or 704(370-3225), or fax (704)370-3377 for a 1998 mini-grant application.*

Videos,
from page 7

ate for children under 13. (Orion, $19.98)

"Yolanda and the Thief" (1945)

Odd musical romance set in a mythical South American country where an 18-year-old convent-raised heiress (Lucille Bremer) is duped by an American con man (Fred Astaire) posing as her guardian angel until his conscience gets in the way. Directed by Vicente Minnelli, the story's silly premise never gets off the ground, though the songs and dance numbers are fanciful enough and there's a bit of fantasy involving a real angel (Leon Ames). Romantic complications. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (MGM/UA, $19.98)

Welborn,
from page 4

in strong terms how they felt about what he did to Kelly.

One of the more popular fads right now are bracelets and other paraphernalia bearing the initials "WWJD?" (What would Jesus do?)

They're all over the place at my school, on the kids' wrists and hanging from their book bags. The initials are on bumper stickers and Bible covers.

It could be just a fad, but it could also be a strong reminder of what it means to be moral in a variety of circumstances.

You're a silent bystander, watching someone being bullied. What would Jesus do?

Amy Welborn is a CNS columnist.

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

For more information:
Rev. Eric Houseknecht
St. Margaret Church
P.O. Box 1359
Maggie Valley, NC 28751
704-926-0106
E-mail: elh@dnet.net

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Diocesan News Briefs

Senior Prom

ARDEN — The high school youth group of St. Barnabas Church invites all senior citizens ages 55 and older to their "Wonderful World," an evening of dinner and dancing, March 21 in the parish social hall. Admission is free. Call Mary Kate Allison, (704) 684-0313, by March 13 for reservations.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to forget the past and start anew. The program begins March 27. For further information, call Nick and Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Holy Angels Benefit

CHARLOTTE — The Second Annual St. Patrick's Day Emerald Ball is March 7 at 8 p.m. in Founder's Hall. This semi-formal attire event includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and live entertainment. Tickets are $40 per person, and sponsorships are available. For more information, call Linda Dyer-Hart, (704) 542-6846. For reservations, make checks payable to The Emerald Ball Fund and send to P.O. Box 471322, Charlotte, NC 28247.

St. Patrick's Parade

CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus co-sponsor a St. Patrick's Day parade March 14 at 12 p.m. in Charlotte. The parade route begins at Stonewall and Tryon streets, proceeds through uptown and ends at Fifth and Tryon streets. Any groups and individuals wishing to march in or help with the parade are welcomed. Call Tim Lawson, (704) 522-9728, or send E-mail to NCAOH@aol.com to volunteer, get a parade application or receive more information.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A healing Mass is March 7 at 5:30 p.m. in Our Lady of the Assumption Church. Father Ken Parker, the only priest in the healing ministry in the Diocese of Raleigh, is celebrant. Emphasis will be on finding peace in the Lord. An optional laying on of hands follows the Mass for good-willed people of all faiths. For more information, call the parish office, (704) 535-9965.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated March 8 at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams gather at 3 p.m. and after Mass. A potluck supper follows. For more information, call Josie, (704) 527-4676.

Adult Ed Series

GREENSBORO — An adult education series continues at St. Paul the Apostle Church March 10 with "The Pathway to Inner Peace," a discussion facilitated by Hannah Hammer focusing on reaching forgiveness as the means to attain peace. Baby-sitting is available (please R.S.V.P. to Joe Casacchia, (910) 632-0729).

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter is the weekend of April 3 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details, call Michael or Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom or Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424.

World Day of Prayer

HICKORY — Hickory area churches are invited to observe the World Day of Prayer by attending an ecumenical worship service March 6 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of the Lutheran Home, 1265 21st St. N.E. The featured speaker is Hulen Brown of Newton, a licensed foster care provider and sociologist who spent four years in Africa with International Partners of the Habitat for Humanity. The ecumenical program was prepared by Church Women United in Madagascar, from the island republic off the southeast African coast. Music will be provided by the Spiritual Voices Choir or Morning Star First Baptist Church. Baby-sitting will be available. For more information, call Carole Marmorato, (704) 327-2372.

Jesuit House of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — "Dreams: Opening Up To Life" is a March 6-8 retreat for men and women focusing on the place of dreams in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Dr. Eileen Riordan facilitates.

Jesuit Father Vince Alagia and Steve and Marlene Stowe lead a retreat for married couples March 13-15.

"Our Lenten Journey" is a March 20-22 retreat for men and women. Jesuit Father James Devereux, pastor of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, facilitates.

For reservations or more information about these and other activities at the Jesuit House of Prayer, call (704) 622-7366.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Understanding Yourself and Others" is a March 6-8 retreat focusing on self-discovery through the ancient theories of Gurdjieff, the Enneagram and modern psychology. An emphasis will be placed on discovering patterns of growth and relationships leading to understanding of God and self. Dr. Wayne Scott facilitates. Cost is $95.

A Holy Week silent retreat is April 5-12 and will focus on walking with Jesus from Palm Sunday through the solemnities of the Triduum into Easter Sunday. No conferences will take place. Liturgies will be celebrated in St. Margaret Church. Cost is $225.

Special rates for couples and opportunities for self-conducted retreats are available. A $25 non-refundable deposit is required with each registration. To register, get more information, or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Members of the youth group at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin reencated the Nativity story last month during the parish's Boar's Head Madrigal Dinner, attended by more than 150 people.

Culture Series

TAYLORSVILLE — Holy Trinity Church begins a monthly ethnic culture series March 8 at 7 p.m. with a focus on the Hispanic culture. The event includes food, music and memorabilia, and young children are invited to participate in the breaking of the piñata. The dinner follows the Hispanic Mass, which begins at 6 p.m. There is no admission fee. Please contribute a Hispanic dish for all to share. For more information, call Nick or Mary Baker, (704) 635-8371.

Lenten Series

WINSTON-SALEM — Dr. Beatrice Bruteau shares thoughts from her new book-in-progress, "Holy Thursday Revolution," continues in Joseph House at Our Lady of Mercy Church on March 4, 18 and 15, and April 1, 8 and 15. For further information, call (910) 722-0028.

Scripture and Children Presentation

WINSTON-SALEM — T.O.R.C.H. of Winston-Salem continues its adult speaker series March 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room B of the St. Leo the Great Church activity center. Father James Solari will speak on teaching Scripture to children. Call Mary Beth Young, (910) 922-0479, for more information.

Adult Bible Study

WINSTON-SALEM — A weekly in-depth, video-based discussion of the Scriptures begins March 8 from 7-8:45 p.m. in St. Leo the Great Church. Call Melodie Manna, (910) 760-1110, for more information.

Lenten Retreat

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Father Canice Connors leads a parish retreat based on the theme "Christ in Me" beginning with Masses March 7-8 at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Weekday presentations are in the church from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Father Connors will also be available for one-hour sessions of spiritual direction and reconciliation on a first-come, first served basis Monday through Friday from 11 a.m.-noon or 1-2 p.m. Call Joseph's house, (910) 722-0028, to schedule a time.

Around The Diocese

First Friday/Saturday Adoration

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is in the chapel area of St. Joan of Arc Church every first Saturday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Call the church office, (704) 252-3151, for more information.

BREVARD — Sacred Heart Church hosts eucharistic adoration each first Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass. The parish also hosts First Saturday devotions with adoration. Call (704) 883-9572 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church hosts eucharistic adoration each first Friday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass and lasting until midnight. Call (704) 549-1607 for more information.

DENVER — Nocturnal adoration is the first Friday of each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 7 p.m. each first Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and Mass. Call Jim Kennedy, (704) 732-2673, for more information.

HICKORY — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the first Friday through the first Saturday of each month at St. Aloysius Church. For information, call Jean Marie Hirsch, (704) 495-4339, or Sonja Bjerg, (704) 328-5074.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church hosts eucharistic adoration beginning at 9:30 a.m. every first Friday and ending at 9 a.m. Saturday. Call (910) 294-4696 for details.

NEWTON — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Joseph Church every first Friday of the month following a 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasting until 8 p.m. For more information, call (704) 464-9207 for more information.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo from Reuters

Residents of the Ponderosa Park in Kissimmee, Fla., search through rubble for belongings Feb. 23 after tornadoes passed through the area the night before. At least 37 people died in the storm and more than 100 were injured.

Young Adult Catholics Stress Sacraments, Helping Poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a national survey most U.S. Catholics 20 to 39 years old ranked belief in God's presence in the sacraments, charity to the poor and belief in Christ's real presence in the Eucharist high among elements essential to the Catholic faith. Vast majorities, however, thought the church's teachings that only men can be priests and that workers have a right to unionize were not essential to the faith. Results of the survey were released Feb. 13 by sociologist Dean R. Hoge of The Catholic University of America, one of a team of researchers who commissioned it as part of a larger study of post-baby-boom adult Catholics.

Religious Ed Meeting Touches On Morality, Music, Ethics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — General understanding of Catholic moral teaching is still slowly evolving from the notion of "keeping rules" to acting in "loving response in and to a love relationship," according to an ethics professor speaking to a religious educators conference. "Prior to Vatican II, Catholic moral teaching was very clear," said Father Robert Friday, vice president for student life at The Catholic University of America in a Feb. 14 session of the East Coast Conference for Religious Education. "We may not have understood it, but we knew it." "For a long time, the approach was 'don't think, we'll tell you what to believe,'" said Father Friday. But that "martial law of the church" approach was solidly shaken during World War II, when religious leaders questioned how the policies of the German Nazis could have come from the same culture where so much of Christian theology originated, he said.

Cuban Bishops' Conference Prepares Book Of Pope's Homilies

HAVANA (CNS) — The Catholic Church in Cuba is moving quickly to nurture seeds of evangelization planted by Pope John Paul II during his visit to the communist-ruled nation Jan. 21-25. Many people who were touched by the papal visit now want to read and reflect on the pope's homilies, said Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana in a Canadian Catholic News interview. To meet the demand and to maintain the spiritual momentum provided by the pope's visit, the Cuban bishops' conference is publishing up to 350,000 128-page books containing the complete texts of the pope's homilies and 42 photographs from the visit. The books are expected to be printed in Mexico or Spain.

Ukranian Catholic, Orthodox Claim Harmony; Vatican To Investigate

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While Eastern-rite Catholic and Orthodox bishops in Ukraine claim their communities have no problems with each other, Orthodox leaders in Moscow continue giving the Vatican lists of alleged incidents. "Something is not right there, but I don't know what it is," Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, told Catholic News Service. After a meeting in mid-January, the cardinal and his Russian Orthodox counterpart, Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, decided to send a small delegation to Western Ukraine "so that next time we meet we will know what is going on." Cardinal Cassidy said Feb. 17 that the delegation had not yet been named, nor had a time for their visit been set.

Crisis Pregnancy Work Seen As 'Difficult Challenge'

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (CNS) — A prominent Catholic layman told more than 700 people who staff crisis pregnancy centers across the United States that their work is more vital to the fight against abortion than they might think. Alan Keyes, a Catholic who is former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Economic and Social Council, addressed the group of pro-life activists at a Feb. 7 national conference held at Focus on the Family headquarters in Colorado Springs. Keyes said he believes the position that Christians take on abortion is vital to the spiritual health of the nation.

New Program Seeks Vocations Among Active-Duty Military

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (CNS) — A new program to begin this fall hopes to find priestly vocations among troops on active duty and turn them into military chaplains. Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, who became head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services last August, initiated the project. It kicked off with a discernment retreat Feb. 5-7 at Theological College at The Catholic University of America in Washington, and ties into an ongoing priestly discernment program at the Sulpician-run college. The retreat attracted 20 men, most now serving in the military, with a few from military families. The Military Archdiocese serves 1.2 million Catholics worldwide. They include active-duty military personnel and their families, federal employees serving overseas, reservists and National Guard troops, and residents of Veterans Affairs hospitals.

Indian Bishops Comdemn Pre-Election Bomb Blasts; 46 Killed

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India condemned the killing of 46 people in bomb blasts on the eve of parliamentary elections in the country. Bombs planted in cars exploded Feb. 14 and 15 in as many as 15 places in the southern Indian textile city of Coimbatore. The blasts killed 46 people and injured more than 200, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Bishop Reports On Efforts To Recover Missing Millions

SAN ANGELO, Texas (CNS) — Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer of San Angelo said Feb. 18 he will "vigorously pursue all possible civil remedies" to recover an estimated $4.4 million allegedly stolen from diocesan funds. State authorities are investigating possible criminal charges, he said. He announced that the diocese has hired a new accounting firm to oversee its financial operations and initiated a yearly outside audit to protect it against such theft in the future. Bishop Pfeifer gave a progress report on the diocese's financial crisis, uncovered late last year, in a letter published Feb. 18 in his diocesan newspaper, The West Texas Angelus.

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban, Informed Consent Pass In Virginia

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Virginia legislators Feb. 17 passed legislation banning partial-birth abortion and requiring informed consent and a 24-hour waiting period before a woman can have an abortion. A day later, the House of Delegates voted 77-20 to ban assisted-suicide. This vote began the process of recertifying a ban enacted last year that contained a one-year re-enactment clause. "We're on a roll now," said Louise Hartz, president of the Virginia Society for Human Life in Richmond. The society is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee. The partial-birth abortion ban, passed by the Senate 33-7 and by the House of Delegates 78-21, is modeled on a federal law vetoed last October by President Clinton. It contains an exception to save the life of the mother.

U.S. Catholics, Methodists Work On Parish Dialogue Project

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At a three-day meeting in Washington, the United Methodist-Roman Catholic Dialogue continued its work of developing local dialogue resources for use by Catholic and Methodist congregations nationwide. The U.S. group of scholars also discussed Catholic Marian devotion and the differences and similarities regarding the place of Mary in the Catholic and Methodist traditions. Since 1996 the U.S. dialogue participants have been working on ways to take more than 30 years of national and international dialogue to a new level by involving Catholics and Methodists in ecumenical dialogues at the parish or congregational level. The 12 scholars met Feb. 12-14 at St. Paul's College in Washington.

Religions Must Acknowledge 'Diana Phenomenon,' Anglican Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The enormous public outpouring of grief and prayers at the death of Princess Diana demonstrates the high level of "common religion" that traditional religions must acknowledge, according to the Anglican official who presided at Diana's funeral. "The Diana phenomenon was a very serious re-expression of religious belief, not only in Great Britain but around the world," said Dean Wesley Carr of Westminster Abbey in London. The Anglican priest, who has been dean of Westminster Abbey for a little over a year, spoke Feb. 17 at Georgetown University in Washington on "Ministry and Common Religion."

Pope Marks 50th Year Of Delegation In Jerusalem, Palestine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The presence of a papal representative in Jerusalem is a sign of Pope John Paul II's concern for the city's residents and for the mission of the city as a sign of peace, the Vatican secretary of state said. Cardinal Angelo Sodano, writing on behalf of the pope, marked the 50th anniversary of the apostolic delegation in Jerusalem and Palestine. The anniversary was celebrated Feb. 18 and the Vatican released the text of Cardinal Sodano's letter the following day.

Cuban Bishops Publish Pastoral Plan After Pope's Visit

HAVANA, Cuba (CNS) — In a follow-up to Pope John Paul II's historic visit, the Cuban bishops published a pastoral plan that promotes continued dialogue with authorities and a wider church role in society. Their statement thanked the Cuban government for releasing a "good number of prisoners" after the papal visit and said that this "encourages us to have confidence in the future." It also supported the pope's call for an end to "restrictive economic measures imposed on Cuba from outside the country," saying these were "unjust and ethically unacceptable," and his definition of freedom of conscience as the basis of human rights.

Good Shepherd Church

Parish Profile

Good Shepherd Church
East End of Kirby Road
Mail: P.O. Box 1149
King, NC 27021
(336) 725-9200

Vicariate: Winston-Salem

Pastor:
Jesuit Father
Lawrence J. Hunt

Mass Schedule:
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.;
Sunday, 12 p.m.

Number of parishioners: 504

Number of households: 192

KING — In the small Stokes County town of King, a Catholic mission station was established during the summer of 1981 by Bishop Michael J. Begley of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Excited by the prospect of gathering for Masses in town, local Catholics met in the recreational center on Aug. 24, 1981. That date marked the first official assemblage of the community that would later become known as Good Shepherd Church.

Catholics in King met with Father Edward Sheridan, then pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, about the practical and spiritual benefits of initiating missionary activity in town. As a result, King became a mission of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

With Catholics filling the pews, Father Sheridan celebrated Saturday evening liturgies in King's Moravian church beginning Sept. 19, 1981.

Father Sheridan, now pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, served the King community with Our Lady of Mercy Church's parochial vicar, Father Francis Cancro, who now ministers at St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

In July 1982, Father Carl Del Giudice now serving in Brevard succeeded Father Cancro in Winston-Salem, and much of his priestly duties involved service to the King mission.

By then, the mission had begun to organize ministries and outreach programs serving the Catholic and local communities. The mission hosted a vacation Bible school that summer, an altar server program was established, and a religious education program for children was underway by the fall.

In 1984, the James O'Connell family donated 10 acres of land from their homestead for the building of a church. The mission community came to be known as Good Shepherd Church, and the pastors of Our Lady of Mercy Church continued to serve both communities.

Parishioners in King began the formal process of building their church in 1986 by developing a parish mission statement and parish profile. In August 1987, Jesuit Father Thomas Gaunt was named pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, and Good Shepherd Church has been served by pastors from that parish since then.

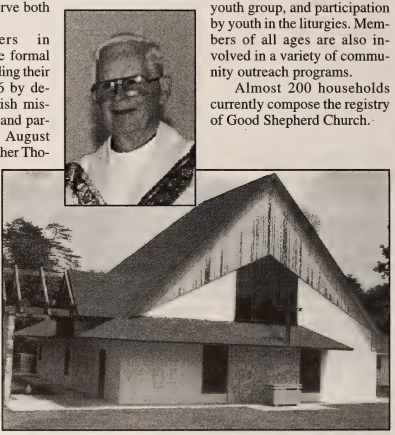
The community began the first construction phase in 1988, which led to the building of a church facility including reception and classroom areas. Bishop John F. Donoghue dedicated the building in Novemeber 1989.

Jesuit Father Lawrence J. Hunt was named pastor of Our Lady of Mercy and Good Shepherd churches in July 1990. A growing religious education program prompted the need for a small classroom building to be added on the property in King soon after.

Good Shepherd Church celebrated the elimination of the church debt in November 1997, and this past January the Diocese of Charlotte granted permission to initiate the next phase of development.

The Catholic church community in King comprises parishioners from Stokes, Forsyth, Surry and Yadkin counties. Promoting a hospitable family atmosphere with an emphasis on youth, Good Shepherd Church has an active religious education program, youth group, and participation by youth in the liturgies. Members of all ages are also involved in a variety of community outreach programs.

Almost 200 households currently compose the registry of Good Shepherd Church.



In Honor of Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

USC Alumnus Establishes $20,000 Scholarship For CCHS Students

CHARLOTTE — Joseph A. Tronco Jr., and his wife, Katherine, have established an annual four-year scholarship to the University of South Carolina (USC) in honor of the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin.

"My wife and I want to help promote the University of South Carolina by attracting out-of-state students of superior caliber who would not normally be able to attend the university because of out-of-state tuition costs," Tronco said. "The scholarship will also enable Charlotte Catholic High students to obtain an excellent education from a fine institution."

Tronco, along with his sons Jay and John, are USC alumni. His sons also graduated from Charlotte Catholic High School. Tronco currently serves on the executive committee of the USC Alumni Association and has previously served as chairman of the Charlotte Catholic High School Foundation.

The Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Scholarship awards a graduating CCHS student $1,000 per year for four years. By university policy, tuition for recipients will be at in-state rates. Selection of scholarship recipients will be administered by USC with recommendations by faculty members from Charlotte Catholic High School. The scholarship will be awarded to one graduating senior per year, beginning in 1998.

The late Cardinal Bernardin was a native of Columbia, S.C., and a USC alumnus.

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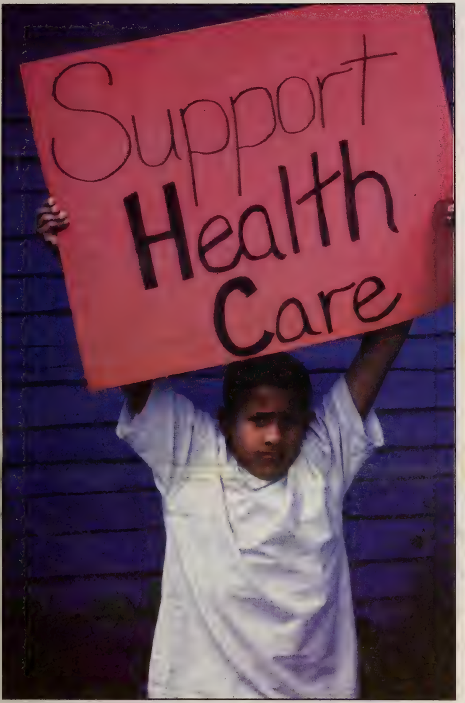

CNS photo from Cleo

An unidentified child protests cuts in welfare at a demonstration in St. Paul, Minn. An estimated 10 million U.S. children have no health care coverage.

Social Action Leaders Hear Call For Peace, Justice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Whether they represented the world's most powerful government to the Vatican or spoke for the church in one of the most beleaguered nations in Central America, their message to diocesan social activists gathered in Washington was a call for peace, justice and global solidarity.

Corinne "Lindy" Boggs, the new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, closed the 1998 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering Feb. 25 by outlining her plans to help advance collaborative U.S.-Vatican efforts at reconciliation and peace.

Earlier, Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez of San Salvador, El Salvador, said the church's failure in teaching about justice might stem from its failure to incorporate a personal encounter with Jesus.

The 1998 gathering, sponsored by more than a dozen national Catholic organizations and agencies, also attracted two members of President Clinton's Cabinet and a former U.S. surgeon general as speakers.

Boggs — who was introduced by her daughter, television commentator Cokie Roberts — was making her first trip back to the United States since taking the ambassador's post in December.

She said she hoped the United States and the Vatican could "continue our efforts in the Balkans to ensure that people of different cultural and religious backgrounds live together in peace and harmony."

Boggs also voiced interest in advancing peace and justice in the Middle East, protecting human rights in China and other countries, and strengthening reconciliation and democracy in parts of Africa and Asia, "while alleviating the appalling refugee crisis."

Bishop Rosa Chavez spoke Feb. 24 about last fall's Synod of Bishops for America.

"Only from a real encounter with Jesus Christ is it possible to transform people's lives," he said. "Perhaps our frequent failure in our teaching about solidarity as the path to justice lies precisely here, that many Christians know a lot about Jesus Christ, but they have not truly encountered him."

Labor Secretary Alexis Herman and Andrew Cuomo, secretary for Housing and Urban Development, also made brief appearances before the gathering.

Herman, a former Catholic Charities worker in the Archdiocese of Mobile, Ala., said her appearance at the meeting represented a "homecoming" for her. In brief remarks, she emphasized that economic expansion must not come "at the expense of social justice in our workplaces."

Cuomo, who is also a Catholic, said the future of an improved national housing situation lies with cooperative efforts between his agency and religious organizations.

The social action directors at the meeting heard reports on the issues that Catholic leaders were stressing this year and later spent a morning visiting their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill.

At a Feb. 23 presentation on domes-

See **Social Action,** page 2

Jubilee Preparation A Time Of Hope, Say Visiting Evangelists

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Echoing Pope John Paul II's plea for repentance and hope in the late 20th century, two Catholic evangelists urged an audience in Charlotte last month to pay particular attention to God, especially as the jubilee year 2000 approaches.

Combining Scripture with messages from papal discourses and alleged Marian prophecies, Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck examined the guidance the church needs from the Holy Spirit as the people of God anticipate the next millennium.

"The only way the church can prepare for this grace of the great jubilee ... is in the Holy Spirit, just as the Spirit prepared Mary for the first coming of Christ," said Martin, president of the Catholic evangelical outreach Renewal Ministries.

The February conference, called "Millennium! Spirit Speaks to the Church," was hosted at St. Thomas Aquinas Church by the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte, a group of Charlotte-area parishioners sharing evangelical ideas and activities with Catholic and other church communities.

Herbeck, who as missions director for Renewal Ministries promotes evangelization worldwide, reiterated Martin's message. "There is a power in you: the life of the spirit of God," he said. "That's why the church proclaims hope to the world. We have been united to the life of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, so there's a life in us that can never die."

In their presentations, Martin and Herbeck urged their audience to return to a fervent faith centered on God.

"We can hardly move without needing help from God to live a life of love, a life of holiness, a life of service, a life of faithfulness," said Martin, an author and a long-time active leader in Catholic renewal movements.

He examined what he called the two main prophetic words — repentance and hope — related to the "church-wide retreat" called for in the years preceding the jubilee.

Martin said proclamation of the Gospels and docility to the power of the Spirit are several of the avenues leading to a greater preparation of "the new springtime of Christian life which will be revealed by the great jubilee."

Evangelization is one of the most important responses to God a Christian can have, Martin said. "The acts of the apostles are continuing in our time," he added, conveying that the Spirit is indeed at work throughout the world, especially in predominantly non-Christian regions.

Martin extolled humility in relation to faith, adding that John Paul II has exemplified that virtue throughout his pontificate. "The path to renewal and revival in the new springtime is humbling ourselves in repentance, and the pope is leading the way," such as through his attempts at repairing disunity among Christians and calling for special reflection on faith, hope and love in the three years leading to the year 2000, he said.

See **Jubilee Preparation,** page 11

Parishes Given Opportunity To Expand Pastoral Care Training

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Compassion and dedication to the homebound, sick and elderly define a ministry of compassion and dedication to the homebound, sick and elderly.

If that sounds redundant, read on. It's simply the best description for a ministry commissioned to serve an increasingly underserved population.

And B.J. Dengler, pastoral coordinator at St. Gabriel Church, and Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pastoral associate at St. Matthew Church, have something to share with the rest of the Charlotte Diocese: training in pastoral care.

A series workshops was established for representatives of parishes to share information, and discuss possible expansions of existing pastoral programs for the elderly and homebound. "This specific series was designed to train parish volunteers who provide pastoral care to the sick in their homes, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals and retirement centers," Dengler said.

Throughout the four-week training sessions, participants tackled topics such as "Parish Ministry," "Gifts and Talents," the "Ritual and Reverence in being a Eucharistic Minister to the Sick," and "Becoming Senior-Sensitive."

The last session of the series, "Healing Presence," led by Sister Jeanne Marie on Feb. 21, took place at St. Gabriel School. She spoke with humor and candor, using knowledge she gained through her own struggle with cancer and years of experience working with the sick and dying as a Sister of Mercy. Sister Jeanne Marie built upon previous workshops, incorporating the theme of healing. "Our very presence is healing, provided that we are not the ones causing irritation and disruption," she said, adding that it is more important to be good listeners than good talkers.

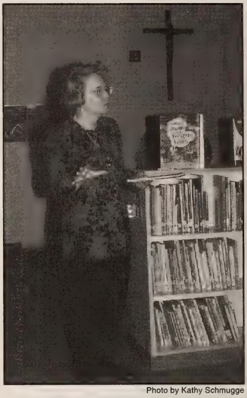

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Linda Parry shares the benefits of involving the homebound in prayer ministry.

Even something as simple as tone of voice can shape the effectiveness of a pastoral care minister. "Do you talk softly or do you talk sharply?" she asked participants, urging them to become more aware of their own behavior.

"Give the people who you minister to as many choices as possible," she added, emphasizing the importance of preserving the dignity of the individual. "Even the way you touch a person matters a great deal on how effective you are as a healer," she said, demonstrating the difference between tenderness and insensitivity.

In addition to the proper attitude during a visit to a hospital or home, Sister Jeanne Marie recommended bringing something tangible like a bulletin from the parish to help the homebound feel connected to their church. "Offer the sacraments, ask if they would like a rosary, a large-print Bible or other religious articles," she added.

Part of the day's session included a presentation by Linda Parry, pastoral coordinator at Carmel Place Retirement Community, on the Prayer Ministry program she leads at St. Gabriel. She showed the postcards given to the homebound, elderly and sick who are interested in praying for written intentions from their parish. "Those who benefit from the pastoral care want to say thank you and this is a way they can feel a part of the community," Parry said.

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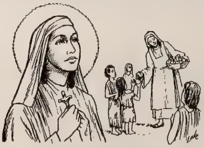
Frances of Rome



Frances was born in Rome in 1384. She became a dedicated wife and mother and did her best to serve the sick and suffering. As news of her good deeds spread across Rome, Frances was summoned to help heal the sick and settle disputes. She founded an order of women, the Oblates of Mary, pledged to offer themselves to God and serve the poor. When her husband died, Frances became superior of the Oblates. She died in 1440. Her feast day is March 9.

Saints & Scripture

©1998 CNS Graphics

Social Action,
from page 1

tic issues, former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Antonia Coello Novello called for hope and help to confront the problems facing women and children in the United States.

The Rev. Eugene F. Rivers, pastor of Azusa Christian Community in Boston, shared the podium with Novello and spoke about the problems in "the prison camps we euphemistically call inner cities."

The meeting opened Feb. 22 with the look to the future, as a speaker urged the diocesan social action directors to "infuse jubilee" into their existing programs and even to consider dropping programs that do not contribute to the jubilee justice agenda.

"If the jubilee makes you busier, something is wrong," said Stephen Colecchi, director of the Office of Peace and Justice in the Diocese of Richmond, Va.

At the same session, Msgr. Ray East, pastor of Nativity Parish in Washington, accused many in the church of "playing millennium instead of praying for the millennium."

The gathering also marked the 75th anniversary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

At the opening Mass for the four-day conference, Bishop Raymond L. Burke of La Crosse, Wis., praised the rural group as an example of solidarity.

Scripture

Readings for the week of
March 8—14, 1998

Sunday
Genesis 15:5-12,17-18
Philippians 3:17—4.1
Luke 9:28-36

Monday
Deuteronomy 9:4-10
Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday
Isaiah 1:10,16-20
Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday
Jeremiah 18:18-20
Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Luke 16:19-31

Friday
Genesis 37:3-4,12-13,17-28
Matthew 21:33-43,45-46

Saturday
Micah 7:14-15,18-20
Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Catechetical Conference Focuses On "Lighting The Fires of Faith"

By SUSAN DEGUZMAN

WINSTON-SALEM — Lingusitic fusion provided the kindling Feb. 21 for the office of faith formation's catechetical conference, Lighting the Fires of Faith.

Photo by Susan deGuzman

Shown, from left, at the "Lighting the Fires of Faith" catechetical conference in Winston-Salem are Dr. Cris Villapando; Father Berard Marthaler; Bishop William G. Curlin; and Father Jim Solari, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church.

The Office of Faith Formation ensured the bilingual conference reached both an English and Hispanic audience. "Our diocesan family is diverse," said Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director for faith formation. "It is only natural that we reach our catechetical leaders in the language they will relay in the parish."

Of the 160 participants to attend the conference — sponsored by the northern region of the Office of Faith Formation — a full third participated in their native Spanish tongue. Separate workshops were conducted in the two languages, while participants gathered as one for keynote speakers: In Spanish, translated to English, and English rendered to Spanish.

Dominican Sister Rosa Monique Peña, director of religious education for the Archdiocese of Miami, was the Hispanic keynote speaker and focused on "We are Catechists — to Do That is Our Ministry."

Father Berard Marthaler, professor emeritus of religion and religious education at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., was the English-language keynote speaker.

In his presentation, "Evangelizing Catechesis: A Challenge for the Third Millennium," Father Marthaler centered on the recently printed *General Directory for Catechesis*. "It (the directory) shows us the way we should be transmitting our faith, the way we share our faith," he said.

"We should have a sense that we are all one body of Christ in the church," he added. "Our shared faith supports us and unites us with one another."

As a result of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, the emphasis of catechesis is now on the vital and personal experience of God as merciful and forgiving, Father Marthaler said.

"There was also a tendency at one point to see Jesus as so remote and divine that we couldn't identify with his humanity," he added. "We are coming back to seeing Jesus as a man."

Father Marthaler also addressed the roles of catechesis and evangelization as being no longer separate. "Catechesis is currently seen as a part of evangelization, a moment of evangelization," he said. "The roles are mutually supportive."

Participants also could choose to attend afternoon workshops which focused on the sacraments, the Creed, morality, and Scriptures. The sessions were intended as instructional meetings, as well as interactive and cooperative efforts to share ideas and to remind the catechists of their sense of mission and ministry.

Bishop William G. Curlin had a simple yet powerful message for catechists: Be the hands, feet and voice of the Gospel to the world in which you work.

Bishop Curlin delivered the general address at "Lighting the Fires of Faith III." The bishop's presentation was translated into Spanish by Raquel Cudd, a workshop participant from Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville.

In his address, Bishop Curlin set the tone for the daylong program and described the essence of catechesis. "Christ must be constantly present in your life so you can bring him to others."

Villapando calls the bilingual program a success. "This was the first conference that officially addressed the issue of diversity in a formal way," he said.

Susan deGuzman is a parishioner at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

Pope Says Control Of Canal Will Underline Panama's Role

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said Panama's assumption of control of the Panama Canal in the year 2000 will underline the small country's vocation as a place of communication and encounter.

The pope made the remarks March 2 in welcoming Panama's new ambassador to the Holy See, Mario Velasquez.

The pope noted that Panama's history has been conditioned by its location in the isthmus that separates the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. The Panama Canal, opened in 1914, will be handed over by the United States to Panama Dec. 31, 1999.

The pope noted that "the day is drawing near when Panama will assume the management of this great work of human skill."

He said this means preparing for "a decisive step in the vocation which destiny has assigned to this country, that of being a bridge of communication and a place of encounter."

He said the handover of the canal will highlight a "year of grace" for Panamanians and help affirm the country's identity and its sense of being the protagonist of its own history. He said it would also open up hopes for improving the country's living conditions.

The pope underlined the need for development programs, such as those undertaken in Panama in recent years, to go beyond merely economic objectives. He said new economic opportunities in Panama should be accompanied by new efforts at helping the poorest people in the Latin American country.

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Pro-Life Corner

From "Communiqué: A Pro-Life News Update"

PRACTITIONERS:

The Alan Guttmacher Institute, a research arm of Planned Parenthood, reports that "the number of physicians in the United States willing to perform legal abortions has dropped 18% — from 2,908 [in 1982] to 2,380 [in 1992]."

(Reading: "Fewer Doctors Willing to Perform Abortions," Spokeman Review *via Pro-Life-E-News Canada, 1/19/98)*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 6 — 7:15 a.m.
Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

March 10 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Diocesan Pastoral Center
Charlotte

March 11 — 6:30 p.m.
CSS Awards Banquet
Westin Hotel
Charlotte

March 14-27
Ad limina visit to Rome

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Feb. 25.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten journey toward the celebration of Easter. Lent opens with the imposition of ashes, reminding us of our created condition and of our total dependence on God. The season of Lent is meant to be a time of conversion. Through prayer, fasting and charitable acts, we renew our friendship with God, we are freed from false promises of earthly happiness and, through faith, we grow in evangelical love.

St. Leo the Great, in one of his Lenten sermons, reminds us that faith is never without difficulties and temptations; but in our spiritual struggle the Holy Spirit comforts and strengthens us. He sanctifies us through the grace of the sacraments, especially the sacrament of reconciliation, which is an opportunity for every Christian to experience the merciful love of the Father. May the Blessed Virgin Mary be especially close to us as we make our way through Lent toward the light of Easter.

I extend a special welcome to the various ecumenical groups present at this audience, and I encourage you to continue to work for ever closer unity among Christians. I greet the many young people here today, especially the student groups, and in particular the children's choir of St. Hallvard in Oslo. Upon all the English-speaking visitors and pilgrims, especially those from England, Northern Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Japan and the United States of America, I invoke the strengthening gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Begins Lenten Retreat, Encourages Others To Pray

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II began a week of prayer and Lenten reflection and encouraged Christians around the world to do the same.

The pope's annual Lenten retreat was being preached this year by Slovakian Cardinal Jan Korec, a 74-year-old Jesuit once imprisoned under communism, who later in life conducted his ministry clandestinely as a factory worker.

The pope canceled all regular meetings and audiences during the retreat. In a brief talk before beginning the spiritual exercises March 2, he explained why such reflection is important in the lives of all Christians during the preparation period for Easter.

"I ask you to accompany me with your prayers and I encourage everyone, in keeping with their work and family commitments, to find moments of silence and reflection," he said.

The pope said such moments are especially important today so that Christians can "listen to the voice of the Lord, which risks being suffocated in the whirl of daily occupation."

The pope encourages members of the Roman Curia to join him in the morning and afternoon exercises. During the retreat, the pontiff prays and listens to the prelate chosen for preaching. The pope does not address the group, except at the end to give a brief talk of thanks.

Parish Diary

Father Peter Daly

Wedding Mishaps: A View From The Altar

The sacrament of marriage in the Catholic Church has two functions: to unite man and woman in love for life, and to give everybody else high blood pressure.

Most priests I know would rather have a funeral than a wedding. For one thing, the principal participant in a funeral is so much more cooperative than the participants in weddings. For another, we have a much better success rate with funerals than weddings. (Everyone I have buried has stayed buried.)

Some things you can't do anything about, like the weather. It never seems right. It is either too hot or too cold. At my sister's wedding a few years ago, I arrived at the church an hour early in my best clerical suit, just in time to shovel a 50-yard path from the parking lot to the church. The whole Northeast reeled under the heaviest March snowfall on record. At the reception, the out-of-town guests were trapped in the hotel for two days, munching on leftover wedding hors d'oeuvres as we waited for I-95 to reopen. It was the longest wedding reception on record.

After the weather, the most unpredictable thing about weddings is the people. Some things we can predict. But some people seek to tempt fate anyway. For instance, why do people insist on pressing reluctant youngsters into service at weddings?

Once I had a wedding with a 3-year-old boy suited up like Little Lord Fauntleroy. His mission was to walk down the aisle with the rings on a little tray and hand them to the best man — his uncle — who beckoned to him from the front of the church.

Halfway down the aisle, the little boy seemed overcome by the sight of all his relatives leaning out of the pews with cameras pointed at him. He stopped dead in his tracks and threw his tray down with a yell. The precious cargo of rings rolled down the aisle as the assembled gasped and leapt out of the pews to grab for them. The bride's ring was saved, as the big rock on it meant it didn't roll so well. But the groom's ring was perfectly round gold band. It rolled quickly along and plunked neatly down the nearest heating vent in the floor.

The music stopped. The procession halted. The little ring bearer got scooped up and paddled by his father. I got down on all fours in my wedding vestments, lifted the cover off the heating vent and fished around in the dusty darkness of the air duct. St. Anthony was with us. The trap in the duct had caught the ring in a pile of "dust bunnies" and some unidentified gooey substance I preferred not to analyze. We started again, this time with the munchkin placed firmly next to his mother in the pew.

What is it about weddings and time? People never seem to be able to get to the wedding even close to the target hour. Perhaps there are some cultural problems here. I had a wedding for a Nigerian couple. Knowing that the guests had a flexible awareness of time, they sent out invitations telling people the starting time was noon, when they really hoped for a 1 p.m. start.

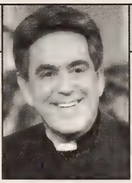
Some people arrived at 11 a.m. Some came at noon. Others, aware of the ruse, came at the actual scheduled starting time. Even with all the notice, the bridesmaid was still late and only arrived at 1:30 p.m. We had already started, but she calmly proceeded down the aisle and took her seat by the bride, nodding to everyone in her spectacular entrance.

Another nail biting moment involves the dress. While the bride has a year to make sure it is ready, the thing never buttons right and veil never stays on. In

See **Daly,** page 12

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



John Paul II In Cuba: Revolution of the Heart?

It would be an event for the history books: Pope John Paul II, leader of the world's Roman Catholic community, visiting Cuba at the invitation of that nation's long-time communist head Fidel Castro.

Many people called the occasion incredible, almost a miracle. Others said it was strictly political: Both men wanted to get something out of it. Of course, they did.

Cuba has been isolated by the economic embargo imposed by the United States and the collapse of communism in Europe. Castro wants a cure for the poverty and hardships of his nation. He also wants legitimacy for his four decades of total control over the Cuban people. Any way that the pope could appear to be on Castro's "side" would help the dictator's position on the world stage.

John Paul II wants changes. He wants protection for the island's Catholics so that they are not discriminated against because of their faith. He wants the state to allow the church to carry on charitable works: to help feed and house the poor, care for the sick and educate children. More than anything, what the pope wants for his people and for all people is freedom.

John Paul II made it clear that the true liberation of human beings "cannot be reduced to its social and political aspects, but rather reaches its fullness in the exercise of freedom of conscience, the basis and foundation of all other rights." He said this in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution at a Mass attended by hundreds of thousands, including Fidel Castro.

Hundreds of political prisoners waiting for release from Cuba's prisons are perhaps the most obvious of those in need of justice and liberty. The pope spoke out for them on this visit. And he spoke against the pitfalls of communism and the excesses of capitalism not as philosophical problems but as real dangers to real people's human rights.

The pope knows very well that it is never enough to point out what is wrong, but rather to find and encourage all that is good. He quoted Jose Marti one of Cuba's great heroes, a poet and writer, who was killed more than a hundred years ago in an early attempt to bring freedom to Cuba: "Every people needs to be religious. An irreligious people will die, because nothing in it encourages virtue."

Virtue, goodness, love of neighbor always come with a price. So does lasting change. And the cause of human rights and freedom of conscience and spirit is too important, too fundamental to leave to any one person, even as complex and compelling a figure as Pope John Paul II. All of us — men and women of every country, background and faith — have an obligation to ourselves, to one another and to the future to actively respect the life and liberty of each individual person.

John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in a commentary after returning from Cuba, also quoted Jose Marti: "All the great ideas of reform are crystallized by apostles or petrify in crimes, depending on whether in their burning courses they inflame spirits of love or spirits of destruction."

When the history books are written, I wonder who will be called the real revolutionary?

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Let Go — Let God in Your Life," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Returning to Penance After Many Years

Q. It is nearly 20 years now since I last went to confession. I ceased going because of a problem with our parish priest and because I doubted (as I believe many others did at that time) that a mortal could absolve my sins.

In the intervening years I have continued to pray, faithfully attend Mass, receive Communion and have been married.

Now I have renewed my belief in penance and would like to return. You can imagine my fear after 20 years, and less than positive experiences with this sacrament in my youth. And I know some things have changed.

I will be grateful for any information you can give on my status in the church. What prayers and other formulas do I need to remember?

A. You are still in good standing in the church. You're just missing out on one of the great sources of holiness and strength in our Catholic life.

My suggestion is simply go ahead and do it, and don't worry about the details. Confession wasn't meant to be, and is not, that complicated.

Practically all churches today provide the opportunity, as they should, for either sitting face-to-face with the priest or kneeling in the traditional anonymous way.

By church law the option of which to use is entirely up to you, depending on what you feel will be most helpful for you spiritually.

Usually the priest will say a brief prayer before you begin or read a short passage from the Gospels. Then begin in whatever way you wish.

Tell the priest the main things you need to confess, for which you ask the forgiveness of God, and the people you have hurt by your sinfulness.

The priest may ask you to fill in any gaps, may give you some thoughts to reflect on, ask you to perform some act of penance as a symbol of your sorrow and desire to grow in holiness, and then say the prayer of forgiveness (absolution).

The "changes" in the sacrament of penance are not so much in procedures as in greater attention to the causes of our sinfulness and to our cooperation with the healing grace of God in committing ourselves to greater holiness of life.

In other words, while we seek forgiveness for our sins, the grace and orientation of this sacrament looks more to the future than the past.

What's done is done. It's part of history, and not even God can change that. What he can change, with our cooperation, is our hearts and the trends of our lives.

The church's teachings about this sacrament stress this point often, especially in encouraging confession even when no grave sins are involved, which one would hopefully expect is at least most of the time.

These celebrations of God's mercy

See **Dietzen,** page 11

Letters To The Editor

Father Catoir Consistently Counters Church Teachings

To The Editor,

Father Catoir's article in the February 6th issue of *The Catholic News & Herald* troubles me. He recommends a conditioning and/or self-hypnotic technique which consists of repeating in various ways, "I am happy." He promises this will give us "a new life in the Lord."

My experience and the teachings of Christ and the Church would indicate otherwise. It is forgetting ourselves and our happiness that true inner peace comes about. When we model ourselves after Jesus, who as Father states, "gladly surrendered every sign of self-interest" and focus on the needs of others for His sake, it is then that Jesus fills us with His grace and love. This is true happiness.

Father also tells us to say, "I am saved." The Church teaches us we are not saved by faith alone. We hope for heaven because we know we still have a chance to lose it. We are redeemed, not "saved", and like St. Paul work out our salvation in fear and trembling.

I would appreciate it if you not print Father Catoir's columns. They consistently run counter to the teachings of the Church.

Sincerely,
Mary Dore, Charlotte

Why Are Some Catholics Pro-Choice?

To The Editor,

I was shocked to read in the February 6th edition that 41 percent of Catholics are pro-choice. I have always believed that all Catholics are pro-life.

Perhaps these "pro-choice" Catholics are confused about the term "pro-choice." To me "pro-choice" means opting for the freedom to choose an abortion. And an abortion exists when we kill a living human baby. The civil law may allow it, but God's commandment forbids it.

Occasionally we do violate God's commandments out of weakness or ignorance and He forgives us when we ask for forgiveness. But how can we take a philosophical stance supporting abortion and call ourselves children of God?

Sincerely,
Matthew Thekkekandam, Greensboro

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Dear Bishop Curlin,

Please accept the thanks of all of us at The Catholic University of America for the gift of $40,893.89 from the faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte.

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Thus, as you fit the University collection in among a daunting array of other demands, please know how much good it does and how diligently we shall work to use it wisely.

Sincerely,
Brother Patrick Ellis, President
CUA, Washington D.C.

Family Life Ministry Assists Parishes Throughout Diocese

By **MIKE KROKOS**
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Gerry Carter can share firsthand how the Diocese of Charlotte is growing by leaps and bounds. For him, it's evidenced by the number of new programs offered through diocesan ministries.

As director of Catholic Social Services' Family Life and Special Ministries programs, Carter coordinates such groups as Engaged Encounter, Natural Family Planning, Respect Life and Retrouvaille, as well as oversees the entire family life program for all 46 counties in the diocese. In his family life role, Carter has spent the last several months working to implement various new programs to assist parishes.

"We recently shared with several parishes how to start a M.O.M.S. (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) program," he said. During the eight-week series, mothers come together, share their stories, and bond by gaining insight on the lives they lead. The program of self-awareness and awakening to the spirituality of motherhood was created by Benedictine Sister Paula Hagan of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla., to bring about a sense of belonging, hospitality, faith sharing and community.

The ministry has also created a one-day marriage preparatory session that will host its first class March 21 at St. Matthew Church. The program, which will supplement the diocese's Engaged Encounter class, is a workshop that came about as a request of pastors in the Charlotte vicariate.

"It will include a series of presenters, and we plan for couples to interact about issues that will impact their marriage," Carter said. The CSS director hopes to offer the pilot program in other viciariates at a later time.

"We continually look at the opportunity to do things throughout the diocese," Carter added.

Carter and his staff will implement a program this fall to assist married couples who want to be trained to work with engaged couples in their marriage preparation.

"A lot of churches do parish-based marriage preparation, so you have couples interested in training engaged couples," Carter said. "We plan to offer a training opportunity so parishes can send (married) couples to introduce them to the basics of what's involved in preparing engaged couples for marriage."

While many larger parishes have Family Life commissions to help with programs, many smaller churches do not. As a result, Carter allows for flexibility. "What works in one parish may not work in another," he said. "Instead of imposing a model on them, we try to look at each individual parish and respond to its needs as best we can."

"Our job is to be a resource to parishes," he added. "We try to be as proactive as possible."

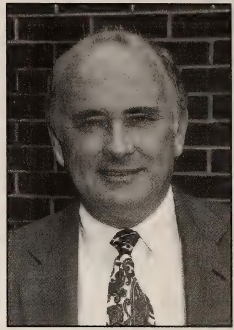
Family Life is one of the 35 diocesan agencies and ministries partially or completely funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

For more information on Family Life in this diocese, call Gerry Carter, (704) 370-3250.

DSA '98

Taaffe Reappointed To State Medical Care Commission

MURPHY — Thomas J. Taaffe, director of Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency, has been reappointed to the North Carolina Medical Care Commission for a second four-year term.



Thomas J. Taaffe
Director of Good Shepherd Home Health & Hospice Agency

Taaffe's appointment to the 17-member board was made by Gov. James Hunt. The members include nominees from the State Medical Society, the State Nurses' Association, the Hospital Association, the State Pharmaceutical Society, and the Duke Endowment. Ten members are appointed at large to "fairly represent agriculture, industry, labor, and other interest groups in North Carolina."

"I am deeply grateful for people like you who are willing to give their time and talent to make North Carolina all that it can and must be," Hunt wrote to Taaffe. "I know that you will continue to be effective and diligent in your service to our state."

The commission is responsible for the approval, amendment and rescinding of rules covering such broad areas as licensure of hospitals and nursing homes, home health and hospice agencies, and outpatient surgical areas. In addition, the commission is responsible for the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds for construction of health care facilities.

Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency is owned by the Diocese of Charlotte. The agency provides in Clay and Cherokee counties.

Taaffe joined Good Shepherd in 1986. The agency has provided home care in western North Carolina under the Diocese's leadership since 1977.

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Entertainment

CNS photo from New Line Cinema

Jennifer Connelly stars in the futuristic thriller "Dark City." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Dark City" Is Parade Of Mystery-Laden Images

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Dark City" (New Line) is a triumph of style over substance for those who can sit back and enter an alternate reality without demanding a truly literate script.

The opening narration helpfully explains that a dying race of aliens have come to an unnamed city to capture the essence of the human soul so that they may continue to live.

The audience is then introduced to poor John Murdoch (Rufus Sewell), who wakes up in a bathtub uncertain of who he is — and why there is a murdered prostitute nearby.

That's only the start of his troubles.

The aliens, known as The Strangers, are after him since he is the only human who has exhibited the same telekinetic powers they have — and so must be destroyed. And then there is the determined Inspector Bumstead (William Hurt) pursuing John as prime suspect in not one, but six call-girl murders.

As if that is not enough, his glamorous chanteuse wife, Emma (Jennifer Connelly), is told by the creepy Dr. Schreber (Kiefer Sutherland) that amnesiac John is psychotic, yet she joins the search.

The Strangers do the weirdest things. At midnight they make the whole city fall asleep while they recreate buildings and alter people's memories in their ceaseless search to define what makes humans tick so they can co-opt their essence, their strength, their very souls.

Only Dr. Schreber knows this and he is their slave, injecting chemical false memories into people as instructed and extracting their real ones. Having messed up on John, he is ordered to find him and finish him off, but perhaps the frightened doctor is secretly rooting for John.

By the time the Strangers close in on John, he can levitate, change his physical surroundings and deflect weapons with the best of them — and he's not prepared to be charged with murder or lose the woman in his life.

Showing remarkable prowess at least in visual audacity, director Alex Proyas ("The Crow") delivers a movie that may not reach beyond a cult following since its logic is murkier than a foggy bog.

The serial killings of the prostitutes never really make any sense except to introduce Hurt's character of the persistent detective.

To explain the Emma character would reveal too much of the mystery woven into the narrative by the actions of the peculiar Strangers.

With their Nosferatu-like appearance — pale, emaciated beings in high hats and ankle-length black coats — they are spooky presences (led by Richard O'Brien and Ian Richardson) who succeed more for their visual impact in the thriller than anything else.

The sleek production design and dozens of different sets never fail to intrigue even when the narrative stumbles. There are also any number of effects, mostly morphing, that are well-integrated into the plot, and the scenes of Strangers levitating might raise a few goose bumps.

Sutherland gives his best performance in years as the ambivalent doctor with the sinister personality and possibly a personal agenda to boot.

Key character Sewell plays it with the paranoid intensity of someone bent on surviving the confusion engulfing him and the evil aliens all around him.

Although not satisfying from a narrative point of view, "Dark City" is one of those guilty pleasures that can be enjoyed just for its sheerly sensuous parade of wispy, mystery-laden images.

Because of occasional violence and brief nudity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"A Brief History of Time" (1992)

Documentary on British physicist Stephen Hawking, whose speculations on the origins of the universe and related matters have been achieved despite his progressive disablement since 1963 from the muscular disease ALS. Directed by Errol Morris, the result is a challenging introduction to Hawking's cosmological theories and ambivalence over the question of its Creator, but what's most impressive here is the human portrait of a determined individual overcoming the confinements of a wheelchair and inability to speak except through a voice synthesizer. Big concepts may confuse small children. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Lamerica" (1995)

Eager to make a fortune in post-communist Albania, an Italian con man (Enrico Lo Verso) sets up a phony scheme involving a confused old man (Carmelo Di Mazzarelli) who spent 50 years as a political prisoner, then becomes ashamed of exploiting the elderly man's simple love and trust. Director Gianni Amelio's moving human drama strikes a universal chord both in its small-scale story of the two men and in the larger picture of impoverished Albanians desperate for a better life abroad. Subtitles. Occasional rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Mad City" (1997)

Dreary drama in which a fired museum guard (John Travolta) impulsively takes his boss and visiting children hostage, then unwittingly allows an ambitious TV reporter (Dustin Hoffman) to manipulate the situation to advance his flagging career. Director Costa-Gavras offers nothing new or insightful in this drawn-out tale showing the media's role in shaping breaking news. Brief violence, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 —parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Man Who Knew Too Little" (1997)

Silly spoof set in London in which a dense Bill Murray is mistaken for a hit man, then along the way nearly blows up various government heads at a gala state dinner. Directed by Jon Amiel, the comedy's screwball shenanigans are stretched pretty thin, but Murray's character retains sympathy as a blissfully unaware dunderhead. Brief slapstick violence, fleeting sexual innuendo and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The Matchmaker" (1997)

Weak romantic comedy set in Ireland, where a U.S. senator's aide (Janeane Garofalo) researching the politician's Irish roots finds herself beset by a professional matchmaker (Milo O'Shea) hoping to interest her in a local bartender (David O' Hara). Directed by Mark Joffe, the flimsy story is overly contrived but the authentic Irish settings and crafty characters provide some entertaining compensations. Implied premarital encounter, fleeting violence and recurring profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Milky Way" (1969)

French production about the pilgrimage of two men to the Spanish shrine of St. James the Apostle along the route known as "the Milky Way." It is an extraordinary journey of faith, ranging not only from place to place but from century to century as the pilgrims encounter advocates of past heresies and those who are orthodox believers. Director Luis Bunuel presents a lively mixture of pious Christian traditions and superstitious beliefs through an episodic and absurdly humorous series of adventures that challenge the serious viewer with its ambiguous reflections on the relevance of religion in contemporary life. Subtitles. Sexual situations and anti-clerical jibes. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The Myth of Fingerprints" (1997)

Prickly family relationships and tenuous romantic involvements are at stake when four adult children (including Noah Wyle and Julianne Moore) return to rural Maine for a tense Thanksgiving weekend with their gentle mother (Blythe Danner) and coldly critical father (Roy Scheider). Writer-director Bart Freundlich's keenly observed character study reflects how young adults continue to be affected by parental figures as they struggle to form lasting love relationships. Discreet sexual encounters, brief recreational drug use, some rough language and much profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

FAITH alive!

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Views of a marriage with and without faith

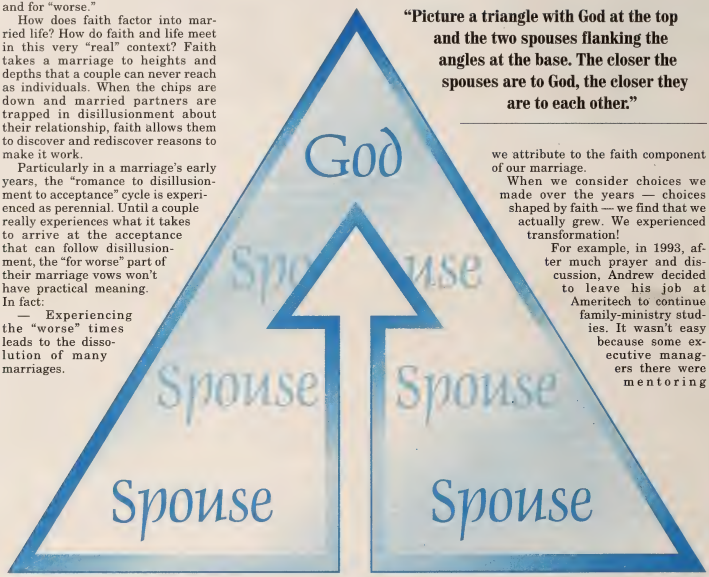
By Andrew and Terri Lyke
Catholic News Service

We believe that had it not been for faith, our marriage, now 22 years long, would have lasted at best five years. The truth is, we didn't really know what we were getting into when we said "I do" for "better" and for "worse."

How does faith factor into married life? How do faith and life meet in this very "real" context? Faith takes a marriage to heights and depths that a couple can never reach as individuals. When the chips are down and married partners are trapped in disillusionment about their relationship, faith allows them to discover and rediscover reasons to make it work.

Particularly in a marriage's early years, the "romance to disillusionment to acceptance" cycle is experienced as perennial. Until a couple really experiences what it takes to arrive at the acceptance that can follow disillusionment, the "for worse" part of their marriage vows won't have practical meaning. In fact:

— Experiencing the "worse" times leads to the dissolution of many marriages.



"Picture a triangle with God at the top and the two spouses flanking the angles at the base. The closer the spouses are to God, the closer they are to each other."

CNS graphic by Anthony De Feo

— However, surviving disillusionment and experiencing the deepening of love in spite of, or even because of, difficulties increases a couple's confidence.

This increased confidence in their marriage buoys them for the next (inevitable) storm. The new confidence allows the couple to "believe in" something that is beyond what they can see.

We believe that discovering the sacred in our relationship helped us to envision ourselves in a "til death do us part" kind of marriage.

■ ■ ■

This isn't an automatic process for couples. To get through the quagmire of disillusionment in order to experience the joy of acceptance, couples need:

— Openness to new goals.

— Fresh dreams, and

— A willingness to see the relationship differently.

This may be difficult when the vision of the marriage is built solely upon the agendas, collective though they may be, of the two partners. In that case, it may be very hard for a spouse to let go of a personal goal or lifelong dream for the sake of the marriage without feeling resentment.

To embrace change, new goals and dreams, faith is an essential component, one that directs and reshapes the spouses' individual visions of the marriage. Faith transforms the marriage and pushes it toward a Godly relationship.

By discovering and nurturing a spiritual life together, we came to recognize a synergy in our marriage. We found a co-creativity in us that we attribute to the faith component of our marriage.

When we consider choices we made over the years — choices shaped by faith — we find that we actually grew. We experienced transformation!

For example, in 1993, after much prayer and discussion, Andrew decided to leave his job at Ameritech to continue family-ministry studies. It wasn't easy because some executive managers there were mentoring him, really helping his career along. Even when the decision was made, the doubts didn't evaporate overnight.

In fact, Andrew panicked at the last moment — on the last day he could change his mind about resigning. He was reaching for the phone to call and say the job change was off when the phone rang. It was a call from the director of family ministries in a diocese in Illinois offering him a position as an associate director.

While we had had no plans to relocate, Andrew heard this as a call from God saying: "Don't worry; you are valued."

■ ■ ■

We view our marriage as a triad made up of the two of us and God.

Picture a triangle with God at the top and the two spouses flanking the angles at the base. The closer the spouses are to God, the closer they are to each other. Through prayer as a couple, we acknowledge God in our midst, and we draw closer to God and each other.

To move toward God along the lines of this triad, our vision must encompass more than our individual goals. It must also be more than our mutual goals as a couple. We must be open to God's agenda.

We discern God's agenda by embracing the story of God, a story so promising and compelling that we claim it for ourselves. Through study, reflection, prayer and action, we find ourselves connecting with the story of God and becoming transformed by it.

The confidence in our relationship that grows over time is grounded in our faith in God, who takes us places we could never have dreamed of going on our own. But this is not a sureness grounded in pragmatic thinking. Sometimes our faith-choices just don't make sense from a practical standpoint.

Without faith to guide, push, encourage, invite and renew us, we never would have gotten through the "for worse" moments in marriage and never would have known all the riches God has in store for us.

(The Lykes are coordinators of the Marriage Ministry to the African-American Community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Whenever we speak to each other, we have the opportunity to suck the life out of each other and to cause hurt; the opportunity is there to leave another person feeling diminished. But is that what we want to do?

It is commonplace to say that faith is meant to make an impact on real life. But how?

Where will faith show up in ordinary life? Precisely in its ordinary events — and the extraordinary events too.

Thus, faith can make itself known in the way people speak to each other — their tone; the thoughtfulness in what they say and the respect it shows.

Faith also makes itself known when:

— We resist the temptation — given birth by haste, fatigue or forgetfulness — to act as if someone else wasn't created in God's image or lacked dignity.

— We refuse to exploit others and remember that no one else is our tool to manipulate for our own gain.

— We trust that God can act in a troubled situation to heal whatever is pushing people apart.

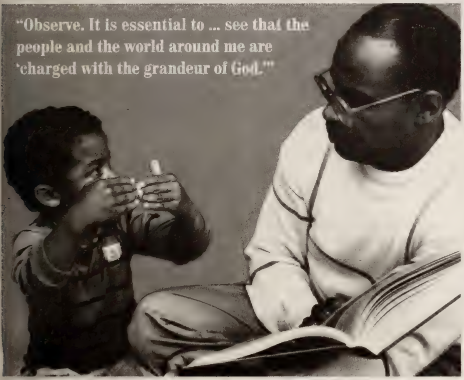
— We remember that we can make the choice to love and express love yet again.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

Ten actions to synthesize life and faith

By Father Paul J. Schmidt
Catholic News Service

Practice what you preach. That's a rule for everyone, not just homilists. It's one way that the Gospel comes alive in us. Jesus, after all, had harsh words about hypocrisy.



"Observe. It is essential to ... see that the people and the world around me are 'charged with the grandeur of God.'"

CNS photo by Les Fetchko

How do I live an authentic Christian life? Notice that the question is not "How can I?" but "How 'do' I?"

I find the question challenging, even frightening. But I've come up with a list of verbs, 10 actions, that tell us something about our role — what we can "do" — in preparing a meeting ground for faith and life.

Following the David Letterman example, let's start with No. 10:

10. Observe. It is essential to exercise my contemplative sense — to observe the world with a clear, open mind; to observe with the eyes of faith. Then, in a natural and a supernatural way, I see that the people and the world around me are "charged with the grandeur of God."

9. Reflect. For this, silence is necessary. I find that I must take time to think about what I have observed. And Scripture is an indispensable aid to fruitful reflection, continually challenging me.

8. Love. Service to others is the way we prove that our life matches our faith.

Carrying out the duties of my state in life is one way of letting God and neighbor know I love them. Courtesy to others and anticipating the needs of those I live and work with are also ways that love becomes practical.

I must also love myself. Proper diet, exercise and rest are important in this self-care.

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FAITH alive!

7. Give. Generosity with time and money are key indicators of my priorities. Willingness to sacrifice, even when caught off-guard, is a particularly difficult aspect of living my faith. I usually realize by hindsight that I have missed an opportunity.

6. Forgive. Jesus considered forgiveness so important that he made it part of the Our Father. Daily human contacts provide 70 times seven occasions to forgive.

5. Pray. Living a life of faith is really impossible, humanly speaking. Fortunately, God does not expect me to do this alone. If I pray, good things happen. If I forget to rely on God, things get very difficult, and I become frightened. Over and over I've learned that "there's a divinity that shapes our ends."

4. Evaluate. I have to be honest with myself and take inventory. I can't just coast along.

The sacrament of reconciliation is a great help in continuing my growth. So is regularly meeting with a spiritual director.

3. Adjust. When I sense that something is not what it should be, I have to be willing to change. I have to resist the temptation to try to change other people to suit myself.

I must be open to new demands, new conditions in life beyond my control. I've had the opportunity to do many things I never expected or planned, but they have been avenues of growth.

2. Laugh. A sense of humor is necessary in dealing with others. It also is indispensable in dealing with myself. Laughter means that we have the ability to hope.

1. Thank. St. Paul says to be thankful always. The spirit of thanksgiving reminds me that everything I have is gift and that I am blessed.

If I remember to be thankful, I avoid taking things for granted. Then I can also rejoice in what I have, rather than grieve over what I do not have.

(Father Schmidt is director of Priests Personnel for the Diocese of Oakland, Calif.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

In specific terms, how does your faith impact upon your marriage?

"We've moved around a lot, and sometimes it's difficult to adjust to a new place without friends or family nearby. I've really relied on my faith in those circumstances to help keep our marriage strong." — Cheryl Osting, Katy, Texas

"It's because we believe in God that we've been able to live through very difficult times when, because of illness, we didn't know where our next dollar was coming from." — Rita Wroblesky, Huntsburg, Ohio

"My faith and my religion are kind of like the fireplace in the home — the place from which to draw warmth and strength for our family life." — Mike Sears, Mentor-on-the-Lake, Ohio

An upcoming edition asks: How would you advise or support someone you know well who is suffering a loss of hope? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

No divorce for faith and life

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

At the beginning of his ministry Jesus left Nazareth and moved about 20 miles east to Capernaum. As a result, his relatives and townspeople knew of his activity only by hearsay, and what they heard alarmed them. Surely he would break under the strain of such incessant work!

Also, they were embarrassed by reports of Jesus' conflicts with religious authorities. Fearing for his sanity, they came to "seize him," to bring him back home where they could keep an eye on him (Mark 3:21).

When they arrived, they couldn't even get into the room where he was teaching, so great was the crowd. Those on the crowd's edges passed along word that his relatives were outside, looking for him.

Then Jesus asked, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" Looking around at his audience, he said: "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:21-35).

Jesus was not disowning his blood relatives, but he indicated that he had another family that was characterized by doing God's will. Nor was he suggesting that his own relatives did not do that will. Instead, he was insisting that this "doing" created a bond even closer than blood ties.

Throughout his ministry Jesus emphasized the "doing" of God's will, which means drawing no boundary line between faith and everyday living. In this he continued the teaching of the prophets.

God had complained through Isaiah: "This people draws near with words only and honors me with their lips alone.... And their reverence for me has become routine observance of the precepts of men" (Isaiah 29:13).

Jesus' hearers, then, would already have been familiar with the teaching that faith cannot amount to words alone. They would have known that any religion that does not express itself in heartfelt action is a caricature of the real thing.

In fact, the Jews prided themselves on being God's special people. They had accepted God's law as their national constitution. To be a Jew was to observe God's law, and that law touched every facet of life.

A divorce between religion and daily life was a contradiction. Good Jews observed God's law every moment of every day.

For them, to neglect this law in even ordinary actions — even in one's diet — was to spurn God's will.

Of course, this insistence on external actions could lead to hypocrisy, to putting on a show of piety without internal convictions to match. But the underlying principle cautioned the people not to make a rupture between faith and life. It was this that they found reprehensible.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

In a Nutshell

- ***"Doing" God's will means drawing no boundary line between faith and everyday living in all its contexts.***
- ***How, for example, does faith enter into a marriage? Faith allows disillusioned spouses to discover and rediscover reasons to make their marriage work.***
- ***Faith shows up in ordinary life through generosity, or thankfulness, or forgiveness. Daily human contacts provide 70 times seven occasions to forgive.***

People In The News

Claire Helm Named NCEA Head Of Leadership Development

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Claire Helm, a Florida Catholic educator, has been named director of leadership development for the National Catholic Educational Association. Helm's appointment to the newly created position, announced by NCEA president Leonard DeFiore, is effective July 1. The new office will provide a national clearinghouse and resource for all Catholic leadership activities and coordinate the association's ongoing leadership development services and programs.

German Jesuit Assumes Chair In Catholic Theology At Xavier

CINCINNATI (CNS) — Jesuit Father Reinhard Neudecker, a German expert in Jewish Scriptures, has assumed the Beckman Family chair in Roman Catholic theology at Xavier University in Cincinnati. A professor of rabbinic literature at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, he is a visiting professor at Xavier during the spring semester of 1998. He teaches "Judaism at the Time of the New Testament" to undergraduates and leads a graduate seminar called "A Rabbinic Interpretation of the Ten Commandments."

Pope Names Officers For Synod Of Bishops For Asia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II named church authorities to be the leaders of the special Synod of Bishops for Asia. A Feb. 26 Vatican announcement listed the prelates who, along with the pope himself, will head the April 19-May 14 gathering in Rome. The three delegate presidents of the meeting will be Cardinal Jozef Tomko, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-hwan of Seoul, South Korea, and Cardinal Julius R. Darmaatmadja of Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mother's Faith Helps Children Avoid Depression, Study Shows

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Children whose mothers have a strong religious commitment are less likely to suffer from depression later in life, according to a 10-year study by researchers at Columbia University. The study on "Religiosity and Depression: Ten-Year Follow-up of Depressed Mothers and Offspring," also determined that children were much less likely to suffer from depression if they were members of the same religious denomination as their mothers at the time of follow-up. Mothers with a strong religious commitment also were less likely to be depressed themselves, the research showed.

U.N. Nuncio Says Annan Shows Belief In Power Of Prayer

NEW YORK (CNS) — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan gave renewed indications during his recent Iraq negotiations that he believes in the power of prayer, according to the Vatican's U.N. nuncio. Archbishop Renato R. Martino told Catholic News Service that on Feb. 18, after Annan decided to make the trip to Iraq, he telephoned the prelate and said, "Okay, I will go, but ask the pope to pray for me." Annan, a native of Ghana who succeeded Boutros Boutros-Ghali as secretary general in January 1997, is a Christian of a non-Catholic denomination, said Archbishop Martino, though he added he did not know which one.

Texas Woman Wins CHD's Development Of People Award

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The winner of this year's Development of People Award from the Campaign for Human Development thanked CHD for having "invested in people like me ... people who are not taken seriously, people who are ignored." But "your investment in us has assured that we will never be ignored again," said Rocio Escobedo, co-chairwoman of the Border Organization in Del Rio, Texas, in the Middle Rio Grande Valley on the Texas-Mexico border.

U.S. Church Needs Leaders Who Proclaim Gospel, Says Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church and the people of the United States need religious leaders who proclaim the Gospel truths with conviction and courage, Pope John Paul II said. "A bishop's task is none other than this: to be a convincing witness to and a courageous teacher of the truth that makes man free," the pope said Feb. 27 in remarks prepared for a group of U.S. bishops. The bishops from New York State and from the Archdiocese of Military Services formed the first group of U.S. bishops making their "ad limina" visits to Rome this year. Bishops are required to make the visits every five years, and all U.S. bishops who head dioceses are to make the visits sometime in 1998.

CNS photo from Reuters

New Cardinal Francis E. George elevates the Eucharist during Mass in Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago March 1. Concelebrating is retired Auxiliary Bishop Timothy J. Lyne. Cardinal George and Cardinal J. Francis Stafford became the newest U.S. members of the College of Cardinals during the Feb. 21 consistory.

Caritas Latin American Workers Say El Niño Causing Much Hardship

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The climate phenomenon known as El Niño has hit particularly hard those countries which were already struggling under international debt, humanitarian workers in Latin America said. Caritas Internationalis, a Vatican-based umbrella organization for Catholic charities, gathered leaders of aid projects in Latin America and their coordinators in Europe and North America to discuss current problems in the region Feb. 27. Father Priamo Tejeda, president of the region for Caritas Internationalis, told Catholic News Service that there has been "a surge in petitions for projects from the areas affected by El Niño," the global pattern of air currents which has brought unseasonably wet weather to some parts of the world and drought to others.

Church Filled For Sportscaster's Funeral

By MICHAEL WAMBLE

CHICAGO (CNS) — "In theology, they say in a life fully lived, God is truly glorified. We know he lived a full life — maybe two or three of them," said Father John Smyth about Harry Caray at his funeral Mass.

Caray, 83, the Hall of Fame baseball broadcaster, died Feb. 18, four days after he went into a coma from a cardiac arrest.

In 53 years of baseball announcing he delighted fans with his trademark "Holy Cow!" — also the title of his autobiography — and, since 1982, his seldom-shouted mantra, "Cubs win! Cubs win!"

A standing-room-only crowd of friends and fans filled Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral for the funeral Feb. 27. Father Smyth, executive director of Maryville Academy in Des Plaines, one of Caray's favorite charities, celebrated the Mass and preached the homily.

"Harry's cathedral was the people, the fans of baseball," he said. "His enthusiasm of the game was ageless, his love of the game timeless."

Born Harry Christopher Carabina, Caray grew up in St. Louis, where he was orphaned when he was 8 years old. He got his first baseball announcing job with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1944.

After he was fired in 1969, he spent a year with the Oakland Athletics, then moved to Chicago where he reigned from 1970 until his death as one of baseball's best-known voices. He spent 11 seasons with the White Sox and moved to the Cubs in 1982.

Among dignitaries at his funeral were Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and other nationally known sportscasters including NBC's Bob Costas and ABC's Brent Musburger.

Among Cubs players attending were Ryne Sandberg, Mark Grace and Sammy Sosa.

In lieu of flowers, Caray's family asked that donations be made to Maryville Academy, where Father Smyth runs programs for abandoned, abused and orphaned children, or another of Caray's favorite charities, Misericordia Heart of Mercy, a home in Chicago for the physically and mentally disabled.

"That's the other side of Harry many people didn't get to see. He lived the Scriptures," said Father Smyth.

Another eulogy came from Pete Vonachen, owner of the minor league Peoria Chiefs baseball team and a longtime friend. He called Caray "a brother I never had" and a man who was "forever young at heart."

Vonachen wove together warm stories about Caray taking him on all-night bar tours that ended with a stop at the cathedral for morning Mass, wild driving tales and other anecdotes that bordered on a Friars Club roast.

He recalled having lunch with Caray one time when a handicapped youngster came up and asked for an autograph.

"Of course, Harry never turned anybody down for an autograph. His mother was crying, telling Harry that he didn't know how much this meant to her child. Afterward, he turned to me and said, 'And we think we got problems,"' Vonachen said.

"If you have a good friend, like I did, maybe you should let them know how much they mean to you," he said. "The greatest treasure we have in this world are our friends."

At the funeral, as well as during a six-hour visitation service in the cathedral the day before, blue and red Cubs sweatshirts, jackets and caps were on display everywhere.

"Even when the Cubs were getting blown out, everyone waited for the seventh-inning stretch," said Frank Keller, a student at Northwestern University who had to skip some classes to attend the funeral. His comment was a reference to the enthusiastic but off-key rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," that was one of Caray's trademarks.

The tradition of Caray leading stadium fans in singing at the seventh-inning stretch began in 1971 when a White Sox official noticed him singing baseball's anthem and flipped the P.A. switch so his voice would be heard throughout the stadium.

Dietzen, from page 5

and love without serious sin, are "not a mere ritual repetition or psychological exercise, but a serious striving to perfect the grace of baptism."

Thus, "as we bear in our body the death of Jesus Christ, his life may be seen in us ever more clearly," as we try to "follow the voice of the Spirit more attentively" (Introduction to the Rite of Penance No. 7).

Please pray about it, pick a priest you can feel comfortable with and start profiting again from this beautiful way of experiencing God's compassion.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main Street, Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or to this Catholic paper.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Employment Opportunities

Choir Director/Organist:
Position open immediately. Part/Full time. Handbell, chimes choirs. 600 family parish, K-8 school. Faith Formation, RCIA, Sacramental Preparation. Congregational singing. Adult and children choirs. Benefits available. Send resume, salary requirements to Liturgy Search Committee, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 128 N. Fulton Street, Salisbury, NC 28144. Phone: (704) 633-0591. Fax: (704) 647-0126

Diocesan Regional Coordinators:
Charlotte Diocese Office of Religious Education has two openings: Northern Vicariates and Southern Vicariates. Diocese seeks persons with master's degree in Rel. Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris V. Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee. Inquiries: (704) 370-3244.

Social Worker — Immediate Opening:
Room at the Inn, a unique, comprehensive program helping homeless, single, pregnant mothers, is seeking a part-time Social Worker, 20 hours per week. Must have a Bachelor's in a human services field and at least 2 years experience. Must be able to work a flexible schedule and be on-call. Please call Trish at (704) 643-0696 and/or send a resume to Trish Lavoie, Director of Residential Services, P.O. Box 30544, Charlotte, NC 28230-0544.

Director of Total Youth Ministry:
Grades 6-12: Full time position in 1600 family parish. Primary responsibilities include: coordination of all youth ministry activities — lectionary-based catechetical sessions, retreats, service projects, social events; recruiting, training and supporting volunteers; sacramental preparation for confirmation. Shared responsibility with intergenerational religious education program. Most parish catechetical programs are lectionary-based. Member of Religious Education Team with Children's Coordinator and Catechumenate, Liturgy and Adult Education director. Master's Degree or equivalent in religious education or related field preferred. Excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and references to TYM Search Committee, Saint Patrick's Church, 2840 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304. ATTN: Don Gray, Phone: (910) 323-2410, x 106.

Principal:
St. Thomas More School, an accredited PreK-8 school, seeks an experienced replacement for its retiring principal. The school, with 475 students and a brand new middle school facility, is located in a growing, dynamic Vatican II parish in a university town. Successful applicant is a practicing Catholic with a Master's degree in administration and is eligible for NC certification. Strong people and communication skills must. Send letter, resume, and references by April 15 to: Principal Search Committee, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Position available 7/1/98.

Director of Youth Ministry:
St. Thomas More Church and the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish, growing and dynamic Vatican II communities in a university town, seek a full-time director for their joint youth ministry serving both parishes beginning 7/1/98. Present ministry involves 300 students between grades 6-12, uses the Total Youth Ministry model and includes Confirmation preparation. The program uses a lectionary-catechesis approach and the Confirmation program uses a sacramental-catechesis approach. Successful applicant possesses relevant college degree as well as strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills. Experience preferred. Professional salary and benefits commensurate with background offered. Send letter, resume, and references by April 15 to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Principal:
St. Raphael Catholic Church, a dynamic, Jesuit parish in Raleigh, North Carolina, is seeking a vital addition to its ministry team in the role of school principal. Our school, grades K-4 (which will expand to double grades K-5 by 2002) has established an excellent curriculum within the Catholic tradition. Applicants must: be a practicing Catholic; have or be eligible to have a North Carolina Principal's Certificate; have 5 years teaching experience with some administrative and financial responsibility. We offer an attractive compensation package, including a comprehensive benefits program. Applicants interested in this challenging position should submit their resume with references and salary history to: Principal Search, St. Raphael Catholic Church, 5801 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh, NC 27609. Application deadline is March 31, 1998.

Youth Minister:
Would you like to serve starting in June, 1998 as a full-time Youth Minister in a young, growing, Catholic Community in central North Carolina? Candidate must be a faith-filled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team oriented person. Qualifications: BA in Theology; 3 years experience in Youth Ministry; knowledge of *Life Teen* desirable. Salary and benefits commensurate with degree and experience. Send resume and a statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Rev. James W. O'Neill, O.S.F.S.; St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Academic Dean:
Bishop England High School, a coeducational, 9-12 Catholic School in Charleston, SC, is seeking candidates for the newly established position of academic dean. The person selected will assume direct responsibility for developing curriculum, supervising teachers and addressing academic concerns. Interested candidates should possess an advanced degree, have background of secondary school administrative experience and be familiar with the mission of Catholic Schools. Deadline for applications is March 15, 1998. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and credentials. Applicants should submit a letter of application, resume and a statement of educational philosophy to: David Held, Bishop England High School, 203 Calhoun St., Charleston, SC 29401-3522. No phone calls please.

Teaching Positions:
Full-time teaching positions in Religious Studies, Math, and Biology/Health and part-time teaching position in Drama beginning in August 1998. Send resume and request for application to Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226 or call (704) 543-1127.

Jubilee Preparation, from page 1

Herbeck focused on how the pope's vision for the upcoming jubilee relates to the salvation mission of the Spirit. "What the Holy Father is hoping for is that we rediscover our dignity as Christians, that we rediscover the reality of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and in our lives," he said.

Explaining the Israelites' observance of jubilee every 50 years as "an even higher level of celebration" of the Sabbath, he said that in Old Testament times the jubilee "was pointing to something of the nature of God and how his plan would unfold." Debts and injustices were forgiven, slaves were freed and God was focused upon.

Herbeck, who makes frequent conference appearances and has written numerous articles on evangelization and spirituality, tracked the theme of jubilee into New Testament times, and related how the Holy Spirit's guidance counseled Jesus during his earthly ministry.

"That's one of the roles of the Holy Spirit, and that's what the Spirit does today: helps us understand God's plan of who Jesus Christ is," he said.

In addition to the need for conversion as the jubilee approaches, Martin said that need also exists in relation to the second coming. "Our redemption isn't complete until Jesus returns," he said. "It's a part of the prayer life of the church, it's part of the liturgy, it's part of the Creed."

Martin said Christians should not be as concerned about when Jesus will return, but about whether they are prepared by faith in the Father and Son through the Spirit. "Perfect love casts out fear," he said. "When you receive the Holy Spirit, you receive that love" and the courage to confess sins, expose weaknesses and accept God's love and guidance.

Following each presentation, many in attendance took part in intercessory prayer with prayer teams throughout the church. Pat Ladew, a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, said she encountered the potency of such an experience. "I felt a moving of the Spirit that I've never felt anywhere else," she explained. This was her first charismatic renewal gathering.

"The whole thing was spectacular," added Lydia Thomas, who attends St. Matthew Church in Durham. "It really touched my heart, and it opened my eyes to the Lord even more. It just gave me a lot of hope."

Paul Deer, a member of the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte, said the conference was a vibrant reminder of the importance of faith lived through the sacraments, prayer, Marian devotion, the Mass and other examples of piety. "As we use these gifts wisely as we leave here and take the life of Christ to the world, have a plan, follow the plan, and know that we ... will always be nourished by the Eucharist," he added.

About Renewal Ministries ...

Based in Ann Arbor, Mich., Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelism in the church throughout the world. Through television, radio, books, cassettes, conferences, retreats and other international evangelistic events, it seeks to proclaim Jesus as Lord. Its chairman of the board is Bishop Sam Jacobs of Alexandria, La. In Canada, the president of the board is Bishop Faber MacDonald of Grand Falls, Newfoundland.

For more information about Renewal Ministries and its media outreach, send correspondence to P.O. Box 8229, Ann Arbor, MI 48107, or call (313) 662-1730.

PRINCIPAL

Catholic Elementary School

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, a kindergarten through eighth grade school enrolls 250 students with a professional staff of 20. IHM is fully accredited by the state of North Carolina and the Diocese of Charlotte.

Applicants must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in education or a related field and teaching experience. IHM is located in High Point, NC, a part of the Piedmont Triad region including Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

Excellent benefits; salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Position is available for the 1998-99 school year.

Fax or mail resume, references and salary expectations by March 20 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of School
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
Fax: **704-370-3291**

Sisters of Mercy News

Credentials Attained, Nomination Received

BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina have announced that Mercy Sister Joanne Agnes Kuhlmann recently passed a written examination and was accepted as a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ).

Sister Joanne's proficiency was evaluated by her demonstration of knowledge, skills and abilities in the field of health care quality, case, utilization and risk management. By this accomplishment, she joins the select group of 6,500 professionals internationally who have achieved this career milestone.

Qualifications to attempt the examination include a minimum of two years of experience in the health care quality management field along with at least an associate, baccalaureate, or master's of doctoral degree in any field; RN or LVN license; or accreditation in medical records technology.

Because there is no set course work available, candidates must prepare and be responsible for utilizing all available resources to create their own individual self-study program.

In other news, The North Carolina Council for Women recently approved the nomination of Mercy Sister Mary Barbara Sullivan as a Distinguished Woman of North Carolina. The nomination was submitted by Rep. John M. Rayfield and includes her invitation to a banquet honoring all honorees in Raleigh on March 12.

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., with representatives of the North Carolina Council for Women, will name the winners in several categories of service at that time and present their awards.

For further details on this award, contact The North Carolina Council for Women, (919) 733-2455, or visit their web site at <www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/cfw/cfw.htm>.

The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina is a regional community of the pontifical religious institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

IN BRIEF:

BMHS News

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School was recently selected as state champion in the courtroom feature journalism competition, the photojournalism competition, and the news journalism competition in the recent Wade Edwards High School Mock Trial Competiton, winning a total of four journalism awards. The Mock Trial program is sponsored by North Carolina Trial Lawyers Association and simulates real criminal and civil cases, with students acting as attorneys and witnesses. In the most recent regional competition, sophomore David Childers was recognized with the Best Witness Award, and state champion awards in the journalism category were presented to Adam Reilly, Glenn McNairy, Tim Hennie and Jason Frahm during a banquet in the State Museum of History in Raleigh.

In other news, the BMHS Home School Association hosts its annual fund raiser May 2 in the school gymnasium. "Angels in Paradise" features a silent and live auction, dinner and live music. Tickets are $50 per person. Raffle tickets for a $2,500 cash prize are $1 each or six for $5. A limited number of raffle tickets for a 1998 Honda CR-V or $15,000 cash are available for $100 each. Proceeds benefit BMHS. For more information or to buy tickets, call (336) 725-4247.

Pro-Life Day '98

GREENSBORO — North Carolina Right to Life presents Pro-Life Day '98 on March 14 at Embassy Suites hotel in Greensboro from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Keynote speaker is Robin Hayes, 1996 Republican candidate for North Carolina governor and chairman of Prison Fellowship of N.C. Workshops will be presented by a variety of pro-life leaders. Registration fees are: $25 per person, $40 per couple, $20 per person in group of five or more, $15 for students and senior citizens. To register, call (800) 392-6275.

LIMEX Information Sessions

The Diocese of Charlotte sponsors information sessions about LIMEX (The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program), an extension education program for those wishing to earn a master's degree or non-credit continuing education certificate in religious education or pastoral studies through Loyola University of New Orleans.

In Charlotte, sessions are March 8 at 7:30 p.m. in St. John Neumann Church, and March 22 at 7 p.m. in St. Vincent de Paul Church. In the Triad, sessions are on March 14 at 10 a.m. in St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, and March 14 at 2 p.m. in the Greensboro Catholic Fellowship center on Friendly Avenue in Greensboro. In the mountain area, sessions are March 8 from 2-4 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, March 14 at 9:30 a.m. at the Catholic Social Services offices in Asheville, and March 14 from 4-6 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church in Boone.

For information, call Joanna Case, diocesan LIMEX liaison, at (704) 362-0013.

Daly, from page 4

fact, the last wedding at which I officiated, the bride's veil fell off twice.

I had one wedding in which the mother of the bride was literally stitching up the bride's gown as the wedding march began. The bride marched down the aisle with needle and thread hanging from her bustle.

Flowers are another occasion for cardiac arrhythmia. More than once, the florist has failed to arrive or has delivered the flowers to the wrong church. At one wedding, I had a feeling the flowers would not get to the church, so I pulled some leftovers from a funeral out of the trash, took the purple ribbons off and replaced them with white ribbons and stuck them on the altar. The guests all remarked about how beautiful the altar looked.

Some of the disasters are of my own making. Usually I put an index card with the names of the bride and groom and the bridal party in the front of the binder I use for weddings. I forgot to change the card from the previous wedding. When the bride and groom got down the aisle I could not for the life of me remember their full names. I got through the whole ceremony using their nicknames. "Repeat after me, 'I, Squeaky, take you, Suntan, for my lawful wife.'" People remarked that the wedding was the most personal they had ever attended. If they only knew.

Father Peter Daly is pastor of St. John Vianney Parish in Prince Frederick, Md., and a CNS columnist.

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Knights Council 7343 Honors Bishop William G. Curlin

By PATRICK A. RILEY

Photo by Michael Torres

Grand Knight Michael Horeth presents Bishop Curlin with the certificate for his selection as honoree of the Third Degree Exemplification hosted by Knights Council 7343. Also pictured is Father Anthony Marcaccio, priest secretary to the bishop.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin was recently honored by St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus Council 7343.

Grand Knight Mike Horeth presented the bishop a certificate that recognized him as the honoree of a third degree exemplification held last fall. The exemplification was hosted by the St. John Neumann council, and 66 men obtained the rank of full knighthood. Thirty of the honorees are members of Council 7343.

Due to prior commitments, Bishop Curlin was unable to attend the exemplification ceremony, so arrangements were made to present the award at this meeting. Also in attendance at the meeting were: Father Anthony Marcaccio, the bishop's priest secretary; Knights State Deputy John Harrsion; and Knights District Deputy Jack Snyder.

In his apostolic letter, "Tertio Millennio Adveniente" (As the Third Millennium Draws Near), Pope John Paul II has called for a "new springtime of evangelization" leading up to the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. As part of the spiritual preparation, the Holy Father selected one aspect of the Holy Trinity to focus on for each year leading up to the jubilee: 1997 was devoted to Christ, the Son; 1998 is devoted to the Holy Spirit; and 1999 will be devoted to God, the Father.

To better facilitate the meditation and reflection on the life, teaching, suffering, death and resurrection of Christ, each of the Knights' degree exemplifications adopt themes that highlight specific aspects of Christ's life. The theme for the third degree is "Christ Triumphant," and honorees are individuals who strive to succeed through dedication and hard work.

Bishop Curlin was very grateful for the honor, and praised all Knights in the Charlotte Diocese for their good works. "The Knights are always there for the church — in good times and bad," he said. "These holy men make service to God, the church and their families their vocation."

Heartfelt
thanks to
St. Jude.

— M.G

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The Importance of Family in Today's Society

By REV. MR. NICK FADERO

Rev. Mr. Nick Fadero

The traditional family begins when a man and woman exchange their wedding vows. The couple will leave their fathers and mothers and the two shall become one.

In Pope John Paul II's remarks at his weekly general audience Oct. 8, 1997, the pontiff said: "The church recognizes and teaches that the family is an essential part of God's plan for the human race; it is the privileged place for personal and social development. The family, as a gift and a responsibility, is the hope of humanity. When the family is fostered, the human person is fostered; when the family is attacked, the human person is attacked."

The pope continued: "Today, human life and the family are confronted by a fundamental challenge. In the name of a false freedom divorced from objective truth, rules and prohibitions are brought into question. The broad and easy way of subjective choices, economic advantages and immediate pleasures become the rule. In reality, however, man and woman's true happiness is based on the experience of love in which mutual fidelity, the spirit of sacrifice and generous dedication to the good of the other lead to a sharing of thoughts, emotions and actions, thereby easing life's sufferings and increasing its joys."

Through the sacraments and teachings, it is clear that the church takes seriously its role in the fostering of the family. The baptismal liturgy explains that in asking to have a child baptized, parents are accepting the responsibility to train their child in the practice of the faith, that it will be their duty to bring children up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. In order for parents to be good examples, they in turn, must show their love for and to each other in their marriages.

Parents are the role models for their children. Much damage can be done to children when parents have an adversarial relationship. Children from dysfunctional families and broken homes show significant fear and apprehension in their lives and ability to maintain a happy marriage. Statistics prove that many do not.

The church recognizes its role in helping couples to prepare for and to maintain their loving relationships throughout their married lives. It provides three programs for marriages:

1. Engaged Encounter: To help engaged couples in their marriage preparation.
2. Marriage Encounter: To help couples in happy marriages to make them even better.
3. Retrouvaille (Rediscovery): To help couples, including those who are separated or divorced, to try to reestablish their loving relationships.

All three programs are similar in format: They use married couples as presenting couples who share their own marital experiences. The subjects covered differ according to the purpose of the program. A priest is also a part of the weekend presenting teams. The intent of each program is to teach couples how to improve their communication skills by observing and using the rules of "dialoguing."

In the Diocese of Charlotte, attendance at the Engaged Encounter Weekend, or its equivalent, is required. In marriage preparation, we try to discern whether the engaged couple are mature individuals who understand the responsibility of marriage and being a family. We talk about how easy it is to confuse infatuation with love and tell couples that infatuation will not stand the test of time. It is usually based on physical attraction and not the decision, the commitment, to love for a lifetime.

The Church requires engaged couples to start marriage preparation at least six months before their wedding. The Focus and Engaged Encounter programs are designed to help couples learn more about each other as individuals and their ability to form a lifelong partnership. These programs also encourage couples to discuss topics in which they have differences of opinion and/or feeling.

Marriage Encounter is for those couples who want to enrich their marriages. About 3 million couples in over 90 countries have experienced the beauty and the gift of the weekend. Couples can attend a Marriage Encounter weekend more than once, depending on their need.

Retrouvaille is for husbands and wives who recognize the need for improvement in their marriages, even sav-

See **Family,** page 16

Women's Emmaus Weekend
"An Encounter With Jesus" — March 20-22, 1998
Come join other women to be renewed & refreshed by the Holy Spirit.
The weekend is held at Living Waters Reflection Center, Maggie Valley, NC.
Fr. Ray Berg will be the celebrant.

Deadline for registration is March 13, 1998.
For more information, please call
Nancy Sparacino, (704) 255-0095 or Bobbi Mukosiej, (704) 665-2722

Diocesan News Briefs

Senior Prom

ARDEN — The high school youth group of St. Barnabas Church invites all senior citizens ages 55 and older to their "Wonderful World," an evening of dinner and dancing, March 21 in the parish social hall. Admission is free. Call Mary Kate Allison, (704) 684-0313, by March 13 for reservations.

Symposium Examines Weaver Philosophy

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College Sponsors The Richard M. Weaver Symposium March 27-28. The gathering will focus on the 50th anniversary of the publication of "Ideas Have Consequences" by Richard Weaver, respected philosopher, critic, rhetorician and professor of English the University of Chicago. His writings are studied by scholars interested in understanding order and liberty in society. Nationally prominent scholars and presenters will examine Weaver's views and how they apply today. The symposium is being directed by Belmont Abbey's Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture.

The registration cost is $65. To register or for more information, call (704) 829-7231.

Pastoral Implementation Training

CHARLOTTE — Training for parish implementation of "Of One Heart and One Mind," North Carolina Catholic Bishops William G. Curlin and F. Joseph Gossman's economic justice pastoral letter, will be held for Charlotte-area churches on March 14 from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr. This session is for parish leaders, social concerns members, educators, business people and all interested persons. There is no cost, but registration is required by March 6. Bring a bag lunch (drinks are provided). Joanne Frazer, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, facilitates. To register, call (704) 370-3231.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to forget the past and start anew. The program begins March 27. For further information, call Nick and Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Volunteer Opportunity

CHARLOTTE — The Refugee Resettlement Office of the Diocese of Charlotte has an immediate need for part-time volunteer receptionists from 1-5 p.m. Days are flexible. Excellent listening and oral communication skills are required, as are a sensitivity and ability to interact with different cultures. Bilingual a plus, but not a must. For more information, call Cira Ponce, (704) 370-3277.

50+ Club Annual Luncheon

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church presents its annual corned beef and cabbage luncheon March 11. A regular meeting begins at 11 a.m., followed by the luncheon at noon. A square dance group will perform. For more information, call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745.

Hibernians, Knights Sponsor Parade

CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus co-sponsor a St. Patrick's Day parade March 14 at 12 p.m. in Charlotte. The parade route begins at Stonewall and Tryon streets, proceeds through uptown and ends at Fifth and Tryon streets. Any groups and individuals wishing to march in or help with the parade are welcomed. Call Tim Lawson, (704) 522-9728, or send E-mail to NCAOH@aol.com to volunteer, get a parade application or receive more information.

Rice Bowl Gathering

CLEMMONS — The Secular Franciscans of St. Clare's Fraternity of Winston-Salem offers a simple soup supper March 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the Holy Family Church family center. The event involves participation in Operation Rice Bowl, a Lenten program benefiting the hungry in third-world countries. Donations will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call Ann Michel, SFO, (336) 766-8843.

Angel Bowl '98

GASTONIA — Angel Bowl, a fundraising bowl-a-thon to benefit Holy Angels in Belmont, is March 21 at George Pappas' Liberty Lanes in Gastonia at 9 a.m. This year's hour-long event introduces "electrobowl," with flashing lights, special effects and dance music. For more information on participating, call Mercy Sister Nancy Nance, (704) 825-4161.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter is April 3-5 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details, call Michael or Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom or Emilie Sandin, (336) 274-4424.

Stress Management Seminar

HIGH POINT — The Women's Guild of Christ the King Church hosts a stress management seminar presented by L. Ann Daniels, a certified health education specialist, on March 23. For details, call (336) 884-0244.

Evangelical Mission

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church hosts an evangelical mission, presented by Bill Wegner and Brent Heiser of Good News Ministries, April 3-5. The speakers will discuss their personal experiences in discovering God and renewal in faith. Times are 7 p.m. on April 3, and at 2 p.m. on April 4 and 5. There is no fee, but donations will be accepted. For more information, call the parish office, (336) 884-0244.

Jesuit House of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — Jesuit Father Vince Alagia and Steve and Marlene Stowe lead a retreat for married couples at the Jesuit House of Prayer March 13-15.

"Our Lenten Journey" is a March 20-22 retreat for men and women. Jesuit Father James Devereux, pastor of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, facilitates.

For reservations or more information about these and other activities at the Jesuit House of Prayer, call (704) 622-7366.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — A Holy Week silent retreat is April 5-12 and will focus on walking with Jesus from Palm Sunday through the solemnities of the Triduum into Easter Sunday. No conferences will take place. Liturgies will be celebrated in St. Margaret Church. Cost is $225.

Special rates for couples and opportunities for self-conducted retreats are available. A $25 non-refundable deposit is required with each registration. To register, get more information, or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Around The Diocese

Lenten Missions and Retreats

CHARLOTTE — "Jesus Speaks: A Conversation with God" is a March 16-19 Lenten mission presented by Father Frederick A. Pompei in St. Thomas Aquinas Church at 7:30 p.m. daily. Father Pompei is a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., who is involved in a ministry of evangelization. All are invited. For more information, call (704) 549-1607.

"Stories To Challenge the Soul" is the topic for a Lenten day of prayer and reflection presented by Susan Brady at St. Gabriel Church's community center on March 21. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by prayer at 10 a.m. Bring a bag lunch (drinks are provided). The afternoon session is from 1-3:15 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring Bibles and journals. This "Journey Into Lent" program is sponsored by St. Gabriel Parish's faith development office and by the Oratory: Center for Spirituality in Rock Hill, S.C. For information, call Caryn Cusick, (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church hosts "In the Spirit," a parish mission, March 15-18 with a mission Mass at 8:30 a.m. daily and a mission talk at 7:30 p.m. daily. Father Thomas F. Vigliotta, of the Franciscans Ministry of the Word in Anderson, S.C., is mission leader. All are invited to attend. For more information, call Rita Paluszak, (704) 822-0692.

Lenten Programs

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church hosts "Fridays in Lent," featuring a soup and fish supper at 6 p.m., stations of the cross at 7:30 and faith-enriching talks at 8 each Friday. Guest speakers include Ken Walter, punter of the Carolina Panthers, on March 13, who will discuss the spiritual journey of a professional athlete; and Dr. Bernard Offerman of the diocese's Catholic Social Services office, who will discuss North Carolina Catholic Bishops William G. Curlin and F. Joseph Gossman's pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind." For more information, call (704) 549-1607.

A series of ecumenical Lenten services, sponsored by Park-Sharon Neighborhood Churches, is each Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in Sharon Presbyterian Church. A Lenten lunch is provided, and donations are accepted. For more information, call the parish office of St. Vincent de Paul Church, (704) 554-7088.

CONCORD — "Follow Me! Disciples for the 21st Century" is a small group discussion series at St. James Church each Thursday of Lent from 7:30-9 p.m. in the parish center. The focus is on the Holy Spirit and the virtue of hope in relation to the jubilee year 2000. Call Mike Leake, (704) 782-8425, for more information.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church is among the sponsors of an ecumenical Lenten series each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. through April 4. Lunch is available after each service for a cost of $4. For details, call St. Pius X's parish office, (336) 272-4681.

Many Lenten programs, retreats and services are being hosted throughout the diocese. For information on those events nearest you, check your bulletin or call your parish office.

St. Patrick's Day Dances

CHARLOTTE — The St. Patrick's Young Professionals Group and St. Patrick Cathedral co-sponsor a St. Patrick's Day dance March 14 at 7 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Cost is $20 per person, $40 for couples. For reservations, call Jeff Eichenger, (704) 393-3540; Sheri Kwapiszeski, (704) 522-7017; or Bill Jarrell, (704) 372-1090.

The Irish Society of Charlotte presents its annual St. Patrick's Day Ball March 14 at 7 p.m. in the Charlotte Hilton on Tyvola Road. The event features dinner, dancing, live music, a DJ, and a special appearance by Rince Na h'Eireann, the Charlotte Irish Dancers. Tickets are $28 each; they and required reservations are available by calling (704) 543-9664. No tickets will be available at the door.

GASTONIA — Knights of Columbus councils 6700 of Gastonia and 11076 of Belmont sponsor a St. Patrick's Day dance March 14 in St. Michael Church's Parish Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. A traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner is included. Cost is $25 per couple, $12.50 per individual. For more information, call Joe Delaney, (704) 865-0008, or Tom Keigher, (704) 865-4854.

World And National News Briefs

Vatican Delegation In Vietnam To Discuss Ongoing Restrictions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has sent a delegation to Vietnam to discuss with its communist government ongoing restrictions on the Catholic Church. The Vatican announced that Msgr. Celestino Migliore, undersecretary for relations with states in the Vatican Secretariat of State, and Msgr. Barnabe Nguyen Van Phuong, an official in the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, flew Feb. 22 to Vietnam.

Archbishop Says Catholics Can Speed Romero's Canonization

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — The speed with which the canonization of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador reaches a successful conclusion depends on ordinary Catholics in El Salvador, said Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle. "The process (of canonization) must be done well, and with all speed possible and technical precision. But just how quickly will depend on how we do things," the current San Salvador archbishop told reporters. Since the beginning of Archbishop Romero's canonization process six years ago, Catholics around the country have been asked to maintain a constant prayer for his eventual sainthood.

Growing Hispanic Population Calls For New Church Efforts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With Hispanics approaching a majority in the U.S. Catholic Church, dioceses and parishes face increasingly complex ministry demands. During a conference in Washington Feb. 24, directors of Hispanic ministry programs from around the country met with U.S. Catholic Conference staff for a briefing on some of the social, political and ministerial situations they share. Ronaldo Cruz, director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs, explained that language alone is creating new demands on parishes and dioceses. "The United States has the fourth-largest Spanish speaking population in the hemisphere," Cruz said. Previous waves of immigrants into the United States were directed into separate "national" parishes, said Cruz. But today's goal is to bring everyone together.

Kidnappers In Sierra Leone Release Five Missionaries

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Five missionaries were freed by their kidnappers in Sierra Leone two days after an appeal by Pope John Paul II and following negotiations by a local bishop. The missionaries were unharmed and issued their own appeal for peace and for humanitarian aid to Sierra Leone. "Don't think about us, but about the thousands of people in Sierra Leone who risk death, crushed by hunger and illness," said the five missionaries in a statement distributed by MISNA, a Rome-based press service operated by a variety of religious orders.

Chiapas Bishop Says Violence Continues, End 'Not In Sight'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Mexican bishop said an end to the spiral of violence in the southern state of Chiapas was "not in sight." "Unfortunately, Chiapas has been relegated to the status of a 'local problem,' and it has thus been forgotten," Coadjutor Bishop Raul Vera Lopez of San Cristobal de las Casas said during a gathering organized by the Catholic aid agency Caritas Internationalis. "We all believe that dialogue is the only way, but it is not yet to that point," he added. World attention focused on Chiapas in January 1994, with the launch of an uprising by the Zapatista National Liberation Army. The Zapatistas said they were fighting for better political and economic rights for the region's indigenous population.

St. Louis University Hospital Sold with Vatican Approval

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — St. Louis University finalized the $300 million sale of its hospital to Tenet Healthcare Corp. Feb. 24 after obtaining Vatican approval of the deal. To avoid a future conflict over church law like the one that came up in controversy over the hospital sale, the Vatican instructed the Missouri Jesuits "to put in place a mechanism" assuring Jesuit canonical control, when necessary, over actions of the university's board of trustees. Archbishop Justin Rigali of St. Louis, who had publicly opposed selling the Catholic-owned hospital to a for-profit health chain, announced that he accepted the decision under the conditions set out by the Vatican. "It remains my strong preference that St. Louis University Hospital should continue to be owned and operated by a Catholic institution," he said.

Enter Millennium With Hope, Not Fear, Urges Cardinal

NEW YORK (CNS) — Preparation for the coming new millennium should focus on entering it with courage and hope rather than fear and anxiety, Cardinal Carlo M. Martini of Milan said in a New York address. He also said that while celebration of the 2,000th anniversary of Christ's birth was primarily a Christian event, it could be observed in a meaningful way for others, too. The cardinal suggested the new millennium would be a suitable time for giving attention to the many problems involved in the past relations of Christians with Jews. "It is necessary for us Christians to show repentance, and a decision to avoid any form of anti-Semitism," he said.

Farmworker Pastoral Course Mixes Faith With Work

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Farmworkers from across the United States met for five days in San Antonio to discuss combining their work and faith in a pastoral course sponsored by the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network. The presentations during the mid-February course at the Mexican American Cultural Center ranged from discussion on current immigration laws to talks on the significance of devotions to Our Lady of Guadalupe and ways to begin small Christian communities. The 24 participants met Archbishop Patrick F. Flores of San Antonio, who spoke of his own farmwork experience, picking cotton with his family. The archbishop stressed the importance of education, especially for children, particularly because modern machinery is taking over many farmworking tasks.

Canada's New Balanced Budget Falls Short, Say Church Officials

OTTAWA (CNS) — Canada's first balanced budget in 28 years is not getting high marks from Canadian church officials. "It's a disappointing budget with very little creativity," said Joe Gunn, English-sector director of social affairs for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. "We see the lack of attention to putting people back to work as a major failing." In an interview Feb. 25, Gunn said that because the government had not mentioned any traditional job-creation measures in the budget, it seemed to regard 8.9 percent unemployment among Canadians as acceptable.

CNS photo from Reuters

A crescent sun is seen in this double exposure taken at the National Park in San Jose, Costa Rica, Feb. 26. The solar eclipse, when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, was the last before the next millennium.

Sowers Of Justice Committed To Transforming Hearts, Structures

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sowers of Justice is a network of individual Catholics committed to transforming hearts and structures, according to organizers in two U.S. dioceses. "It's basically a brand new experiment that our diocese launched about two years ago," said Michael Stone, associate director of the Office of Justice and Peace in the Richmond Diocese. Some 300 Catholics there have signed up, he said, but many more have joined in the work. Joseph Sullivan, parish organizing manager for the Office for Social Justice in the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese, said the Minnesota network, which began last September, already has 300 members and is based on the Richmond model. The officials spoke with Catholic News Service in Washington. According to Sullivan, members want to "strengthen the parish identity of Sowers of Justice as a network of people and keep creating entrance ramps for more and more Catholics to get on the social action highway."

Oregon Panel Says State Should Pay For Suicide For Poor

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Despite arguments from the Oregon Catholic Conference and others that assisted suicide "is not a health service," an Oregon commission voted to pay for the life-ending drugs for low-income people in the state who request them. By a 10-1 vote, the state Health Services Commission agreed to make the prescription drugs required for physician-assisted suicide a covered "medical service" for 270,000 poor residents covered under the state's health plan. Earlier in February, Pete Begin, a Corvallis man with lung and bone cancer, brought suit against Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, and his lawyers were expected to argue that the suicide law stigmatizes those who are dying.

Vatican Announces Major Interreligious Meeting For Late 1999

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an effort to bring believers closer together for the year 2000, Pope John Paul II and the Vatican will host a major interreligious meeting in Rome in late 1999, the Vatican announced. The meeting will include large assemblies, small-group meetings, a day of pilgrimage — probably to the central Italian town of Assisi — and a concluding day of prayer, the Vatican said March 2. The meeting is currently scheduled for sometime during the second half of October of 1999.

Church Migration Official Urges More U.S. Funding For Refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The end of the Cold War has not meant an end to the need for a strong U.S. leadership role in helping the world's refugees, the new head of the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services told a House subcommittee. Mark Franken, who was director of refugee programs at MRS for nine years before being named its executive director earlier in February, told the House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights that the Clinton administration's proposed admissions ceilings and funding for refugee resettlement in fiscal year 1999 were too low.

Nigerian Visit: Pope Aims To Focus World Concern, Compassion On Africa

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Once again in late March, Pope John Paul II will try to focus the world's attention and compassion on Africa, while also calling forth the strength of the continent's Catholic community.

His 14th papal visit to Africa is to last just three days and take him only to Nigeria, but his gaze and his voice will be cast beyond the boundaries of the West African nation.

From a strictly religious point of view, Nigeria is a jewel in the Catholic Church, with very high rates of Mass attendance and seminaries bursting at the seams.

But the country has been under military rule for 14 years with only a brief period of civilian governance. The regime of the current president, Gen. Sani Abacha, has been widely criticized for serious human rights abuses.

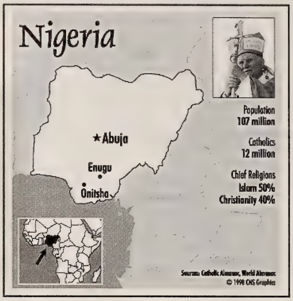
Nigeria's population is almost evenly divided between Muslims and Christians, and it has some 250 different ethnic groups.

What Pope John Paul will say in Nigeria could be applied easily to many other African countries where there is a need to fortify democracy and respect for human rights, sow peace between ethnic and religious groups, and promote economic development.

Still, Pope John Paul makes sure his visits are pastoral —acknowledging problems but not dwelling on them at the expense of preaching the message that deep faith put into action is good for individuals, families and by extension, nations.

"Despite the mainly negative picture which today characterizes numerous parts of Africa, and despite the sad situations being experienced in many countries, the church has the duty to affirm vigorously that these difficulties can be overcome," the pope wrote in his 1995 apostolic exhortation on "The Church in Africa."

As preparations for his March trip to Nigeria were under way, Pope John Paul and African church leaders were expressing their concerns about situations of tension in Sierra Leone, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Sudan.



Sources: Catholic Almanac, World Almanac
© 1998 CNS Graphics

The Vatican Secretariat of State called all nuncios in Africa to the Vatican for a meeting before the trip to discuss the church's role on the continent.

The current tensions in African nations have serious political roots, but they also directly touch the Catholic faithful, church personnel and church policy:

- Five missionaries were kidnapped in Sierra Leone in mid-February and dozens of others were forced to hide in the forests as soldiers and rebels who supported a 1997 military coup fled from West African troops.
- In Kenya, church leaders called for the drafting of a more democratic constitution, prompting charges from President Daniel arap Moi and his party that the church was advocating the overthrow of the government.
- The bishops of Burundi and Rwanda asked for an end to African nations' economic sanctions against Burundi.
- In Sudan, fighting between government and rebel troops continues. The country is deeply divided between the Muslim majority of the North, and the southern population of Christians and followers of traditional religions.
- In the North, civil servants assisted by the military have been razing Catholic schools and multipurpose centers on the outskirts of Khartoum where displaced Christians from the South have settled.
- In mid-February, four more Catholic schools were set for demolition. The church was given an opportunity to salvage furnishings, supplies, windows, doors and roofing material.

Time and time again, the pope has complained of the silence in which Africa's suffering is allowed to continue.

DSA, from page 1

While Martha was able to move forward with her life, her oldest daughter, Judy, seemed to have more trouble dealing with the loss of her father and the difficulties which face single-parent homes. Compounding the problem, Judy began experimenting with alcohol and drugs. Her psychological state deteriorated to the point that she had to spend time in a mental hospital.

Soon thereafter, Martha found herself again turning to CSS for assistance, but this time, she was seeking help for Judy, who had become pregnant. CSS provided counseling for the entire family as Judy decided to have an open adoption arranged through CSS' adoption agency. During this difficult time, CSS became a helpful friend, attentive to the needs of everyone involved with the adoption, easing the painful transition.

"In our family alone we have received services from four different ministries," said Martha, commenting on how they were not deserted during their grief but continually assisted by the church.

Thankful for the comfort and guidance her family has received from the diocese, Martha encourages others to assist their brothers and sisters in need. "While not all of us are called to peer ministry, we all can minister through the support of the DSA," she said.

His Excellency, Bishop William G. Curlin, announces the following appointments in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Effective March 1, 1998

Rev. Thomas J. Meehan, OSA, Pastor, St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

Rev. Arthur D. Johnson, OSA, Parochial Vicar, St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

Effective March 12, 1998

Rev. Stanley Kobel, OFM Cap., Parochial Vicar, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

For more information:
Rev. Eric Houseknecht
St. Margaret Church
P.O. Box 1359
Maggie Valley, NC 28751
704-926-0106
E-mail: elh@dnet.net

Patrick

In the late third century, a young Patrick was carried off from his home to be enslaved in Ireland. He broke free years later and returned to his homeland, where he is said to have been ordained. He returned to Ireland and became a great missionary and archbishop of Armagh. Although many stories attributed to him are legend, St. Patrick remains a popular figure. He baptized thousands and is credited with the conversion of Ireland. His feast day is March 17.

Saints & Scripture
© 1998 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of March 15 — 21, 1998

Sunday
Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Luke 13:1-9

Monday
2 Kings 5:1-15
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday
Daniel 3:25, 34-43
Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday
Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday
2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24

Friday
Hosea 14:2-10
Mark 12:28-34

Saturday
Hosea 6:1-6
Luke 18:9-14

Suit Against Diocese Charges Clergy Misconduct

BOONE — Suit has been initiated against the Diocese of Charlotte and Bishop Curlin by the alleged victim of clergy misconduct and his family. The accused priest, Rev. Damion J. Lynch, had been assigned to St. Elizabeth Church in Boone, NC, during the period of time in question.

In November of 1995, Fr. Lynch himself reported to Bishop Curlin regarding an indiscretion. The Diocese of Charlotte has a policy in place which has a zero tolerance for clergy misconduct. Pursuant to that policy, Bishop Curlin initiated an investigation of circumstances, placed Fr. Lynch on Administrative leave and provided Fr. Lynch with a qualified psychologist and therapist. Additionally, pursuant to Diocesan Policy, Bishop Curlin initiated dialogue with the alleged victim and his family regarding the factual basis of the claim and their psychological needs. After much discussion with the victim and his family, the Bishop thought he had resolved the matter to their satisfaction in June of 1996 by reaching a resolution of the victim's claim, and the claim of his family.

Fr. Lynch, after being professionally evaluated and treated, was cleared by his therapist for the continuation of his priestly ministry. He was then assigned to Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte in June, 1997, and continued there as Parochial Vicar until February, 1998 when he requested that Bishop Curlin grant him leave from his priestly ministry, and such request was granted.

While expressing sympathy and compassion for all victims of priest misconduct, the Diocese of Charlotte will proceed to defend this civil action in part on the basis that it had finally resolved this claim almost two years ago.

St. Michael Church To Host Lenten Musical Drama

GASTONIA — On March 28, at 7:30 p.m., St. Michael Church in Gastonia will present the musical drama, "Still." Directed by Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams, the play focuses on social issues and concerns while addressing the question, "Does God still care?" The answer, which includes visual depiction of God's love and ongoing presence, unfolds during the climatic last scene.

"Still" will be performed by the St. Michael's Youth Group and parishioners, accompanied by St. Cecilia's Choir. A special guest appearance by Tiffany Pastula of Belmont will be featured in the production, which is free and open to the public.

Sister Larretta, who holds a master's degree in religious education from Loyola University, New Orleans, has been active within theatrical and musical circles since 1972. An accomplished guitarist, percussionist, liturgical dancer and choreographer, she previously served as assistant director of drama productions at Charlotte Catholic High School.

An encore performance, also free of charge, will be hosted by the Sisters of Mercy at Curtin Hall in the Mercy Administration Center on April 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Belmont.

Ad Limina, from page 1

— The role of the laity in society and in the church, particularly in light of a November Vatican instruction on the extent to which lay people can participate in church ministry.

— Issues related to marriage and family life, including the social situation in the United States and pastoral programs for marriage preparation, family ministry and assistance to divorced or separated Catholics.

— U.S. young people and the church's ministry to them, as well as a review of efforts to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

— Seminary programs and the ongoing education of priests, looking not only at spiritual, ministerial and intellectual formation, but also issues related to the personal maturity of candidates for the priesthood and priests themselves.

— The importance of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and reconciliation. The pope probably will discuss continuing efforts to revise the translations of prayers and readings used at Mass.

In almost every speech, the pope will emphasize the role of bishops as teachers, promoters and guardians of the faith.

Vatican officials said they did not think the pope had any big, surprise issues on his agenda for the U.S. bishops.

"It's not that the themes will be all that new, but the way they are presented, perhaps with a new twist," one official said.

"There is nothing that is emotionally charged" on the agenda, the official said.

The visits do not focus on problems, another official said. "The bishops do not come here to get their wrists slapped. They discuss not only problems, but joys as well," said the official.

The more strictly "business" parts of the "ad limina" visits are the meetings the bishops have with the leaders of Vatican congregations and councils, particularly the doctrinal congregation and the congregation for worship and sacraments.

In addition, the bishops who preside over the various secretariats, committees and commissions of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops will meet with their counterparts at the Vatican for an exchange of information on projects and problems.

The 42-page Vatican directory outlining the essential elements of an "ad limina" visit focuses on the liturgical and spiritual aspects of the pilgrimage.

In addition to Mass with the pope, the bishops celebrate liturgies at the tombs of the Apostles in St. Peter's Basilica and in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

"The pope wants to make it not just a business meeting, not just an opportunity to visit a favorite restaurant, not a nostalgic visit to the Apostles' tombs, but a spiritual experience," a Vatican official said.

"The pope is here to confirm his brothers in the faith," he said, and with the way Pope John Paul has structured the visits, that's the experience of vast majority of bishops.

Contributing to this story was Jimmy Rostar, staff writer of The Catholic News & Herald.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Pro-Life Corner

For the littlest of
children and for those
who are sheltered in
their mother's womb,
that God will keep them
safe and increase our
love for them;
We pray to the Lord.

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

The bishop will be in Rome March 15-27 making his "ad limina" report to Pope John Paul II.

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Calls His Lenten Retreat An Exercise In Hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said his 1998 Lenten retreat was an exercise in optimism and hope that would help him prepare to celebrate Easter with greater faith and love.

Speaking in Slovakian at the end of the March 1-7 retreat, the pope thanked Slovak Cardinal Jan C. Korec of Nitra not only for leading the retreat, but also for "the witness of courageous fidelity to Christ which you offered in the course of difficult years."

The cardinal, who preached on the theme of "Jesus Christ: Yesterday, Today and Forever," was secretly ordained a priest in 1950 and a bishop in 1951 when his country was under communist rule. He spent eight years in prison and more than 30 years as a common laborer, ministering clandestinely.

Pope John Paul said the experience of a retreat, entering into "the silence of the desert," sharpens one's perception of God's loving presence and one's confidence that God "prepares great things for those who believe in him and live in his light."

The 1998 retreat, he said, mirrored the journey the church is making toward the jubilee year 2000.

"The mystery of Christ pervades the church, animates it and leads it along the difficult path of penance so that, purified and cleansed, it can advance with an exulting heart to meet the bridegroom," the pope said.

Thanking the Vatican officials who attended the retreat with him in the Apostolic Palace, the pope said, "Now, like Moses descending from the mountain where he had encountered the fascinating and tremendous beauty of God, we return to the valley, to our daily work, in order to proclaim the marvels we have contemplated."

Pope Appeals For End To Discrimination Against Women

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Continuing discrimination against women throughout the world has prevented many of them from developing their strengths and talents and has deprived the world of their gifts, Pope John Paul II said.

Speaking at the Vatican March 8, which is marked as Women's Day in many countries, the pope issued a special appeal for the respect of women's rights in countries where they are still blatantly denied in law.

"I want to launch an appeal on behalf of women who still today are denied their basic rights by political regimes: women who are segregated, who are forbidden to study, to exercise a profession and even to express themselves in public," the pope said during his midday Angelus address.

"May international solidarity accelerate the obligatory recognition of their rights," he said.

But even when women's rights are recognized in law, the pope said, "we are unfortunately heirs of a history of conditioning which has made the journey of women difficult."

The dignity of women is often undervalued, he said, and women are pushed to the margins of social, political and economic life.

"So many women have been and still are valued more for their physical appearance than for their personal qualities, their professional competence, their intelligence, the richness of their sensitivity and, finally, for the very dignity of their being," he said.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

Priests We Remember

I was pretty devastated when a very dear friend called me, very upset. Claire, a lovely person, was raised Catholic but fell away from the church in early adolescence. We often have talked about her continual search for God.

She told me she had begun to visit a Catholic church in Manhattan on her way to work mornings. That day she had noticed a sign saying that confessions were being heard. She felt moved to go into the box.

She began by telling the priest that it had been 32 years since her last confession. He asked her if she was married and whether the ceremony had been in a Catholic church. She said that when she answered that she had been married in a "Christian church," he said, "I can't give you absolution," and shut the door.

When she told me this, I wondered, "What would Christ have done?"

I immediately called a priest I know and arranged for Claire to talk to him. I knew he would begin by asking her, "What is drawing you back to the church, and how can I help you?"

Whether this can heal the wounds Claire is feeling from the rejection she received in confession I don't know. At least it will show her she mustn't judge all priests based on one experience.

That very week I sent a report to Claire that I read in The Long Island Catholic, the weekly paper of the diocese of Rockville Center on Long Island. Reporter Peter Feuerherd has been collecting stories from people inspired by the work of a priest, deacon or religious.

Feuerherd was struck by the pattern of responses. Very few mentioned a brilliant sermon, noted "grand liturgical expertise" or mentioned a pastor's financial or administrative genius as transforming the lives of Catholics. And "no one mentioned anything about a priest's admonition about immoral behavior as having an impact," he wrote.

Here is what they cited: "how a priest touched their lives when the letter-writer or a family member was seriously ill; how a priest assured them that they were still a welcome part of the church after long periods away from active practice or after a divorce; a kind word in the midst of a personal crisis."

He concluded that a priest "must never shut the door" when people are feeling distressed or unworthy. "It's compassionate interventions at such times which appears to be remembered forever."

I am so fortunate. I never have met a priest who turned me away. Most priests I have met have been human, caring and Christlike, especially when I have been the most wounded.

I want to end by giving one personal example. Four years ago I met an impressive bishop at a conference in Israel on Christians and Jews. He was Bishop Francis Eugene George of the Diocese of Yakima, Wash.

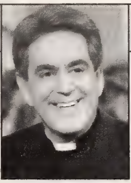
We had several talks, and he helped ease the pain I was feeling because of the recent murders of my son and daughter-in-law. We stayed in touch for a while by mail. I still cherish his handwritten letter saying: "You're in my prayers. I hope we can meet again. You're always welcome here."

What a joy it was to see that this good man become archbishop of Chicago and now a cardinal! God bless his good priests.

Antoinette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



The Balancing Act

A young couple I've come to know in Manhattan have taught me a lot about the perils and opportunities of working on Wall Street. I'll have the honor of celebrating their marriage in a couple of weeks at Saint Patrick Cathedral, so we were talking over plans at dinner recently. Conversation moved to their jobs, and the financial and spiritual consequences of surviving in the economic center of the universe.

Let me sum up the gist of their frustration: "The difficulty for most of us is the imbalance of giving and getting. We give a lot to get financial rewards — but we find little time to express our care for things other than banking a fat paycheck. Sure, we can and do open our wallets for various causes, but many of us want to do more. We need a "Wall Street Really Cares" campaign!"

My friends have found out what many people do in the course of a lifetime: What we get will be determined by what we give. We discover that there are powerful rewards for striking a balance between giving and getting. And that, simply put, the best way to receive the things that really count is to be generous.

We often see this in education and in work. The more intensely we are involved, the more satisfaction and pleasure we get from our insights and solutions. To paraphrase Edison: no perspiration, no inspiration.

It is also true in religious experiences. For example, the more we bring to worship in God's "house" — the more we get from it. If we regard the whole service as a performance laid on for our special entertainment, we may find ourselves criticizing the organist and music, finding fault with the preacher. Going to church has become the result of habit and routine, part of the timetable into which we have divided the week.

Rather than viewing church as a place you go to get grace to help you through the week, imagine church as a place you bring your grace, that is, the good you have drawn from your everyday encounters with reality. Then if you are open, ready to receive God, you find that anything can happen — more, perhaps, than you ever imagined.

The most common experience of the balance of giving and getting occurs in our personal relationships. One of the basic principles in the dynamics of human interaction is that we tend to see our reflection in other people.

If we are cross and irritable and bad-tempered, we will probably find other people equally unpleasant. If we are critical and fault-finding, the chances are that we will find other people the same. If we are suspicious and distrustful, the likelihood is that others will be so to us.

Conversely, if we wish others to love us, we must first love them. Individuals who would have friends must show themselves to be friendly.

When it comes to striking a balance between giving and getting in our relationships, you might recall that it is because God believes and delights in you and loves you, that you can believe and love him. Giving positively instead of negatively always makes one helluva difference in what we get in return.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Living Peace, Giving Peace," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Covering Statues and Crosses

Q. My question concerns the practice of covering statues and the crucifix in the week or two before Easter.

Only one parish in our area had them covered last year. Our liturgy committee is uncertain what to do. Are there official church regulations that would help us?

A. In years past the crucifix and other images in Catholic churches were covered with purple cloths during the two weeks before Easter.

For reasons having to do with the proper liturgical spirit of those days, especially of the Easter triduum, that custom was changed when the revised missal (Sacramentary) was published in 1970.

At the end of the Mass for Saturday of the fourth week of Lent, the Sacramentary indicates the practice "may be observed, if the episcopal conference decides."

That same regulation was repeated in 1988 in a letter on the celebration of the Easter feasts from the Congregation for Divine Worship.

Since the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has never voted to continue the practice of covering images and crosses, the practice has not been permissible in the United States for the past 28 years.

As the bishops' Committee on the Liturgy has noted (April 1995), individual parishes are not free to reinstate the practice on their own.

Eucharist and John's Gospel

Q. Why does St. John's Gospel not even mention the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper?

We believe that, in Chapter 6 of that Gospel, Jesus was referring to the promise of the Eucharist when he spoke of eating his flesh and drinking his blood.

If John believed those words as we do, it's strange he did not tell us when that promise was fulfilled.

A. As everyone familiar with the New Testament knows, the Gospel according to John is quite different in a number of major ways from the other three Gospels.

Reasons these differences occur are not always easy to find. Much has to do with the fact that the fourth Gospel was apparently completed some decades after the others.

An even larger reason is that John's whole approach to Jesus and his message reflects a level of theological reflection unknown in Mark, Matthew and Luke.

For example, another instance that occurs to us particularly during Holy Week is that John is the only Gospel to tell us the mother of Jesus was present at the crucifixion.

The other evangelists name other women being there, but not Mary. If she was there, were they ignorant of the fact, which doesn't seem likely. Or didn't they think it was important?

Or did John speak of her on Calvary because of a theological relationship between her and the church, represented by "the beloved disciple"?

Thus, in the case you mention, maybe

See **Dietzen,** page 9

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Our family is currently in the process of healing. Two different occurrences have wounded us. First, Terri underwent a hysterectomy two weeks ago, and second, Andrew's father died only three days after Terri's surgery. The physical healing necessary for Terri's recovery from surgery is quite different from the emotional and spiritual healing required for our family's loss in the death of Andrew Sr. Yet, there are striking similarities to the process of healing in both situations.

Gone are the days when long hospital stays were ordinary for surgical procedures. Driven by insurance companies' frugal attention to "unnecessary" expenses, the duration of hospital confinement is shrinking. However, the bottom line isn't the only determinant in this shrinkage. Patients tend to rejuvenate better in familiar, loving surroundings than in the antiseptic wards of hospitals.

Terri's recovery is going well now that she is home and slowing returning to her routine of life. In a few weeks she will return to work and life will resume, only slightly changed by the ordeal. The order of family life will also resume and the trauma of her surgery will fade into our memories. Healing is taking place.

Adjusting to Dad's death also is a healing process, healing of the spirit and the open wound in our family identity. The size of one's family and the members in it are integral to how we see ourselves. When that changes, there is a wound. We are "taken off our feet" by the loss. Everything we do becomes a new fit, a different way of experiencing ourselves.

Part of the process of healing is the traditional grieving rituals and the cards, letters, phone calls, visits, food, kind words and prayers offered by so many caring people. We gather as a family to take care of each other. Special attention is given to the needs of the most vulnerable. The healing continues as we get back on our feet and reenter our ordinary worlds and the routines of our lives.

Yet, we are different and everything is a new fit. So it was when Andrew's brother Aaron died five years ago. No longer are he and his siblings a family of seven children. There was a gaping hole in their identity that took time (and is still taking time) to mend. It is even more so when losing a parent. Something fundamental to our being has shifted. The paradigm of our self- identities and our family constitution has shifted.

An important part of our healing — from Terri's surgery and Dad's death — is the stability of faith in an unchanging God who promises "I will be your God and you will be my people (Jeremiah 7:23)." Through faith we reenter life changed to re-experience God in new ways. Though with the expected scars that remind us of our painful ordeal and the unchanging love of God we encounter through prayer and the care of others. "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? (Jeremiah 8:22)" Yes, there is. And the healing continues.

Andrew and Terri Lyke are CNS columnists.

Getting Health Insurance For 71,000 NC Kids

By JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER

In the movie "As Good As It Gets," audiences cheer when the severely asthmatic son of Carol, the waitress, finally receives the medical attention that will allow him to lead a normal life. Because Carol and her family were uninsured, they had been relying on frantic trips to the emergency room to save the son's life when his breathing became desperately difficult. All becomes well when the wealthy author, Melvin, pays for a medical specialist.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer

The questions that go begging as one remembers that scene are, "What about all the other uninsured children who have no such benefactor? What about all the other families who must wait and suffer until the last minute before finding relief for a sick kid? What about all those families who, unable to afford insurance for all their children, end up choosing to insure only one?"

It has been documented that poor children are twice as likely as other children to have physical or mental disabilities or other chronic health conditions that impair daily their activities. The United States Catholic Conference has repeatedly stated, "beginning with our children and their mothers, we must extend quality health care to all our people."

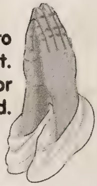
In North Carolina, there are 223,000 uninsured children. For 71,000 of those, there is now the possibility for coverage *if the N.C. General Assembly acts by April 1.* Bi-partisan legislation has been passed by Congress in Washington that offers new funds to states to buy insurance for children of low-income working families (Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP).

To receive North Carolina's grant of nearly $80 million, the N.C. General Assembly must allocate $27.7 million in matching state funds. Failure to submit a proposal by April means North Carolina will lose $79.9 million in federal money — thus throwing away funds that other states were quick to go after. According to Dan Gerlach of the N.C. Budget and Tax Center, "North Carolina would receive almost $3 in federal monies for every $1 in state monies it spends on this program, one of the best leveraging rates of any federal aid program."

Dr. David Bruton, secretary of Health and Human Services, has developed a plan that would provide coverage for children in families with annual incomes up to 200 percent of poverty — $32,100 for a family of four. (An alternate plan would cover only about 19,000 children.) The Bruton plan would not be an entitlement program; it would place a cap on state spending; and eligible children would be in non-welfare families who have at least one adult employed in at least one job — adults whose kids have no coverage because their employers do not offer it or because it is too expensive to buy. With its surplus of several hundred million dollars, North Carolina can easily afford this program.

What can we do so that 71,000 more of N.C. kids will be insured? Gov. Hunt has called a special session of the N.C. General Assembly for the week of March 23 to consider the Children's Health Insurance Program. Call your legislators, tell them to vote for healthy children — to insure 71,000 of North Carolina's kids. The legislative switchboard is (919)733-4111. Key leaders are: House Speaker Harold Brubaker, R-Randolph; Majority Leader Leo Daughtry, R-Johnston; Minority Leader Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg; Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer is director of the Diocesan Office of Justice & Peace.


Thank you to St. Jude & St. Joseph for favors granted.

— E.W.B.

IN BRIEF:

Scouts Earn Medals

DENVER — Danny Agosta, Max Gratzer, Jimmy Huff, Sean Lamich and Christopher Lisi have earned their "Parvuli Dei" ("God and Me") Cub Scout medals. They were recognized during a Mass in Holy Spirit Church Feb. 8. Father Jim Collins, administrator, awarded the medals. All Scouts of the parish were honored at pancake breakfast sponsored by the parish's Knights of Columbus council.

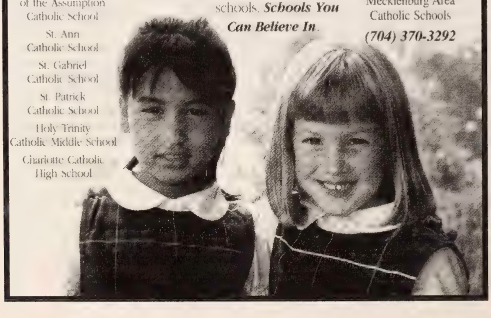
Oratory News

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Oratory Religion Camp takes place at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park the weeks of July 12-18 and July 19-25 for boys and girls under 13 who will enter grades 2-7 in September. The fee is $90. For more information and an application, write to The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586. Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — A Holy Week silent retreat is April 5-12 and will focus on walking with Jesus from Palm Sunday through the solemnities of the Triduum into Easter Sunday. No conferences will take place. Liturgies will be celebrated in St. Margaret Church. Cost is $225.

Special rates for couples and opportunities for self-conducted retreats are available. A $25 non-refundable deposit is required with each registration. To register, get more information, or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.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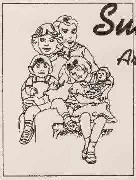
Summer Family Program

Are you interested in...
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The program begins Sunday (5pm) and concludes Friday afternoon. The cost includes lodging, all meals and snacks and program materials needed for the retreat. Each room has a private bathroom, shower and A/C.

1998 Summer Weeks for 1998

June 7-12	Family Week	July 19-24	Single Parent
June 14-19	Family Week	July 26-31	Family Week
June 21-26	Family Week	Aug. 2-7	Alcohol Free
June 28-July 3	Hispanic Week	Aug. 16-21	Family Week
July 5-10	Family Week	Aug. 23-28	Family Week
July 12-17	Family Week	Aug. 30-Sept. 4	Family Week

Other Weeks

May 31-June 5	Adult Week (mid-life spirituality)	Sept.7-11	Adult CFL Week "Potpourri" of prayer
Oct. 13-15	Windows (healing & helping through loss)		

Rates

8 & above	$132.00	Family	$660.00
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Please call (910) 328-1584 for more information or application.

Comuniquémonos
Ministerio Hispano

Suplemento de The Catholic News and Herald
13 de marzo de 1998

Cruzando las fronteras

Por Héctor Andrade

La experiencia más complicada en la vida de Jorge duró 75 días. Su travesía la inició viajando en autobús, en tren y caminó cientos de millas. Pasó frío, calor, lluvia, hambre y sed, 5 elementos que le acompañaron para alcanzar el objetivo: llegar a la Unión Americana.

Decidió dar el primer paso, salir de su país natal, Honduras, para enfrentarse a la adversidad de la aventura. Un reto, una necesidad lo obligó a buscar otra alternativa que se originó al perder su pierna derecha en un accidente automovilístico.

Es una historia como quizá muchas otras más. El rostro de Jorge refleja la sensibilidad de un ser que sabe lo que es el sufrimiento y al mismo tiempo el espíritu de continuar en la lucha por la sobrevivencia. "En Honduras trabajaba en una llantera y de ahí pasé a un taller de armas, desempeñando el puesto de vigilante. Tenía un sueldo equivalente a 20 dólares a la semana, dinero que no me permitía mantener a mi familia", así lo señaló nuestro entrevistado al cuestionarle el motivo que lo llevó a cruzar las fronteras.

La realidad le hace ver la otra dimensión de su vida "...llevé muchos, muchos sufrimientos, desde luego también alegrías". Una muleta de acero y la pierna derecha sirvieron de apoyo para mantener firme la convicción de trascender en la búsqueda de alcanzar su objetivo. "... mi primera intención era llegar a Estados Unidos para poder comprar una pierna artificial, porque mi pierna derecha la perdí en un accidente. En Honduras sería imposible reunir el dinero necesario para tener lo que me hace falta".

Jorge parece un ser humano que desarrolla su labor con pasión, pero por un momento pierde la noción del tiempo. Su meta es lograr la satisfacción de terminar lo que ya inició. "Tuve que perder la vergüenza, tuve que pedir ayuda, sólo así pude llegar a Estados Unidos. Imagínate que cuando llegué a la frontera de Guatemala con México ya no traía ni un cinco", enfatizó Jorge.

Después de haber cruzado una serie de barreras, las palabras de Jorge transmiten el ánimo por dejar ver su autonomía, reflexionando cada una de sus anécdotas "... en México, los oficiales de migración, me detuvieron cuatro veces. Era como para ya no seguir, pero entonces en la quinta oportunidad se resolvió todo y logré pasar. Yo creo que viajé en más de 17 trenes. Cada vez que me bajaba de ellos, para caminar, había ocasiones que sentía que el tren venía detrás de mí (y deja escapar una sonrisa fácil de brotar)".

En Veracruz, México, una reportera entrevistó a Jorge para que le hablara de la situación económica que se vive en aquel estado, y le comentó, "Mire señorita, yo no le puedo hablar nada de esto. Yo sé que aquí se sufre de hambre. Yo he sufrido de hambre y ando sufriendo de hambre todavía, además déjeme decirle que yo no soy de aquí, soy mojado...". La reportera comprendió la situación y le regaló cinco pesos.

Jorge creyó haber llegado a Estados Unidos cuando se encontró en la ciudad de México porque vio grandes edificios, pero no faltó quien le dijera que aun le faltaba mucho camino por recorrer. Al estar en la ciudad más grande del mundo, se subió al transporte colectivo mejor conocido como el Metro, pero al no saber que dirección tenía que continuar, tuvo algunos problemas para salir. "Estando ya en la ciudad de México, pensando que ya había llegado a Estados Unidos, pregunté y que me dijeron que me faltaba más de la mitad del camino. Después que me subí al Metro no sabía como poder salir. Seguramente que si no hubiera preguntado como salir, seguiría montado en esos animales".

La aventura de Jorge tuvo otro despertar al llegar a suelo americano. El dejó un sinnúmero de obstáculos en el camino. "En México me encontré con otros dos hondureños y seguimos el viaje hasta la frontera. Logramos pasar y continuamos el viaje en tren durante tres días. El cansancio ya era mucho y al despertar nos dimos cuenta que estábamos en Kansas City".

De pronto, el hambre y la sed no perdonaban el transcurso del tiempo: "...teníamos mucha sed, nos encontramos con un mexicano y él nos señaló dónde había una llave de agua para beber y, generosamente, nos regaló diez dólares para comer".

Estaban agotados por el viaje y no tenían un lugar apropiado para descansar. La policía seguramente había recibido algún reporte de que había gente extraña por la zona "...nos detuvo la policía y

Continua en la página 2

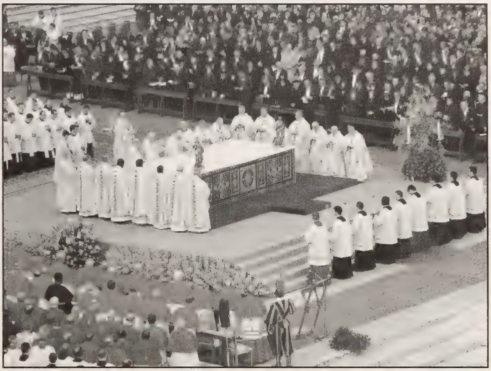

Foto CNS de Reuters

PERSPECTIVA DE LOS CARDENALES — Rodeado por los nuevos cardenales, el Papa Juan Pablo II celebra Misa en la Plaza de San Pedro el 22 de febrero. Un día antes, él confirió los capelos cardenalicios a 20 obispos, incluyendo a dos de los Estados Unidos, como los miembros más nuevos del Colegio de Cardenales.

Papa designa 20 cardenales nuevos, pide ayuda para guiar a Iglesia

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Al designar a 20 cardenales nuevos, el Papa Juan Pablo II les pidió que le ayudaran a guiar a la Iglesia hasta el año 2,000 y más allá.

"Cuento con vuestro apoyo y vuestro consejo iluminado y experto para guiar a la Iglesia en la última fase de los preparativos para el Año Santo", dijo el Papa a los nuevos cardenales el 21 de febrero, mientras los incorporó formalmente al Colegio de Cardenales.

Al día siguiente, durante una Misa, él selló su nueva relación con ellos y con la Diócesis de Roma, colocando un anillo en el dedo de cada uno de los cardenales.

Entre los que se unieron a lo que el Papa describió como "el Senado de la Iglesia", estaban los Cardenales Francis E. George, de Chicago; J. Francis Stafford, ex-Arzobispo de Denver y presidente del Consejo Pontificio para el Laicado, y Aloysius M. Ambrozic, de Toronto.

Con los recientes prelados purpurados, la membresía del Colegio de Cardenales aumentó a 165, 122 de quienes se hallan bajo la edad de 80 años y por lo tanto son elegibles para votar en un cónclave que se convoque para elegir a un nuevo Papa.

El consistorio, fijado originalmente para el salón de audiencias del Vaticano, fué efectuado en la Plaza de San Pedro bajo un cielo soleado y primaveral, para acomodar a los peregrinos, en cantidad mayor de 15,000 y a los familiares que celebraban con los nuevos cardenales.

Muertes ocasionadas por tornados estremecen a parroquias de la Florida

ORLANDO, Florida (CNS) — Los tornados que sembraron la desolación a través del centro de la Florida a fines de febrero, llevándose por lo menos a 37 vidas, destruyeron el centro pastoral de la Misión de Santa Catalina de Siena, en Kissimmee, además de cientos de hogares.

El Padre Vidal Martínez, de la orden de servitas, pastor de Santa Catalina, y un pequeño grupo de feligreses pasaron los días 23 y 24 de febrero buscando a otros feligreses.

"Caminamos a través de las vecindades que rodean al centro", dijo el Padre Martínez al "Florida Catholic", periódico diocesano de Orlando. "Había cables en el suelo por todas partes. Caminamos a través de subdivisiones, tocando a las puertas para asegurarnos de que todos nuestros feligreses estuvieran bien".

"Se podía ver un gran alivio en las caras de las personas cuando nos veían, al saber que habíamos hecho un esfuerzo para llegar a ellos a pesar de muchos obstáculos", agregó él.

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Amigos y amigas en Cristo,

Tiene que haber atrevimiento al seguir a Cristo. Sin riesgos, la vida cristiana es insípida. "Si alguno quiere seguirme," proclama Jesús, "que se niegue a si mismo, tome su cruz y sígame". Los mártires, los célibes, los monjes y los misioneros — todos nos recuerdan que el amor de Dios engendra sueños arriesgados.

La Cuaresma es una época de resoluciones arriesgadas. Nos habla de un riesgo fundamental. En la Cuaresma, prometemos nuestra libre, amorosa participación en la Pasión de Jesús. Decimos que "sí" al camino que lleva a Jerusalén. Renovamos el compromiso del bautismo de morir con Cristo en la esperanza de la resurrección. Históricamente, la Cuaresma siempre ha sido una época de decisiones radicales: cuando nuevos convertidos decidieron seguir a Cristo; cuando cristianos escogieron hacer penitencia por sus pecados; cuando los penitentes vivieron ayunos prolongados.

Hermanos y hermanas, ¿me permiten invitarles a que se arriesguen esta Cuaresma? Este reto no viene de mí, viene del Nuevo Testamento. La carta a los Hebreos (Heb. 11, 38) nos habla de muchas personas que se arriesgaban, desde Abel hasta los mártires y otros héroes de la Iglesia primitiva. La carta nos anima a nosotros con tantos testimonios que hace que fijemos nuestros ojos en Jesús quien arriesgó todo en la Cruz en la esperanza de la Resurrección.

Sugiero que nos arriesguemos a través de las prácticas tradicionales de la Cuaresma que se mencionan en la Misa del Miércoles de Ceniza.

1. El ayuno.

El ayuno cristiano evoca un anhelo por el regreso del Señor. Por el ayuno experimentamos hambre, vacío, un anhelo por la gran fiesta celestial. Mientras ayunamos, nos inclinamos ante el Señor, reconociendo que sólo El es nuestra plenitud, sólo El nos puede satisfacer. Isaías nos recuerda que el auténtico ayuno significa: "Romper las cadenas injustas, desatar las amarras del yugo, dejar libres a los oprimidos, y romper toda clase de yugo. Compartirás tu pan con el hambriento, los pobres sin techo entrarán a tu casa, vestirás al que veas desnudo y no volverás la espalda a tu hermano" (58, 6-7). Estas obras están intrínsecamente relacionadas con el ayuno porque anhelar por el Señor y su Reino nos motiva, nos empuja a realizar las obras de justicia.

¿Nos arriesgamos a ayunar hoy día? Sabemos, por supuesto. que reducir nuestro consumo de tabaco, alcohol y comidas conlleva beneficios de salud. ¿Nos atrevemos a arriesgarnos? Aun más, ¿nos arriesgamos a ayunar de tal manera que estamos satisfechos con poco y damos lo que sobra a los pobres como San Agustín y como tantos autores espirituales sugieren hoy día?

2. Dar limosna.

Hay una paradoja en la vida cristiana. Creemos, con el libro de Génesis, que Dios creó como buenas todas las cosas materiales. Al mismo tiempo, Jesús nos invita a que no dejemos que las cosas materiales nos dominen. Todo cristiano tiene que ser libre, sin cosas que estorben u obstaculicen, listo para hacer lo que el Señor pueda pedir. Nuestros bienes son instrumentos para alcanzar y servir a otros, especialmente a los pobres. No son paredes para separarnos de ellos. ¿Hay cosas materiales que me estorban, que me paralizan, que no me dejan libre para vivir la vida cristiana? ¿Puedo usar mis bienes más socialmente como una manifestación de mi amor y servicio a los pobres? La llamada cuaresmal es clara: "Anda vende todo lo que posees, dáselo a los pobres y luego vuelves y me sigues"(Mateo 19, 21). Les invito a que seamos atrevidos en esto. ¿Hay algún don generoso que puedo ofrecer que sería una señal efectiva a los pobres que el Reino de Dios está cerca?

3. Oración.

Tanto el ayuno como dar limosna, vienen de y llevan a la oración. Hacen que oremos más intensamente esta Cuaresma. Puede ser, si tu experiencia es como la mía, que encuentres resistencia a esta idea. ¿No hay cosas más importantes que hacer? ¿No estaría desperdiciando el tiempo al orar? Pero el evangelio (Mateo 4, 1-1 1) nos dice que Jesús ora antes de predicar; busca soledad antes de mezclarse con las muchedumbres; contempla la cara de su Padre antes de buscar a los enfermos y a los pecadores. Dado que somos personas ya muy ocupadas, ¿qué necesito echar a un lado para poder orar más intensamente esta Cuaresma?

A veces, con timidez, tomamos un poquitito de la vida. La Cuaresma nos anima a que bebamos un buen trago. "¿Pueden beber la copa que estoy bebiendo?" (Marcos, 10, 38), pregunta Jesús. Su copa es honda, llena de riesgos, pero transformadora. De esta copa fluyen unas señales raras como el martirio, la sencillez de la vida, la solidaridad con los pobres, el celibato, la comunidad, el espíritu y el celo misionero. Cuando la bebemos, empezamos a morir, pero también empezamos a vivir un nuevo tipo de vida.

Amigos y amigas en Cristo, que el Señor nos bendiga, y nos de el atrevimiento de vivir plenamente esta Cuaresma.

El camino de la santidad

Jesús nos invita a seguirlo y a imitarlo. Quienes lo sigan con fe y buena voluntad, a pesar de todo sacrificio y renuncia, alcanzarán la realización del más notable y alto ideal al cual pueda aspirar una criatura: la perfección y la santidad.

La voluntad de Dios es que seamos todos santos. Por lo mismo, nuestra vida ha de ser una conversión continua: alejarnos del mal y hacer obras buenas.

El mal desfigura nuestra fisonomía espiritual, mientras que el bien nos asemeja a nuestro Padre celestial. La conversión siempre es posible, ya que Dios es infinitamente bueno y siempre nos espera para perdonarnos.

Nuestra manera de pensar y de vivir debe de estar anclada sobre el ejemplo de Cristo y las enseñanzas de su Evangelio y no conforme al espíritu y el' ejemplo del mundo. Todo lo que es conforme al espíritu de Cristo, permanece. Todo lo que es contrario al espíritu de Cristo, perecerá para siempre. Como hijos de Dios, debemos de reflejar en nosotros la imagen de Dios: ser santos y perfectos como el Padre que está en los cielos, en la medida de lo posible, teniendo en cuenta las limitadas fuerzas de nuestra naturaleza humana.

Santificarse no es un privilegio de pocos, sino la posibilidad y el deber de todos los cristianos.

El camino que lleva a la santidad es uno: es el camino que ha recorrido Jesús. Es el camino de la renuncia diaria, el camino de la cruz. Sin sacrificio no hay santidad. Sin buena voluntad no hay santidad. Sin obras buenas no hay santidad.

(Con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo)

Programa radial

El Padre Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M., Director del Apostolado Hispano de La Diócesis de Charlotte, tiene un programa de radio todos los sábados de 12:30 a 1:00 de la tarde donde habla sobre diferentes temas de la religión y la fe. Este programa puede escucharse sintonizando WCXN en la frecuencia 1170 de la banda AM de su receptor. Al Padre Vicente también se le puede escuchar los sábados después de las noticias de las 3 de la tarde en "Radio Líder" en su segmento "Un minuto con Dios", por la estación WNOW 1030 AM.

Papa redacta encíclica sobre relación entre filosofía y fe

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II ha redactado una nueva encíclica sobre la relación entre la filosofía y la fe, dijeron las fuentes del Vaticano.

El documento de 135 páginas, titulado en principio "El Interés por Investigar la Verdad", se halla en las fases finales de su edición y se espera hacerlo público en algún momento posterior de este año, dijeron las fuentes.

La encíclica, que es la décimatercera del Papa, extiende un debate sobre las verdades eternas que empezó en su encíclica de 1993, titulada "Veritatis Splendor" (El Esplendor de la Verdad).

Se dice que los puntos de referencia para el nuevo documento son las deliberaciones del Primer Concilio Vaticano sobre la relación entre la fe y la razón, junto con declaraciones sobre el mismo tema por parte del Segundo Concilio Vaticano.

El Papa, que redactó libros sobre filosofía y ética cuando era sacerdote y obispo en Polonia, ha tenido durante mucho tiempo el interés de salvar la brecha entre las corrientes filosóficas modernas y las verdades religiosas.

Nota de dolor

El pasado 27 de febrero falleció en Salisbury, Carolina del Norte, la Sra, Josephine Lawlor, madre del Padre Mark Lawlor, Párroco de Nuestra Señora de las Américas en Biscoe.

Por este medio le hacemos llegar al Padre Lawlor y familiares nuestro más sentido pésame en nombre de toda la comunidad hispana.

Donaciones en memoria de la Sra. Lawlor pueden ser hechas a la Asociación de Ciudadanos Retardados (Association of Retarded Citizens).

Notas de condolencia pueden ser enviadas al Padre Lawlor a Our Lady of the Americas Church, P.O.Box 1187, Biscoe, NC 27209.

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pensamos lo peor, pero sin embargo ellos nos trataron muy bien y hasta nos invitaron a comer hamburguesas. Después nos encerraron y solicitaron la presencia de migración. La única alternativa que teníamos era esperar la deportación. Había un policía que hablaba español y nos dijo, 'Les traigo una buena noticia, migración no quiere saber nada de indocumentados'. La verdad es que nos trataron muy bien, nos llevaron a una casa de refugio y nos dieron trabajo, pero nunca dinero en efectivo".

El valor auténtico de Jorge lo llevó a donde quería llegar y el idealismo de su vida lo hace continuar la aventura. Quiere adquirir la pierna artificial que le hace falta y así poder regresar, algún día, a su país.

Nuevo cardenal mexicano dirige la mayor arquidiócesis del mundo

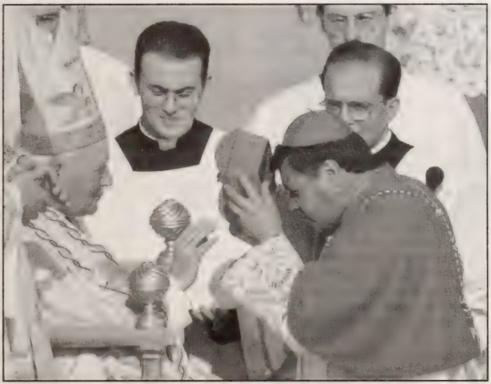

Foto CNS de Reuters

El nuevo Cardenal Norberto Rivera Carrera de Ciudad México, recibe del Papa Juan Pablo II el capelo cardenalicio durante una ceremonia en la Plaza de San Pedro el pasado 21 de febrero.

CIUDAD MEXICO (CNS) — El Cardenal Norberto Rivera Carrera, de 55 años de edad, de Ciudad México, se enfrenta a la tarea de dividir a la mayor arquidiócesis del mundo y resolver la jurisdicción sobre uno de los santuarios más importantes del Hemisferio Occidental.

Cuando el Cardenal Rivera llegó a ser Arzobispo de Ciudad México en 1995, un plan para un sínodo arquidiocesano ya estaba en vigor para dividir a la gigantesca arquidiócesis, con más de 18 millones de católicos, en cinco entidades.

El plan era respaldado por el Vaticano, pero se le resistía el antecesor del nuevo Arzobispo. Dicho plan vislumbra una Arquidiócesis mucho menor y cuatro nuevas Diócesis, divididas a lo largo de líneas geográficas.

Desde 1995, la población católica de la Arquidiócesis ha aumentado en cerca de 750,000 feligreses, hasta casi 19 millones.

La división planeada resulta complicada por la ubicación de la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, que contiene la imagen de la Virgen María de la que se cree que haya sido impresa milagrosamente en 1531 en la tilma de ayate del Bienaventurado Juan Diego.

Si se siguen las líneas geográficas para las nuevas diócesis, por primera vez en la historia el santuario no será parte de la Arquidiócesis de Ciudad México.

Notable por su énfasis sobre la vida y los valores familiares, el Cardenal Rivera dirigió durante seis años la Comisión sobre la Familia, de los obispos mexicanos, y ha sido miembro del Consejo Pontificio del Vaticano para la Familia desde 1993.

Surgió como uno de los dirigentes del sínodo del otoño último, atrayendo aplausos espontáneos cuando pidió al Papa que fuera a Ciudad México para publicar su documento post-sinodal a la Iglesia de las Américas. Después fue aplaudido nuevamente cuando pidió al Papa que aprovechara la ocasión para declarar al Bienaventurado Juan Diego como santo.

Nuevo cardenal chileno es ojo del Vaticano sobre la Misa y los Sacramentos

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Cualesquiera cambios aprobados por el Vaticano que los católicos vean u oigan en la Misa durante los años próximos serán aquéllos que pasen el escrutinio de un cardenal chileno.

Como jefe de la Congregación para el Culto Divino y los Sacramentos desde mediados de 1996, el Cardenal Jorge Arturo Medina Estévez, de 71 años de edad, ha estado involucrado profundamente en el largo trámite de trabajar con los obispos estadounidenses y otros de habla inglesa para hallar un nuevo Leccionario que sea aceptable, que contenga las lecturas de las Escrituras para la Misa, y en el proceso continuo de aprobar un Sacramentario que contenga las oraciones para la Misa.

Aunque la Congregación para la Doctrina de la Fe tomó gran parte de la delantera en trabajar con los cardenales y obispos estadounidenses en el Leccionario, fue el Cardenal Medina quien confirmó formalmente la aprobación del primer volumen de lecturas el otoño último.

El Leccionario aprobado fue objeto de un debate y una transigencia intensos, especialmente debido a su uso de lenguaje inclusivo, que ahora está limitado.

El Cardenal Medina fue uno de los ocho jefes de oficinas del Vaticano que firmaron una instrucción en noviembre último, la cual aclaraba los papeles que los laicos pueden y no pueden desempeñar en la vida litúrgica y ministerial de la Iglesia.

Más temprano en el mismo año, él emitió aclaraciones sobre situaciones especiales en las que los sacerdotes o los diáconos permanentes pueden ser dispensados de la obligación del celibato.

Durante el Sínodo de Obispos para las Américas del otoño pasado, el Cardenal Medina defendió enérgicamente la insistencia de la Iglesia Católica sobre el vínculo duradero del matrimonio.

Nuevo cardenal colombiano se ha enfocado sobre el trabajo del clero

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Como sacerdote joven en la zona rural de Colombia, el ahora Cardenal Darío Castrillón Hoyos coordinó el trabajo de los sacerdotes que enseñaban en una "escuela por radio''. Hoy, a la edad de 68 años, él coordina la atención de la Iglesia a los sacerdotes de todo el mundo.

Nacido en Medellín, Darío Castrillón Hoyos estudió en los seminarios de su Colombia natal antes de ser enviado a Roma para estudiar derecho canónico. Fue ordenado al sacerdocio en 1952 para la Diócesis de Santa Rosa de Osos, Colombia.

Después de asignaciones parroquiales, él se mudó a la cancillería para dirigir a los sacerdotes involucrados en la escuela radial de la Diócesis, un programa de alfabetización y formación transmitido para beneficio de los trabajadores agrícolas rurales.

El futuro cardenal fue designado Más tarde secretario general de la Conferencia Episcopal Colombiana.

En una entrevista durante el viaje, el Cardenal Castrillón dijo que los norteamericanos tienen mucha dificultad para comprender por qué "el marxismo continúa siendo una tentación y un deseo" para algunos latinoamericanos.

Mientras haya una pobreza extremada y una brecha amplia entre ricos y pobres, dijo él, "la ilusión" de que el marxismo es una solución continuará. Pero él aclaró que la Iglesia no daba su bendición a ese sistema.

Al ser nombrado Arzobispo de Bucaramanga, Colombia, en 1992, Monseñor Castrillón dirigió la Diócesis durante menos de cuatro años antes de ser llamado por el Papa Juan Pablo a dirigir la congregación del Vaticano para el clero.

La congregación tiene la responsabilidad de una amplia variedad de asuntos espirituales, intelectuales y prácticos que se relacionan con las vidas diarias de los sacerdotes diocesanos; también supervisa las gestiones catequéticas de la Iglesia.

Como jefe de la congregación, el Cardenal Castrillón ha hecho énfasis sobre el papel singular de los ministros ordenados dentro de la Iglesia, especialmente en la celebración de la Eucaristía.

Nuevo cardenal español conocido por charlas y caminatas con peregrinos

MADRID, España (CNS) — El Cardenal Antonio María Rouco Varela, de Madrid, de 61 años de edad, es un abogado en derecho canónico que viaja ampliamente dando charlas, pero también se le conoce en su país por unirse a los jóvenes en largas caminatas.

Cuando era Arzobispo de Santiago de Compostela, el lugar de destino de la peregrinación, salió a unirse a los grupos de jóvenes durante las cinco o diez millas últimas de la caminata hasta el famoso santuario de la ciudad.

Como el Cardenal J. Francis Stafford de los Estados Unidos, que fue antes Arzobispo de Denver, el Cardenal Rouco dirigió la planificación para uno de los acontecimientos favoritos del Papa Juan Pablo II: El Día Mundial de la Juventud. El prelado estadounidense sirvió de anfitrión a la versión de 1993 en Denver, mientras que el Arzobispo español lo hizo para el acontecimiento de 1989 en Santiago de Compostela.

Desde 1994, él ha sido miembro de la Congregación del Vaticano para la Enseñanza Católica.

Es miembro activo de las asociaciones de derecho canónico española e internacional, ha participado también en seminarios ecuménicos sobre ley eclesiástica y ha publicado artículos sobre las inferencias canónicas de los matrimonios mixtos, así como sobre la formación del laicado y su papel de servicio a la sociedad.

El Arzobispo de Madrid visitó a los Estados Unidos en abril último, pronunciando una charla sobre la comprensión católica del matrimonio y la vida familiar en la Universidad de Fordham, Nueva York, así como dirigiendo un retiro para sacerdotes hispanos.

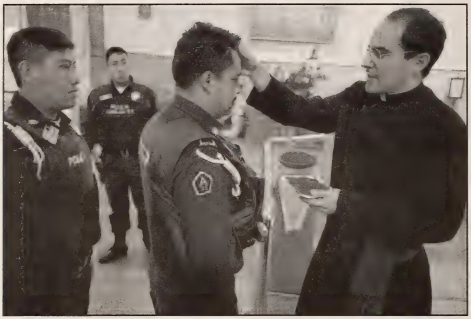

Foto CNS de Reuters

Agentes de policía de Ciudad México reciben las cenizas de un sacerdote antes de comenzar sus deberes diarios el Miércoles de Ceniza, 25 de febrero. Los cristianos de todo el mundo señalan el comienzo de la temporada de Cuaresma con ayuno, penitencia, oración y obras de caridad.

Dice arzobispo que católicos pueden acelerar canonización de Romero

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Monseñor Fernando Sáenz Lacalle, Arzobispo de San Salvador, dijo que la velocidad con la cual la canonización del que fue Arzobispo de San Salvador, Oscar Romero, llegue a una conclusión con éxito, depende de los católicos ordinarios de El Salvador.

El trámite de canonización debe hacerse bien, y con toda la velocidad posible, pero exactamente cuán rápidamente se haga dependerá de nuestro modo de hacer las cosas, dijo el actual Arzobispo de San Salvador a los reporteros el 22 de febrero.

Las autoridades eclesiásticas han pedido a las personas que lo conocieron que presenten testimonios de sus experiencias con el finado Arzobispo, que fue muerto por disparos de armas de fuego el 24 de marzo de 1980.

El trámite de canonización está actualmente sometido a la consideración del Vaticano, después de la conclusión de la etapa arquidiocesana en noviembre de 1996.

Monseñor Sáenz dijo que la Arquidiócesis envió también a Roma una relación de testigos a favor y opuestos a la canonización, que podrían ser llamados a dar testimonios.

Aunque está respaldado por el Papa Juan Pablo II, se espera que el trámite de la beatificación de Monseñor Romero sea prolongado.

Para que él sea declarado mártir, tendría que comprobarse que la fe de Monseñor Romero y no su postura política, fue el motivo primordial para su asesinato.

Vaticano elogia acuerdo sobre Iraq y expresa esperanza sobre embargo

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Vaticano elogió a un acuerdo escrito sobre la crisis de Iraq y manifestó esperanza de que el acuerdo abriría el camino para levantar el embargo contra la nación del Golfo Pérsico.

El comentario del Vaticano tuvo lugar el 23 de febrero, después que el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Kofi Annan, elaboró un trato con funcionarios iraquíes para reanudar las inspecciones de las Naciones Unidas en busca de armas, aparentemente evitando un bombardeo amenazado por los Estados Unidos contra los objetivos en Iraq. Los funcionarios estadounidenses se mostraron aún cautelosos sobre el acuerdo, que fue firmado en Baghdad, Iraq, después de tres días de negociaciones.

"La Santa Sede manifiesta su satisfacción por el acuerdo, que debería eliminar la amenaza de una acción militar", dijo el portavoz del Vaticano, Joaquín Navarro-Valls. El agregó que esperaba que el acuerdo sería ratificado por el Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas.

El portavoz del Vaticano siguió diciendo que el acuerdo "confirma nuevamente que el diálogo es el modo de resolver los problemas, que la acción militar no sólo no puede resolver, sino que los empeora."

Mientras puedas empezar de nuevo, no has fracasado.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO *St. Joseph*, 326 S. Park St. (910) 629-0221	todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE *St. Lawrence*, 97 Haywood St. (704) 252-6042	todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE *Our Lady of the Americas,* 105 Hayde Rd. (910) 428-3051	los domingos 11:30 am y 2 pm confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE *Sacred Heart,* Main St. & Summit	3er. domingo del mes 6 pm
CHARLOTTE *Centro Católico Hispano* Shenandoah Ave.y The Plaza (704) 335-1281	todos los sábados 7 pm domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS *Holy Family*, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. (910) 766-8133	todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON *Sagrado Corazón*, Rt. 601 (910) 632-8009	todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY *Immaculate Conception,* 1024 W. Main St. (704) 245-4017	todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA *St. Michael*, 708 St.Michael's Ln. (704) 867 6212	3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO *St. Mary,* 812 Duke St., (910) 272-8650	todos los domingos 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE *Immaculate Conception*, 208 7th. Ave.W.. (704)693-6901	todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT *Cristo Rey,* 1505 East Kivett Dr. (910) 884-0244	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
JEFFERSON *San Francisco de Asis,* Main y Ivy (910) 246-9151	2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS *St. Joseph,* 108 St.Joseph St.	todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE *Holy Cross,* 616 S.Cherry St. (910) 996-5109	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON *St. Dorothy,* 148 St.Dorothy's Lane (704) 735-5575	todos los domingos 12 pm
MONROE *Our Lady of Lourdes,* Deese y Franklin Streets	todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON *St. Charles Borromeo,* 714 W. Union St. (704) 437-3108	todos los domingos 5 pm
MOUNT AIRY *Holy Angels,* 1208 North Main St. (910) 786-8147	todos los domingos 6 pm
NEWTON *St. Joseph,* 720 West 13th. St., (704) 464-9207	todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO *St. John Church,* 275 C.C. Wright School Rd. (910)838-5562	1er., 3er., 5to. domingo del mes 6 pm
REIDSVILLE *Holy Infant,* 1042 Freeway Dr., (910) 342-1448	todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY *Sacred Heart,* 128 N.Fulton St. (704) 633-0591	todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA *St.Francis of Rome,* Hendrix Rd. (910) 372-8846	1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE *St. Phillip the Apostle,* 525 Camden Dr (704) 872-2579	1er. domingo del mes 2 pm
TAYLORSVILLE *Holy Trinity,* 665 W. Main Ave. (704) 632-8009	2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE *Our Lady of the Highways,* 943 Ball Park Rd. (910)475-2732	todos los domingos 12 pm
WINSTON-SALEM *Our Lady of Mercy,* 1919 S. Main St. (704) 722-7001	todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE *Christ the King,* U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd. (910) 463-5533	todos los domingos 12 pm

Entertainment

Cast Delivers The Goods In Private-Eye Film "Twilight"

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — True to its title, "Twilight" (Paramount) explores a murder mystery in which the aging principals are all acutely aware of their impending mortality.

The movie itself is not outstanding, but the gathering of Paul Newman, Gene Hackman, Susan Sarandon and James Garner as the primary players make the finished product more enticing than it has any right to be.

An old-fashioned private-eye yarn set in contemporary Los Angeles, it revolves around ex-cop and ex-private investigator Harry (Newman), who lives rent-free on the estate of his cancer-ridden pal, Jack (Hackman) and Jack's aging movie-star wife, Catherine (Sarandon). Harry does the odd favor for Jack when not trying to hide his attraction to flirtatious Catherine.

Asked by Jack to deliver a thick envelope to a mystery woman and ask no questions, Harry instead comes upon a gun-wielding old coot (M. Emmet Walsh) who expires from bullet wounds from an unseen source while trying to empty his own gun into Harry.

Discovering the murder victim was the lead investigator 20 years earlier in the unsolved disappearance and likely murder of Catherine's first husband, Harry tries to distance the couple from the current homicide, but needs to know himself what is going on now — and way back when.

Turning to another ex-cop (Garner) for information about the case reveals only so much but Harry does identify the blackmailing couple (Liev Schreiber and Margo Martindale) who think they can pin the old crime on Jack and Catherine if not amply rewarded.

Harry gets more deeply ensnared when Catherine seduces him, and as penance a knowing Jack demands Harry deal with the blackmailers. Soon Harry finds himself at the scene of a double murder and unlikely to talk himself out of this one to the skeptical cops, who include ex-girlfriend, Verna (Stockard Channing).

As twisty mysteries go, this one is better at sustaining a silky atmosphere of danger and doom than at unreeling a tightly knit plot.

The visuals are a sleek update on film noir, combining a handsome production design with moody cinematography that underlines the dark deeds being simultaneously covered up and uncovered.

The film's highlight is the keenly modulated acting by veteran professionals who know how to impart just so much without revealing all and spoiling the suspense.

With Hackman's character terminally ill, and ex-cops Newman and Garner comparing notes about their diminished reflexes, the characters have to face what is important to them in their declining days. This brings a measure of moral dimension to the film as the characters choose how far they will go to preserve what matters most to them.

Garner's character is the most honest in this regard, and while Harry criticizes Catherine for feeling entitled to everything, Harry's integrity is just as shaky.

Channing's cynical cop role and Giancarlo Esposito as Harry's mildly comical hanger-on add some flavor to the script, but there is still a major contrivance that doesn't add up at the end.

In most respects a conventional detective story, "Twilight" will be remembered for how well the cast delivers the goods even if the sum doesn't add up to the attractive parts.

Because of intermittent violence, implied sexual encounters, brief nudity, some rough language and recurring profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS photo from Paramount

Susan Sarandon and Paul Newman star in the murder mystery "Twilight." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Far and Away" (1992)

Sprawling, brawling romantic adventure about the rebellious daughter (Nicole Kidman) of an Irish landowner and a scrappy tenant farmer (Tom Cruise) who wind up in Boston where they share quarters in order to save enough to get to the 1893 Oklahoma land rush. Director Ron Howard orchestrates rousing, feel-good entertainment whose romanticized predicaments detract little from the spirited performances of the two principals. Some sexual innuendo and bloody fisticuffs. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Field" (1990)

Obsessed with acquiring the field he has slavishly cultivated for his only surviving son (Sean Bean), an impoverished Irishman (Richard Harris) comes into mortal conflict with an American (Tom Berenger) who outbids him for the land. With Harris' commanding performance at the center, writer-director Jim Sheridan's well-crafted morality tale fully exploits the austere beauty of the Irish landscape to reflect the primal emotions evoked by the narrative. Intermittent violence and a very restrained sexual encounter. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Hear My Song" (1992)

Jaunty comedy follows a conniving London concert promoter (Adrian Dunbar) back to Ireland to lure a famous tenor (Ned Beatty) out of retirement for a reunion with his old flame (Shirley-Anne Field). Director Peter Chelsom's scenic joyride across Ireland is littered with plucky characters, romantic sentiment and broad humor that's as silly as it is charming. Fleeting bedroom scene with nudity, momentary violence and occasional rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"In the Name of the Father" (1993)

Based on the 1975 case of the "Guildford Four," the narrative centers on an aimless Belfast lad (Daniel Day-Lewis) tortured by the British police into confessing complicity in an IRA bombing for which he is sentenced to life — with long prison terms for other falsely accused co-defendants, including his father (Pete Postlethwaite) — until his lawyer (Emma Thompson) 15 years later uncovers proof of his innocence hidden from the court by the police. Director Jim Sheridan focuses on the human dimensions of this political miscarriage of justice but spends more time exploring the generational conflicts between the imprisoned father and son than on the larger issues of the Ulster conflict and the battle to win public opinion. Recurring menace and violence, unresolved justice questions and occasional rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III —adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R —restricted.

"Into the West" (1993)

When a magnificent white horse wanders into their Dublin slum, two motherless waifs (Ruaidhri Conroy and Ciaran Fitzgerald) ride off into the countryside, pretending to be Wild West cowboys with their sobered father (Gabriel Byrne) and the police in hot pursuit. Director Mike Newell presents a sensitive yet rousing tale of emotionally neglected children whose fertile imaginations help them transcend an impoverished home. Fleeting violence, children in jeopardy and a few profanities. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"A Man of No Importance" (1994)

Seriocomic tale set in 1960s Dublin where a bus conductor (Albert Finney) endeavors to stage Oscar Wilde's "Salome" in the parish hall until gossip of the play's immorality and the unwed pregnancy of the lead (Tara Fitzgerald) dash his hopes and force him to face up to his latent homosexuality. Sympathetic treatment of homosexual inclinations, a brutal beating and a brief but intense heterosexual bedroom scene. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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People In The News

Roundtable's 1998 Fagan Award Goes To California Priest

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hailed as one of the great figures in Catholic social justice ministry, Father Eugene J. Boyle of the Diocese of San Jose, Calif., was honored in February with the 1998 Harry A. Fagan Roundtable Award at a Washington dinner. Ordained a priest of the San Francisco Archdiocese in 1946, Father Boyle was diocesan social action director for the San Jose Diocese in 1985-94. He is best known for his decades-long association with the United Farm Workers labor union and his work on issues of pay, benefits and working conditions, especially for farmworkers.

Bishop's Ordination Reflects Baltimore's Diversity, Faith

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Bishop Gordon D. Bennett was ordained as the Archdiocese of Baltimore's 12th auxiliary bishop at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen March 3. The episcopal ordination Mass was attended by 35 fellow bishops, archbishops and cardinals, many of the more than 500 priests in the archdiocese, 35 deacons, scores of women and men religious, and a standing-room-only congregation made up of the new bishop's family and friends and many Baltimore Catholics. Bishop Bennett, a Jesuit, is the 12th active African-American Catholic bishop in the United States.

Archbishop Says He Raised Critical Points With Chinese Leaders

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) — Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark said that when meeting Chinese government officials he raised critical points, including treatment of underground church members and concern for religious leaders. The archbishop, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy and one of three religious leaders who visited China in February, also said critics of the delegation's trip might have lost sight of its objectives. Archbishop McCarrick made his comments March 5. He emphasized that the delegation did not conduct a "fact-finding visit" and would not be reporting the kind of information about restrictions on religious freedom that critics accused them of missing. "We could have told you before we left that we were not going to do that," he said.

Jesuit Says Paramilitary Forces Are Serious Threat To Colombia

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Paramilitary forces are a serious threat to Colombians, said Jesuit Father Javier Giraldo, founder and director of Colombia's Intercongregational Peace and Justice Commission. Even though the country's guerrilla groups violate humanitarian law, it is worse that the government, the only support for Colombian citizens, should violate the law as well, the priest said. "If the state itself is the one who turns into a criminal, they (citizens) have no one to turn to," he told Catholic News Service in Washington, where he spoke to a group of nongovernmental organizations, journalists and congressional staffers.

Vatican Official Says Church Should Attract Web Browsers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As it builds up its presence on the Internet, the church should attract individual browsers with a visually appealing message, but without falling into frivolity, the Vatican's leading communications official said. Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, told Latin American church media experts that a main challenge is to balance conciseness with completeness on Web sites. Archbishop Foley made the comments at a meeting of the Information Network of the Church in Latin America in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, March 3-6. His text was made available at the Vatican.

Murdered Filipino Bishop, Two Women Cited For Peace Award

SAN JUAN, Philippines (CNS) — Murdered Bishop Benjamin de Jesus of Jolo, a woman who organizes basic Christian communities and a high school principal have been cited by a Philippine foundation for their work for peace in the country. Bishop de Jesus, Velia Ebol and Josefa Luciano are the 1998 Aurora Aragon Quezon Peace Foundation awardees, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The award was begun on the fourth anniversary of the 1986 People Power Revolution of the Philippines.

CNS photo from Reuters

Indonesian students from Jakarta's Catholic University chant anti-government slogans during a demonstration on campus March 9. One sign reads, "Dirty politics, falling rupiah, rising prices, people suffer." The protest was one of several demanding political and economic reforms in Indonesia.

The Oratory Religion Camp

The Oratory Religion Camp will hold two separate one week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountatin State Park the weeks of July 12-18, 1998 and July 19-25, 1998.
Boys and girls under 13 who will enter grades 2-7 in September can apply for consideration. The fee in $90.

For more information and application, write to: The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1596. Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application.

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MACS SCHOOL BOARD OPENINGS

The Mecklenberg Area Catholic Schools Regional Board of Education is seeking applications to fill Board positions for the 1998-99 school year. The three-year terms will begin July 1, 1998. Practicing Catholics who have a child in MACS, intend to enroll a child in MACS or have previously had a child in MACS qualify for Board service. Individuals having MACS committee, PTO or other school experience, are particularly encouraged to apply by sending a resume and letter stating why you would like to serve by April 6, 1998 to:

MACS Nominating Committee
C/o Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
MACS Business Office
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

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Member of St. Gabriel Church

Dietzen, from page 5

John knew the story of the institution of the Eucharist was already well known from the other evangelists, and he wanted to explain further what the Eucharist meant.

So he told a Last Supper story the others omitted: Jesus washing the feet of the disciples.

We probably will never know for certain, in this life at least, the answers to such questions.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Faith Formation:
Parish seeks enthusiastic and knowledgeable person for the Catholic Faith as full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsible for the total parish Faith Formation program for growing faith community of over 800 families. Minimum of a BA in relevant field of study and parish/faith formation experience. Position requires strong leadership, organizational, interpersonal and basic computer skills. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Starts July 1998. Send cover letter, resume, salary expectations and 3 references by April 17 to : DFF Search, Attn: Rob Griffin, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC 27262. Visit our home page at www.massintransit.com.

Diocesan Regional Coordinators:
Charlotte Diocese Office of Religious Education has two openings: Northern Vicariates and Southern Vicariates. Diocese seeks persons with master's degree in Rel. Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris V. Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee. Inquiries: (704) 370-3244.

Social Worker — Immediate Opening:
Room at the Inn, a unique, comprehensive program helping homeless, single, pregnant mothers, is seeking a part-time Social Worker, 20 hours per week. Must have a Bachelor's in a human services field and at least 2 years experience. Must be able to work a flexible schedule and be on-call. Please call Trish at (704) 643-0696 and/or send a resume to Trish Lavoie, Director of Residential Services, P.O. Box 30544, Charlotte, NC 28230-0544.

Director of Total Youth Ministry:
Grades 6-12: Full time position in 1600 family parish. Primary responsibilities include: coordination of all youth ministry activities — lectionary-based catechetical sessions, retreats, service projects, social events; recruiting, training and supporting volunteers; sacramental preparation for confirmation. Shared responsibility with intergenerational religious education program. Most parish catechetical programs are lectionary-based. Member of Religious Education Team with Children's Coordinator and Catechumenate, Liturgy and Adult Education director. Master's Degree or equivalent in religious education or related field preferred. Excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and references to TYM Search Committee, Saint Patrick's Church, 2840 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304. ATTN: Don Gray, Phone: (910) 323-2410, x 106.

Principal:
St. Thomas More School, an accredited PreK-8 school, seeks an experienced replacement for its retiring principal. The school, with 475 students and a brand new middle school facility, is located in a growing, dynamic Vatican II parish in a university town. Successful applicant is a practicing Catholic with a Master's degree in administration and is eligible for NC certification. Strong people and communication skills must. Send letter, resume, and references by April 15 to: Principal Search Committee, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Position available 7/1/98.

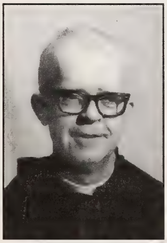
Director of Youth Ministry:
St. Thomas More Church and the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish, growing and dynamic Vatican II communities in a university town, seek a full-time director for their joint youth ministry serving both parishes beginning 7/1/98. Present ministry involves 300 students between grades 6-12, uses the Total Youth Ministry model and includes Confirmation preparation. The program uses a lectionary-catechesis approach and the Confirmation program uses a sacramental-catechesis approach. Successful applicant possesses relevant college degree as well as strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills. Experience preferred. Professional salary and benefits commensurate with background offered. Send letter, resume, and references by April 15 to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Principal:
St. Raphael Catholic Church, a dynamic, Jesuit parish in Raleigh, North Carolina, is seeking a vital addition to its ministry team in the role of school principal. Our school, grades K-4 (which will expand to double grades K-5 by 2002) has established an excellent curriculum within the Catholic tradition. Applicants must: be a practicing Catholic; have or be eligible to have a North Carolina Principal's Certificate; have 5 years teaching experience with some administrative and financial responsibility. We offer an attractive compensation package, including a comprehensive benefits program. Applicants interested in this challenging position should submit their resume with references and salary history to: Principal Search, St. Raphael Catholic Church, 5801 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh, NC 27609. Application deadline is March 31, 1998.

Catholic School Principal:
Immaculata Catholic School, Immaculate Conception Parish, a Franciscan community in Durham, NC, invites applications and nominations for the position of Principal. Founded in 1990 in center-city, close to Duke University, Immaculata has a reputation for balued centered education, academic excellence, dedicated to diversity and the principals of Catholic social justic. Offering two classes per frade level, Pre-K through 8, Immaculata if firmly established, well run and financially sound. Budgeted enrollment for 1998-99 in 400 students. The successful candidate will be a practicing Cahtolic with both teaching and administrative experience, committed to the ideals of Catholic education, with a personal style that is professional, reconciling, joy filled and visionary. The Principal. is supported by an experienced Assistant Principal and staff, a dedicated faculty, and a loyal cadre of parent volunteers. The position, offering a competitive salary and benefit pacakge, will be filled July 1, 1998. Applications, and nominations, may be sent in confidentce to The Chair, Search Committee, 810 W. Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701. The deadline for submitting a letter of interest, resume with references and supporting documnetation is March 31, 1998. Immaculata is an AA/EO school. Tel: (919) 682-3449, Ext. 264; Fax: (919) 682-7999; E-mail: 1022523130@compuserve.com; Website: http:\\thor.he.net\~iccc.

Belmont Abbey Professor Retires After 64 Years

BELMONT — Benedictine Father Anselm Biggs has retired from teaching at Belmont Abbey College after a record 64 years. The history professor began his teaching career in 1934, when Belmont Abbey College was still a junior college and preparatory school. He was instrumental in the college's advancement to senior college status in the early 1950s.


Benedictine Father Anselm Biggs

Benedictine Father Placid Solari, vice president for academic affairs, said of his colleague and brother monk: "The entire college community expresses gratitude and esteem to Father Anselm for the generous dedication of his life service to Belmont Abbey College. His long and distinguished record of service is an inspiration to us all."

Father Anselm retired reluctantly from the teaching he loves so well. He began the 1998 spring semester as he had so many before, teaching history to Abbey students. But a recent fall brought him to accept that at age 84, it was time to return full time to his monastic life and leave the classroom. He is recovering well from the fall.

Father Anselm was born James Gordon Biggs on Jan. 11, 1914, in Pocahontas, Va. His scholarly bent was apparent early — he finished high school in only three years. He enrolled at Belmont Abbey College in 1931, then entered the monastery in 1933. He was ordained as a priest in 1940, and earned his master's degree in 1946 and his doctorate in 1949 from The Catholic University of America.

Specializing in medieval church history, Father Anselm has translated works on the church from German. He has also contributed to Encyclopedia Britannica, Encyclopedia Americana, the New Catholic Encyclopedia, and others.

At Belmont Abbey College he has served as academic dean, director of admissions, dean of students and chairman of the history department.

Said Belmont Abbey College President Dr. Robert Preston, "We're sorry to lose Father Anselm from the teaching faculty. But we are fortunate that we can continue to call on his wisdom, his experience and his perspective from the monastery next door."

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Applicants must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in education or a related field and teaching experience. IHM is located in High Point, NC, a part of the Piedmont Triad region including Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

Excellent benefits; salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Position is available for the 1998-99 school year.

Fax or mail resume, references and salary expectations by March 20 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of School
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
***Fax:* 704-370-3291**

Diocesan News Briefs

Home School Support Group

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, western North Carolina's Catholic home school support group, meets each third Friday for a family potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Laurentine Hall of the Basilica of St. Lawrence. For more information, call Sheryl Oligny, (704) 298-0336, or Denish Vish, (704) 645-6990.

Symposium Examines Weaver Philosophy

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College Sponsors The Richard M. Weaver Symposium March 27-28. The gathering will focus on the 50th anniversary of the publication of "Ideas Have Consequences" by Richard Weaver, respected philosopher, critic, rhetorician and professor of English at the University of Chicago. His writings are studied by scholars interested in understanding order and liberty in society. Nationally prominent scholars and presenters will examine Weaver's views and how they apply today. The symposium is being directed by Belmont Abbey's Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture.

The registration cost is $65. To register or for more information, call (704) 829-7231.

Fashion Show

CHARLOTTE — The athletic department of Our Lady of Consolation Church hosts a fashion show fund raiser March 21 at 8 p.m. Door prizes will be given. For more information, call Belinda Grier, (704) 563-5476.

LIMEX Information Session

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte sponsors an information session about LIMEX (The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program), an extension education program for those wishing to earn a master's degree or non-credit continuing education certificate in religious education or pastoral studies through Loyola University of New Orleans, on March 22 at 7 p.m. in St. Vincent de Paul Church.

For further information, call Joanna Case, diocesan LIMEX liaison, at (704) 362-0013.

Volunteer Opportunity

CHARLOTTE — The Refugee Resettlement Office of the Diocese of Charlotte has an immediate need for part-time volunteer receptionists from 1-5 p.m. Days are flexible. Excellent listening and oral communication skills are required, as are a sensitivity and ability to interact with different cultures. Bilingual a plus, but not a must. For more information, call Cira Ponce, (704) 370-3277.

Health Fair

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church's Health Ministry presents its annual Health Fair in the parish fellowship hall after all Masses on March 21 and 22. Featured will be booths with information on mental health and stress management; detection and prevention of breast, prostate, colon and skin cancer; community resources for seniors; living wills and health power of attorney; hospice and AIDS; and adaptive equipment utilized by the disABILITY ministry. Nutritious snacks, health-related items, blood pressure screenings and drawings for special prizes are included. For more information, call Leslie Mason, (704) 847-7014, or Eileen Correll, (704) 543-8728.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to forget the past and start anew. The program begins March 27. For further information, call Nick and Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Rice Bowl Gathering

CLEMMONS — The Secular Franciscans of St. Clare's Fraternity of Winston-Salem offers a simple soup supper March 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the Holy Family Church family center. The event involves participation in Operation Rice Bowl, a Lenten program benefiting the hungry in third-world countries. Donations will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call Ann Michel, SFO, (336) 766-8843.

Angel Bowl '98

GASTONIA — Angel Bowl, a fund-raising bowl-a-thon to benefit Holy Angels in Belmont, is March 21 at George Pappas' Liberty Lanes in Gastonia at 9 a.m. This year's hour-long event introduces "electrobowl," with flashing lights, special effects and dance music. Proceeds will help support Holy Angels' programs and services for children and adults with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. For more information on participating, call Corey Pudhorodsky, (704) 825-4161.

Campus Ministry Requests Chapel Furnishings

HICKORY — The Lenoir-Rhyne College campus ministry is setting up a prayer chapel and needs furnishings (crosses, crucifix, statues of saints, icons, small holy water font, and so on). If you or your parish has such items which are not being used, and you would be willing to donate or sell them, write to Chaplain Andrew F. Weisner, Box 7354, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, NC 28603; call (704) 328-7248; or send E-mail to <Tyconius@aol.com>.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter is April 3-5 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details, call Michael or Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom or Emilie Sandin, (336) 274-4424.

Charismatic Mass

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated each third Thursday in the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel at 7:30 p.m.

Evangelical Mission

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church hosts an evangelical mission, presented by Bill Wegner and Brent Heiser of Good News Ministries, April 3-5. The speakers will discuss their personal experiences in discovering God and renewal in faith. Times are 7 p.m. on April 3, and at 2 p.m. on April 4 and 5. There is no fee, but donations will accepted. For more information, call the parish office, (336) 884-0244.

Stress Management Seminar

HIGH POINT — The Women's Guild of Christ the King Church hosts a stress management seminar presented by L. Ann Daniels, a certified health education specialist, on March 23. For details, call (336) 884-0244.

Jesuit House of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — "Our Lenten Journey" is a March 20-22 retreat for men and women. Jesuit Father James Devereux, pastor of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, facilitates.

For reservations or more information about these and other activities at the Jesuit House of Prayer, call (704) 622-7366.

Age of Faith in Concert

MOORESVILLE — Age of Faith performs an outdoor concert with rock songs of praise and worship April 3 at St. Therese Church. All are invited, especially youth groups. Tickets are $5 each, and youth leaders and adults are admitted free. Please RSVP as soon as possible. Group discount applies to groups of 10 or more who respond by March 27. For more information, call Diana Hollenback, (704) 664-7762.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Lenten Missions and Retreats

CHARLOTTE — "Jesus Speaks: A Conversation with God" is a March 16-19 Lenten mission presented by Father Frederick A. Pompei in St. Thomas Aquinas Church at 7:30 p.m. daily. Father Pompei is a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., who is involved in a ministry of evangelization. All are invited. For more information, call (704) 549-1607.

"Stories To Challenge the Soul" is the topic for a Lenten day of prayer and reflection presented by Susan Brady at St. Gabriel Church's community center on March 21. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by prayer at 10 a.m. Bring a bag lunch (drinks are provided). The afternoon session is from 1-3:15 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring Bibles and journals. This "Journey Into Lent" program is sponsored by St. Gabriel Parish's faith development office and by the Oratory: Center for Spirituality in Rock Hill, S.C. For information, call Caryn Cusick, (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church hosts "In the Spirit," a parish mission, March 15-18 with a mission Mass at 8:30 a.m. daily and a mission talk at 7:30 p.m. daily. Father Thomas F. Vigliotta, of the Franciscans Ministry of the Word in Anderson, S.C., is mission leader. All are invited to attend. For more information, call Rita Paluszak, (704) 822-0692.

Lenten Programs

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church hosts "Fridays in Lent," featuring a soup and fish supper at 6 p.m., stations of the cross at 7:30 and faith-enriching talks at 8 each Friday. Guest speakers include Ken Walter, punter of the Carolina Panthers, on March 13, who will discuss the spiritual journey of a professional athlete, and Mercy Sister Margaret Straney, faith formation director at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, who will discuss spirituality in the workplace on March 20. For more information, call (704) 549-1607.

A series of ecumenical Lenten services, sponsored by Park-Sharon Neighborhood Churches, is each Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at Sharon Presbyterian Church. A Lenten lunch is provided, and donations are accepted. For more information, call the parish office of St. Vincent de Paul Church, (704) 554-7088.

Stations of the Cross are hosted by St. Matthew Church each Lenten Tuesday at 9:45 a.m. and each Lenten Friday at 7:30 p.m.

CONCORD — "Follow Me! Disciples for the 21st Century" is a small group discussion series at St. James Church each Lenten Thursday from 7:30-9 p.m. in the parish center. The focus is on the Holy Spirit and the virtue of hope in relation to the jubilee year 2000. Call Mike Leake, (704) 782-8425, for more information.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church is among the sponsors of an ecumenical Lenten series each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. through April 4. Lunch is available after each service for a cost of $4. For details, call St. Pius X's parish office, (336) 272-4681.

HICKORY — Stations of the Cross and Benediction are hosted by St. Aloysius Church each Lenten Friday through April 3.

HIGH POINT — A Lenten film series on St. Francis de Sales concludes March 24 and 31 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in the administration building from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Christ the King Church hosts Benediction and Stations of the Cross each Lenten Friday at 7 p.m.

MONROE — An ecumenical Lenten worship service is at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 12 p.m. on March 25. A light luncheon follows.

Many Lenten programs, retreats and services are being hosted throughout the diocese. For information on those events nearest you, check your bulletin or call your parish office.

World And National News Briefs

Pope Says Church Opposes Contraception, Understands Couples

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the Catholic Church understands the difficulties some couples might have with natural birth control, but he said the church still opposes contraception. In a March 2 message to a meeting on birth control at Rome's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, the pope noted that the church's position had not wavered since Pope Paul VI articulated it in his 1968 encyclical "Humanae Vitae." The encyclical, which concerned married love and procreation, reaffirmed church teaching that artificial contraception is morally wrong.

Stolen Chalices Sold At Police Auction

HAMBURG, N.Y. (CNS) — A public auction was held to sell about 50 stolen religious items recovered when police captured a thief who was burglarizing churches. Lay people bought most of the artifacts — consisting of chalices, parts of chalices, patens, ciboria and silver plates — at the Feb. 27 auction, but church officials expressed confidence the items would continue to be used for religious purposes. These 50 artifacts, along with 150 other religious items, were discovered in a car being used by Gary Heinaman not long after he was arrested while breaking into the faculty residence at a Catholic high school.

Parishes Advised On Ways To Ward Off Potential Lawsuits

SPARKILL, N.Y. (CNS) — To prevent lawsuits, parish religious education programs should have a code of conduct for students, employees and volunteers, according to a nun who is an attorney. Without such protections, a parish or diocese could find itself paying out millions of dollars in judgments that could have been avoided, said Sister Mary Angela Shaughnessy, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, Ky. She is an attorney for Spalding University in Louisville, Ky.

Toddlers To Receive Communion In Some Eastern-Rite U.S. Churches

STAMFORD, Conn. (CNS) — Soon it will be common to see infants and toddlers going to Communion in some Catholic churches in New York and New England. Starting this Easter, any child baptized in the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford will receive all three sacraments of initiation — baptism, chrismation (confirmation) and the Eucharist — at the same time. "The Eucharist will be received as a drop of the precious blood of our Lord either on the tip of the spoon or on the tip of the little finger of the priest," said new guidelines for infant Communion published in the Feb. 8 issue of Sower, the diocesan newspaper.

Work Increases For Church Workers In Cuba After Pope's Visit

HAVANA (CNS) — While the papal visit to Cuba was an unqualified success in the eyes of the Cuban bishops, it also added considerably to the church's workload. Before the pope's visit, 97 children attended catechism classes offered by the Sisters of Charity in Havana. "After the pope's visit, 130 came," said the order's provincial, Sister Ines Espinosa Penate. The story was the same in many churches in Havana and Camaguey, in eastern Cuba, where the pope directed his message at youth at a Mass on the third day of his Jan. 21-25 trip.

Mountain Of 'Gold' Dumped In Protest At German Embassy

LONDON (CNS) — A British Catholic aid agency staged a protest outside the German Embassy in London by dumping a mountain of "gold bullion." The Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, the official aid agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, was protesting what it described as the German government's obstruction of international efforts to reduce the debts of the world's poorest countries. The bullion mountain, made up of 700 bars made of plaster of Paris and painted gold, was symbolic of German opposition to a plan to sell some of the International Monetary Fund's gold reserves to help fund debt relief.

Catholic Humanitarian Workers In Iraq Decry Embargo

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Seven-and-a-half years of economic sanctions against Iraq have been politically ineffective and morally wrong, Catholic aid workers said in early March. At a meeting organized by Caritas Internationalis, a Vatican-based umbrella organization for Catholic charities, the agency's representatives in Iraq and several non-Arab countries exchanged reports and agreed that the sanctions have caused Iraqis unnecessary suffering. "The people of Iraq have been the victims of politics," said Father Daoud Bafro, president of Caritas operations in Iraq.

Archbishop Seeks National Pastoral Letter On Priests' Celibacy

NEW YORK (CNS) — Archbishop Francis T. Hurley of Anchorage, Alaska, has suggested a national pastoral letter by the U.S. bishops on mandatory celibacy for priests. He said his recent ordination of a married former Protestant minister as a Catholic priest in Anchorage prompted extensive discussion in the archdiocese about priestly celibacy and about questions concerning the status of those Catholic priests who had left active ministry to marry. In a four-page article in the Feb. 28 issue of America, the Jesuits' New York-based national Catholic magazine, the archbishop said he does not see a feasible way of returning married inactive priests in the Latin rite to active ministry.

Ambassador: Let Religious Leaders Help Solve World Conflicts

BOCA RATON, Fla. (CNS) — Politicians love the game of diplomacy — especially when it benefits them personally — but religious leaders are often the most effective peace negotiators, according to the former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. Raymond Flynn, a former mayor of Boston who held the ambassador's post from 1993 to 1997, talked about his perceptions of diplomacy and his experiences at the Vatican during a Feb. 27 Shabbat services at Temple Beth El in Boca Raton. "So many world disputes center on religion — whether it be in Northern Ireland, the Middle East or in Bosnia," said Flynn.

Catholic School Lobbyists Meet Gingrich

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In order to save the public school system, "we need to go back to what the Catholic schools never left," said House Speaker Newt Gingrich in a speech to Catholic education lobbyists. "You are living proof that you can achieve miracles," Gingrich, R-Ga., told approximately 100 representatives from state Catholic conferences, diocesan offices and Catholic school parent associations participating in the U.S. Catholic Conference's Congressional Advocacy Days in Washington March 1-3.

Pope's Cuba Visit Assessed At Congressional Hearing

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's recent trip to Cuba brought some irreversible gains for the church, witnesses said March 4 in a congressional hearing on the impact of the papal trip. But the jury is still out on how permanent any apparent advances in Cuban human and religious rights may be, they said. The hearing was convened by the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Committee on International Relations to discuss the papal trip and a proposed House resolution commending the pope "for his frank criticism of the Cuban government and his message of hope to the Cuban people."

CNS photo

The area surrounding a confessional shows the fire damage to St. Mary Church in New Haven, Conn. The March 3 blaze was ruled an arson. The tomb of Knight's of Columbus founder Father Michael J. McGivney was unharmed in the fire.

Father McGivney's Tomb Unharmed In Church Fire Caused By Arson

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — Arson was ruled the cause of a March 3 fire that damaged a New Haven church but left unharmed the tomb inside of Knights of Columbus founder Father Michael J. McGivney, who could become the first U.S. diocesan priest to be canonized. No one was injured in the three-alarm blaze, which started in the basement of St. Mary Church during midday Mass and sent worshipers out into the street. According to Michael Grant, assistant chief of the New Haven Fire Department, damage to the 1832 structure is largely cosmetic. The cost of cleanup was not immediately available.

Five School Of The Americas Protesters Found Guilty

COLUMBUS, Ga. (CNS) — A Columbus jury March 4 found five people guilty of destruction of property with malicious intent after they vandalized a sign during a September protest at the U.S. Army School of the Americas. The five, including a Jesuit priest and a Franciscan nun, were found guilty by a jury that deliberated less than an hour after a two-and-a-half day trial. Judge Robert Elliott, who previously has sentenced School of Americas protesters to maximum prison terms, did not immediately set a sentencing date. Four of the five also were convicted of willful destruction of government property. The two felonies each carry possible maximum penalties of 10 years in prison and fines of $250,000.

Caritas Worker Says North Korea's Food Situation Desperate

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although it is not easily apparent to the world, North Korea's food situation continues to be desperate, a Catholic aid worker reported in early March. The people of the communist-run country are "gradually getting weaker and weaker" due to shortages of nutrition, fuel and medical supplies, said Kathi Zellweger, coordinator of North Korean operations for Caritas Internationalis, the global aid agency. Based in Hong Kong, Zellweger was in Rome after a weeklong visit to North Korea.

Catholic High School Begins Drug Testing Of Students

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — De La Salle Catholic High School in New Orleans began testing its 860 students for drugs March 3 while most other area Catholic schools have taken a wait-and-see posture. Contacted by the Clarion Herald, archdiocesan newspaper, other Catholic school principals said they applauded De La Salle's initiative but said they were not yet ready to conduct the testing in their schools. District Attorney Harry Connick has tried for two years to encourage public and nonpublic schools in the entire Orleans Parish to voluntarily take part in his "Drugs Off the Street" hair-testing program. The process involves clipping more than an inch of hair near the skull. Thereafter, students will be re-tested on a random basis.

Parish Profile

St. John Lee Korean Catholic Church

St. John Lee Korean
Catholic Church
7109 Robinson Church Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28215
(704) 536-3973

Vicariate: Charlotte

Pastor:
Father Jae-Yeong Simon Choi

Mass Schedule:
Sunday — 9:30 a.m. (English),
11 a.m. (Korean)

Number of parishioners: 289

Number of households: 97

CHARLOTTE — As the diversity of the multicultural landscape increases throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, so too does the need for liturgical and ministerial outreach to all Catholics of western North Carolina. St. John Lee Korean Catholic Church is one center of ministry tending to those needs.

The historical tie between the martyred John (Yoon-Il) Lee and the community of Charlotte Catholics who now gather under his patronage dates back to 17th-century Korea, where Catholicism was brought in from China. Persecutions began especially in the 1800s, and over time many Korean Catholics were killed. Lee was arrested in November 1866, imprisoned for two months and, in late January 1867, was decapitated.

On May 6, 1984, Lee and 102 others martyred during the persecutions were canonized by Pope John Paul II. In January 1987, St. John Lee was named patron saint of the Archdiocese of Taegu, the very region in which he was executed a century earlier.

In Charlotte, N.C., seven Korean Catholic families began gathering in the early 1980s for liturgical celebrations. A Korean priest from Atlanta began traveling in July 1980 to St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte once a month to celebrate Mass in Korean. Soon after, the group relocated to nearby St. Ann Church.

With the Korean Catholic community getting larger during the 1980s, members formed a committee to explore the possibility of building a church. A fund drive was begun, and the committee started searching for an appropriate location.

In June 1990, the community purchased four acres of land in east Charlotte along Robinson Church Road. On site resided a house that was put to use as a rectory and meeting center. Later that year, the Archdiocese of Taegu agreed to send a Korean priest to the Charlotte Diocese to serve the local Korean community.

With the arrival of Father Dong-Su Won, services were moved to Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte. Father Won was eventually succeeded by Father Hwan-Kil Cho, and during his period of service the rapidly growing Korean community again looked to increase its worship space.

Father Kyung-Hwan Choi was the next priest for the Taegu Archdiocese to come to Charlotte, and the plans for a new church — to be built on the Robinson Church Road property — continued to develop during his stay.

In May 1994 the community gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony. By October the 5,000-square-foot building was completed and the first Mass was celebrated there. On May 7, 1995, Bishop William G. Curlin presided over the dedication ceremony, and the church was officially declared to be St. John Lee Korean Catholic Church.

In September 1995, Father Jae-Yeong Choi was appointed to serve at St. John Lee Church. The church community has proven to be an active one, as 70 people were confirmed during a September 1996 Mass, and a variety of groups and outreaches have been formed, including prayer groups, a choir, a golf club and a youth group.

A recently formed committee is currently overseeing the planning for the construction of an education center on church grounds, hopefully to be built by year's end. Education of and ministry to the second generation of St. John Lee Church parishioners is an emphasis of church life, as members strive to teach Korean culture, identity and language to those young members of the community who have been raised in the United States.

Teaching catechism and church doctrine presents challenges, especially given language barriers that exist even within the family unit. As such, St. John Lee Church seeks assistance from English-speaking volunteers to assist in catechetics for the younger Korean American generation. In addition to the Mass celebrated in Korean at 11 a.m. each Sunday, a Mass in English is said on Sunday at 9:30 a.m., primarily for these younger Korean Catholics.

With 289 parishioners, St. John Lee Church has dedicated 1998 as a year to "Learn the Bible by Heart." During this time, members are not only paying special attention to the Scriptures, but are also devoting time to evangelization among their families, friends and neighbors.

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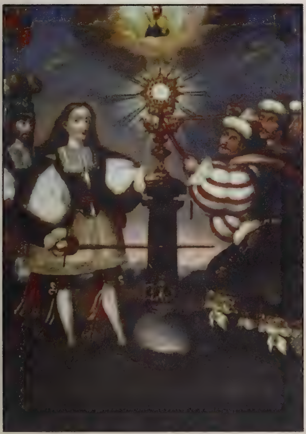


Spanish Colonial Gallery Opens March 21 At Mint Museum

See story page 6

"Defense of the Sacrament" is among the Peruvian works on display as part of the Mint Museum of Art's Spanish Colonial gallery set to open March 21 in Charlotte.

Pentecost Confirmation A Teaching Moment For Diocese, Says Bishop

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Hoping for a renewed diocesan-wide appreciation for Pentecost in the year dedicated to the Holy Spirit, Bishop William G. Curlin recently granted the presbyteral council's request to delegate the administration of confirmation to pastors this Pentecost Sunday.

The council, elected from the priests serving in western North Carolina, functions as an advisory board to the bishop of the Charlotte Diocese.

"This is a great teaching moment in the history of the diocese," said Bishop Curlin. "Too often, Pentecost is not recognized as one of the major solemnities of the church. It is unfortunate that we don't celebrate the majesty of Pentecost much in the same way that we celebrate Christmas and Easter.

"It is the birthday of the church, which enlivened by the Holy Spirit began its great mission in Jerusalem."

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter and commemorates the Holy Spirit's descent upon the Apostles. The second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles details the Pentecost event, which is regarded as the beginning of the church.

Confirmation is the sacrament by which baptized Catholics become further enriched with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to live as witnesses of Jesus.

"Pentecost is the perfect day to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation, and the priests have brought a very pastoral focus to the celebration of the working of the Spirit on that day," Bishop Curlin said.

By granting the permission to confirm on Pentecost, the bishop gives pastors the opportunity to administer the sacrament before entire congregations, thereby ensuring a Spirit-filled event for the whole parish family.

Much like the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a sign of the continual call to conversion for all Catholic Christians, so too celebrating the sacrament of confirmation at Pentecost will be a sign of the working of the Spirit in each community of faith, the bishop said.

Bishop Curlin stressed that the diocese's pastors are invited rather than mandated to accept the permission to confirm. He noted that some parish confirmation classes will not be ready for the sacrament on Pentecost, observed on May 30 this year. He also said he is honored to continue the tradition of administering the sacrament as bishop in parishes at other times during the year.

Still, the bishop encourages parishes to participate. "As the priests have said, this would be a visible sign of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit over the diocese at Pentecost, especially in this year dedicated to the Spirit by our Holy Father," he said.

While this year's celebration will be unique, Bishop Curlin ordinarily shares the privilege of confirmation with pastors during the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, when at the Easter Vigil the sacraments of initiation are conferred upon those entering the church.

DSA '98

Bishop Curlin voiced optimism that as the church prepares for the millennium, Catholics will grow in appreciation for the Triune God and most especially for the Holy Spirit, who enlivens the work of evangelization. Pope John Paul II is leading the spiritual journey to the Jubilee Year 2000, dedicating 1997 to Jesus and faith, 1998 to the Holy Spirit and hope, and 1999 to the Father and love.

"Sometimes we forget that the Holy Spirit is guiding the church," Bishop Curlin said. "He is the one who guides us, who empowers us, who lifts us up when we're discouraged. It is by the power of the Spirit that we can live like Jesus today."

The bishop noted that some parishes have already planned creative expressions of this Pentecost observance. At one parish, he said, students will be confirmed at the Vigil and take leadership roles at a bilingual Mass for the entire community on Pentecost Sunday. The Sunday Masses will be combined into one great celebration, followed by a festive parish gathering, he said.

Bishop Curlin urged parishes to assist young Catholics in realizing that confirmation is a vitally important step in their faith journey. "I pray that our young people, however busy they may be in their lives with school events and social life and family gatherings, do not lose sight of the majesty of this great gift of the Holy Spirit," he said.

The process for reception of the sacrament of confirmation is facilitated by the diocesan office of faith formation, one of the 35 agencies and ministries partially or fully funded by the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

Vatican Expresses Repentance For Christian Inaction Against Nazis

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a long-awaited document on the Holocaust, the Vatican expressed repentance for Christians who failed to oppose Nazi persecution of Jews.

The document, released March 16, said centuries of anti-Jewish attitudes in the church may have contributed to Christians' lack of spiritual and concrete resistance to the Nazi policies, which left some 6 million Jews dead.

"For Christians, this heavy burden of conscience of their brothers and sisters during the Second World War must be a call to penitence. We deeply regret the errors and failures of those sons and daughters of the church," it said.

"This is an act of repentance," it said, "since, as members of the church, we are linked to the sins as well as the merits of all her children."

Titled "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah," the 14-page text was prepared over an 11-year period by the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, at the request of Pope John Paul II. It was carefully reviewed before publication by the pope and a number of other Vatican departments.

In a brief accompanying letter, the pope called the Jewish Holocaust, or Shoah, an "indelible stain" on history. He said the church's reflection was part of an effort to encourage Christians to "purify their hearts" by examining their own responsibility for the "evils of our time" in anticipation of the year 2000.

The pope said he hoped the document would "help to heal the wounds of past misunderstandings and injustices" and help shape a future "in which the unspeakable iniquity of the Shoah will never again be possible."

Addressed to all Catholics, the Vatican document was also sent to Jewish leaders around the world. The text asked Jews to "hear us with open hearts," saying it represented not merely words, but a binding commitment.

Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, who heads the Vatican commission that prepared the text, said it went beyond an apology to Jews, because "an act of repentance is more than an apology."

The Vatican document, while acknowledging shortcomings of some Christians during World War II, said others had acted heroically to save Jews. In a series of footnotes, it defended Pope Pius XII, who has been criticized by some Jewish groups as too timid in his criticism of Nazi actions.

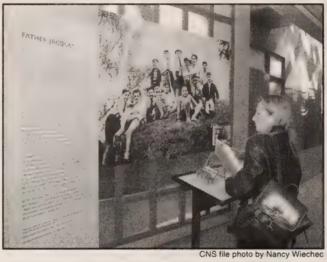
The text also made a distinction: The failure of some Christians to protest the Holocaust policies may have been linked to centuries of mistrust and hostility toward Jews in Christian environments, it

See **Vatican Repentance**, page 2

Vatican Repentance, from page 1

said. But the anti-Semitic ideology of the Nazi regime had different origins and in fact was also anti-Christian, it said.

"The Shoah was the work of a thoroughly modern neo-pagan regime. Its anti-Semitism had its roots outside of Christianity and, in pursuing its aims, it did not hesitate to oppose the church and persecute her members also," it said.


CNS file photo by Nancy Wiechec

A visitor to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington looks over an exhibit on rescuer Father Jacques de Jesus, a French priest who hid Jewish boys and others from the Gestapo during World War II. The Vatican document on the Holocaust acknowledges the shortcomings of some Christians during the war, but said others had acted heroically to save lives.

The document asked whether anti-Jewish sentiment among Christians made them less sensitive, or even indifferent, to the persecutions launched against the Jews by National Socialism when it reached power.

The answer would need to be given case by case, it said. But it concluded that "the spiritual resistance and concrete action" of some Christians was "not that which might have been expected from Christ's followers."

Did Christians give every possible assistance to those being persecuted, and in particular to persecuted Jews? it asked. "Many did, but others did not," it said. Those who did help Jews should not be forgotten, the document said, and here it offered the example of Pope Pius. It cited a series of testimonials and thanks from Jewish leaders immediately after the war, acknowledging what it described as the "wisdom" of Pope Pius' diplomacy.

In reflecting on the Holocaust, the document briefly examined several centuries of what it called "tormented" relations between Jews and Christians.

"In effect, the balance of these relations over 2,000 years has been quite negative," it said.

The early centuries of Christianity, it said, witnessed disputes between the church and Jewish leaders, Christian mobs that attacked synagogues and anti-Jewish interpretations of the New Testament.

In later times, the document cited a generalized discrimination against Jews in Christian quarters, which led to expulsions and attempts at forced conversions.

"Despite the Christian preaching of love for all, even for one's enemies, the prevailing mentality down the centuries penalized minorities and those who were in any way 'different,'" it said.

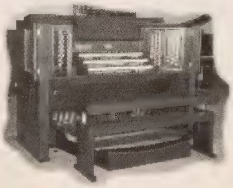
The document said that by the 19th century, discrimination against Jews in Europe was "more sociological and political than religious."

Nazism in Germany, it said, was a form of nationalism that drew from theories of racial superiority, clearly contrary to church teaching. The church in Germany replied by condemning racism, it said. It also cited criticism of Nazi policies by other church leaders of the time.

Asked at a press conference why the document spoke only of Catholic indifference or insensitivity to Nazi policies, and not of church members who actively supported the Nazi regime, Cardinal Cassidy said it would have been problematic to select church figures for criticism.

"To sit in judgment on people is much more difficult than to praise those who took a stand" against Nazism, he said.

Preparation of the document was begun in 1987, at a time of tensions in Catholic-Jewish relations. Cardinal Cassidy said it took so long to publish because the document reflected an important "maturation process" of church thinking.



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Cardinal Law Calls For Commission To Study U.S.-Cuba Relations

By JOSEPH NOWLAN

SOMERVILLE, Mass. (CNS) — Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston has reaffirmed his objection to the U.S. embargo against Cuba while at the same time calling for a bipartisan commission on U.S.-Cuba relations as a way to help the island nation's economic development.

"It is impossible to reasonably support the embargo against Cuba while at the same time granting Most Favored Nation status to the People's Republic of China, and while moving into closer relations with Vietnam," Cardinal Law said March 13.

"Both of these nations have a deplorable record on human rights in general and on religious liberty specifically," he said. "If openness is thought to further freedom in those nations where change is not so evident, how is it that a different standard is applied to Cuba when there is evident change?"

The cardinal made his remarks in a speech to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in Somerville, a Boston suburb.

Cardinal Law led a group of 240 Bostonians to Cuba in January for Pope John Paul II's visit to the communist nation.

While many are convinced the visit has accelerated changes in Cuba, the cardinal pointed out that "it is not the visit alone, stunning though it was, which chronicles change... ."

"These changes could not have occurred without the active approval of President Castro," the prelate added. "He has been a promoter, not an obstacle, to what is now happening in Cuba."

Cardinal Law remains a critic of Castro but said he believes lifting the U.S. economic embargo is a necessity given where Cuba finds itself today, lacking necessities, including food and medicines. The embargo dates back to 1962, the year of the Cuban missile crisis.

The cardinal urged the United States and its leaders to "move the starting point of U.S. policy from the missile crisis to the papal visit. The Holy Father has amply demonstrated that a policy of positive engagement can achieve far more change within Cuba than can the embargo."

Part of the reason the embargo has not been lifted, the cardinal said, is what he termed "the pressure of partisan politics."

But a bipartisan commission, as he is urging, "would have as its charge the development of policy initiatives which could build on the changes already perceived in Cuba since the pope's visit," he explained.

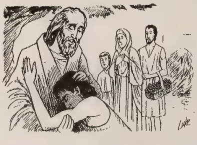
He suggested that such a commission could be headed by a former U.S. president and would include a cross-section of senators, corporate executives and prominent Cuban-Americans.

The cardinal also called on President Clinton to "chart a new relationship between the United States and Cuba."

He further urged the president to

See **Cardinal Law,** page 12

The Lost Son



"My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours, but now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found." (Luke 15:31-32)

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

Readings for the week of March 22 — 28, 1998

Sunday
Joshua 5:9, 10-12
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11-33

Monday
Isaiah 65: 17-21
John 4: 43-54

Tuesday
Ezekial 47:1-9, 12
John 5:1-3, 5-16

Wednesday
Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
Luke 1:26-38

Thursday
Exodus 32:7-14
John 5:31-47

Friday
Wisdom 2:1, 12-22
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday
Jeremiah 11:18-20
John 7:40-53

CSS Beatty Award Honors Dianne English

Photo by Joann Keane

Beatty award winner Dianne English and husband Roger, with children, Wesley, David, and Christian.

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — A woman dedicated to social action was recognized as the Col. Francis J. Beatty Award winner March 11 at the Westin Hotel.

Dianne English, executive director of Mecklenburg Minstries and director of the Community Building Task Force, received the honor presented annually by Catholic Social Services to an individual whose life exemplifies the standards set forth by the late Col. Beatty — faith, dignity, warmth, compassion, and the highest ideals of ecumenism. English is the second woman and first non-Catholic to receive the award.

"Dianne is a woman of vision, who saw a dream and its possibilities, and who plants seeds beyond her time," said Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke, 1997 winner, who presented this year's Beatty award. "In this, she truly exemplifies the values and beliefs of the late Col. Beatty, whose life gave witness to the beatitudes and who challenges all of us to work for peace, justice, and equality for all."

English's father, a Methodist minister, was a social justice advocate. While serving as pastor of a church in Illinois, he became active in the civil rights movement with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Like her father, English has spent the last several years working for peace, temperance and justice in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region. Named executive director of Mecklenburg Ministries in 1991, she has developed such programs as Bridgebuilders, InnerChange, and Youth Breaking Barriers. At the same time, she has maintained the organization's historical involvement with the Emergency Winter Shelter, the airport chaplaincy and other community-based programs.

English has also served as director of the Community Building Task Force since last April. With a goal of creating an active community building process among people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the task force is working to develop issue action teams, face-to-face dialogue opportunities, and general public awareness. English's work has most recently resulted in a successful Community Building Conference attended by more than 600 people.

"Like most of you who work in areas where there are no easy or sure answers, the commitment that is made each day is to stay on the path," she said of the task force. "As a good friend reminded me years ago, the path is difficult, and it can be too hard if you're not on it with people you care about. I have been richly blessed."

English said the lessons learned at Mecklenburg Ministries have been invaluable as well. "It (has) echoed what I had been taught at home, namely that a commitment to the life of faith and to social action belonged together," she told the 450 people in attendance.

As she continues her commitment to social action, English hopes to become more like Col. Francis J. Beatty himself. "I'd like to be delivering hot meals to hungry people in my 80s, to love and be cherished by my family, to enjoy the life I've been given, and to witness to the truth that in God's eyes we are all one," she said.

English and her husband, Roger, are the parents of three children: David, Wesley, and Christian. They are members of Myers Park United Methodist Church.

Also honored were the recipients of the Spirit Award, Charlotte Catholic High

See **CSS Award,** page 11

Photo by Joann Keane

CCHS received CSS' Spirit Award. Shown with Bishop William G. Curlin are Julie Schwarzmueller; Mercy Sister Paulette Williams; Sara McMillan; Martha Hattaway; Patrick Cahill; Bobby Tran; Katie Schwartz; Lacey Niedosik; Geri King; and CSS Executive Director Elizabeth Thurbee.

Appeal Sunday Weekend to Mark Close of DSA

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The annual Diocesan Support Appeal comes to a close March 28-29, thus ending the Diocese of Charlotte's annual fund-raising drive that supports 35 social services, multicultural, educational and vocational agencies and ministries.

The appeal, which took "Love in Action" as its theme this year, began Feb. 1. Barbara Rohrman, director of the DSA, said at press time that 67 percent of the diocese's goal of $2.76 million had been pledged.

Diocesan officials are optimistic that through the generosity of people in the diocese, the target will be met with Appeal Sunday Weekend. During each Mass, parish leaders will make presentations, and pledge cards will be available to parishioners who have not yet responded.

Noting continual growth in the Diocese of Charlotte, officials project that the fruits of this year's DSA will reach out to even greater numbers than the estimated 40,000 people who benefited from last year's appeal.

In the Jan. 30 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, Bishop William G. Curlin noted the importance of the DSA in relation to building up the church in western North Carolina. "A parish exists on the support it receives from parishioners," he said. "The DSA, though, is a visible reminder, a challenge to Catholics to recognize the entire diocese as one parish family.

His Excellency, Bishop William G. Curlin, announces the following change in clergy assignment in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Effective March 16, 1998
Rev. Richard B. Farwell, pastor of Saint Dorothy Church, Lincolnton, will be leaving his diocesan assignment to re-enter the Benedictine Order of St. Leo Abbey in St. Leo, Florida.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM: Mass 9:00AM: Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

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Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

Please vote to restore the Mexico City Policy and stop exporting abortion-on-demand to other nations. Federal funds should not subsidize organizations that perform abortions or that lobby against or violate foreign abortion laws.

Contact your two U.S. Senators and your U.S. Representative, by letter, FAX, or e-mail:

The Honorable ___________
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable ____________
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Information about telephone, FAX numbers or e-mail address can be found through the Library of Congress' website, "Thomas."
http://thomas.loc.gov

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

The bishop is in Rome March 15-27 making his "ad limina" report to Pope John Paul II.

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience March 11.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our catechesis on the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 reflects today on how the salvation accomplished by Christ is realized in human history. The descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost enabled the disciples to grasp the profound significance of the kingdom of God present in human affairs. God intervenes in history at times of his own choosing. We must discern these times and allow ourselves to be challenged by them. The most fundamental time was the coming of the Son of God as man, whose saving work continues in the church. In her history, the church experiences both periods when her missionary efforts seem to be less effective and favorable times when the Gospel is welcomed and conversions multiply. Those who have a special responsibility to evangelize must discern these times in order to make the best use of the opportunities offered by grace. Despite their human weaknesses, the power of the Holy Spirit enables Christ's disciples to be authentic witnesses to the Gospel. The same power will always continue to produce new marvels of grace in the work of the evangelization of peoples.

I extend a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors present at this audience, especially those from Denmark, Australia, the Philippines, Japan, Canada and the United States of America. Upon you and your families I cordially invoke the blessings of Almighty God.

Pope Tells U.S. Bishops To Help Catholics Overcome Divisions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Bishops must help Catholics understand church teaching and help them resolve issues that can lead to division within parishes or in the wider church, Pope John Paul II told U.S. bishops.

In his formal address to the visiting bishops, the pope said, "The purpose of our ministry is to lead the members of the church into a living communion with God and with one another."

An essential part of any bishop's ministry, he said, "must be to help all sectors of the Catholic community find greater certainty about what the church actually teaches, and greater serenity in confronting the many issues which — often needlessly — cause division and polarization among those who should be of one mind and heart."

Pope John Paul told the bishops that once the good news of the Gospel is accepted by individuals, "it demands to be shared." Christians, he said, "have a particular responsibility to contribute to the renewal of culture."

Pope John Paul had particular praise for the parochial school system in the United States and for parish programs aimed at bringing inactive Catholics back to church.

Coming Of Age

Amy Welborn

Why Not?

I may never reap millions through invaluable contributions to society such as the Pet Rock and the Giga Pet, but I think — no, I'm convinced, I've come up with the surefire solution to every moral dilemma you're ever going to face. And that's priceless, isn't it?

Now, don't tell me that you don't care.

If you are reading these words by a religion writer in a Catholic newspaper, you have already shown me that you have a conscience. You've already demonstrated that the question of right and wrong choices is important to you.

And you probably are painfully aware how difficult those choices can be.

As St. Paul writes, we too often end up not doing the good we want to and doing evil we really, in our heart of hearts, don't want any part of.

Of course, the reason we end up propelled along that road is that the right choice is usually the more difficult path — that narrow road Jesus talked about.

So we've come up with all kinds of tricks and techniques to help us make the right choices, all sorts of schemes to give us the right framework in decision making and values identification and all that jazz.

As of this moment, you can put all of those mind bending rationales away in the bottom drawer. You're not going to need them after you hear about my method for getting yourself to do the right thing, even when you don't want to.

It is so simple. It even has a simple name: "Why Not?"

That's it. "Why Not?"

Think about it.

You are talking with your Mom, discussing your life in general and how you really need to be doing just a bit more around the house to justify the air space you are occupying. You feel your emotions rising and your resistance to doing whatever your Mom is telling you to do is going up right along with it.

You are tempted to start talking back and refusing to do whatever it is she wants, no matter how mindless.

Why should I be nice to her, you are thinking, why should I do what she asks?

Stop, breathe and turn that question around.

Why not?

Another example: You're a typical American high school student with amazing educational opportunities, comfortable living conditions, and a life that is unique and precious and given to you by God. Every day you are faced with the question of what to do with that life, and you ask:

Why should I spend time studying instead of watching television or surfing the Internet? Why should I set time aside to help others? Why should I try to strive to be the best I can be rather than settle for that lazy slacker existence?

Try it again.

Why not?

Finally, your boyfriend — well, let's call him that for now — is pressuring you for sex. Do you love me, he asks? Why hold back? Why stay away from intercourse before you get married?

Well — why not?

Think about it as you're going through your day, which, if it's like mine, is filled with countless moral choices.

Why not be honest?

Why not treat the people you meet with dignity and respect?

Why not stop judging people?

Why not buy fewer sodas and candy and give that money to charity?

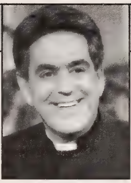
Why not let Jesus be your model?

Why not?

Amy Welborn is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



On The Verge Of Hope: A Pointless End

It is my privilege to share with you essays that celebrate the highest values of the human spirit — true stories of individuals who put hope into action and make a positive difference. This column diverges from the norm because the tragic outcome compels me to question the senselessness of what happened.

Erik Melzer was convicted of drug trafficking and landed in prison. His first letter to me arrived on Aug. 22, 1996, and his last was post-marked Aug. 18, 1997. Our correspondence over that year documents a young man's yearning to turn his life around. "I have less than a year here to go, then a few months to serve in Baltimore County Jail, and after that, where I'll go or what I'll do — is a mystery. Since I started receiving pamphlets from The Christophers I have had an urge to write you, as I think you might understand my situation. I don't go to church, I smoke, listen to rock music, am an admirer of John Gotti and Billy the Kid, and I look at beautiful women, nice cars and good food as the finer aspects of creation.

"My point is this: I have the desire to mellow out, to think instead of self-destruct, and to help others as best I can. It is easy to live for yourself, but to better your life and be able to help others do the same is a challenge and, I am sure, creates an inner satisfaction that I want to have. I hope my un-candy coated honesty doesn't bother you. Please tell me what you think."

He admitted he had grown up with a "me against the world attitude," that he had "created an ugly image ... as an out-of-control thug." So I had to ask myself if he meant what he said about wanting to change, about not blaming everyone but himself for his mistakes. In time I came to believe his intentions, and in time, Erik came to discover the beginnings of his potential for being good and doing the right thing. His letters flow with enthusiasm and a determination to make a difference.

"Immediately after my release I want to go to the Human Kindness House in Durham, N.C., but I will be on mandatory parole for about a year. I am trying to work that out, as N.C. parole has no problem with my coming there instead of staying in East Baltimore. It would be a great step for me and a chance to help others by giving them hope. I am positive but scared if I am forced to do my parole in Baltimore.

"I grew up there and I know there are two things in store for me there — prison or death. I've had guns in my face, been shot at, even had more than one police (officer) tell me that first chance they got they would kill me. I am not letting my old attitudes come back, but this issue is like a thorn in the saddle. I wish to better myself and be responsible.

"Sometimes when I pray I am able to touch that calm place within that says its going to be all right."

But it wasn't all right. I did not hear from him for a long time. I worried and wondered and finally heard from his uncle. Denied permission to finish his parole in Durham, Erik was released to the streets of East Baltimore. One night, about three weeks later, Erik went out with a couple of old "friends." The next day he was found dead with six bullet wounds to his chest.

Erik Melzer had a lot of plans for turning his life around. Maybe he would have become that new person he wrote about. Maybe he would have failed and gone back to hurting others and himself. I am just frustrated because he never got the chance to find out and neither did we.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

The Effect of the Penitential Rite of the Mass

Q. I realize the importance of the sacrament of penance, but wonder about the efficacy of other activities like prayer and especially the "Penitential Rite" at the beginning of Mass.

We hear little about this anymore. Is it a rite of penance? Does it have reconciliation effect? If not, what is its purpose?

A. Yes, it surely does have reconciliation effect. All the spiritual life of the church is lived in awareness that, however filled it may be with the gifts of Christ, it is made up of people who unfortunately often fall into sin.

Thus, the church, "at the same time holy and always in need of purification, constantly pursues repentance and renewal" (Introduction to the Rite of Penance, No. 3. The references that follow here are to the same document.)

Next to the eucharistic sacrifice itself, the flagship, so to speak, of this pursuit of forgiveness and healing is the sacrament of penance.

The teaching of the church is that any grave (mortal) sin should be confessed to a priest in confession (No. 7).

But, as the rite puts it, "the people of God (the church) accomplishes and perfects this continual repentance in many different ways" in addition to the sacrament of penance.

Individually and as a body, we share Christ's sufferings by enduring our difficulties, doing works of mercy and charity, and trying to adopt more fully the outlook of the Gospel.

Done out of love, St. Peter reminds us, such actions are redemptive, cover a multitude of sins (1 Pt 4:8) and make us a sign to the world of our conversion to God.

Since repentance entails reconciliation with our brothers and sisters who are always hurt by our sins, communal penance services, for example, even when they do not include individual absolution, show more clearly the community nature of penance and forgiveness.

Listening attentively and prayerfully to the word of God in the liturgy and personal prayer are other ways of experiencing and celebrating God's mercy.

And last, but certainly not least, are the penitential aspects of the eucharistic celebration, which include the Penitential Rite you mention and other parts of the Mass, the Eucharistic Prayer, the creed, the Lamb of God and so on.

The church mentions each of these explicitly as part of the church's pursuit of reconciliation with God, with and through Jesus Christ (Nos. 4, 22).

To answer your question then, the Penitential Rite at Mass is effective for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Unfortunately, we always want to go another step. How much "forgiveness" is available in each of these ways of reconciliation?

Just as we can't put a quantity on

See **Dietzen,** page 13

Parish Diary

Father Peter Daly

Where Is Everybody on Sunday?

The Archdiocese of Washington has just published the 1997 results of the annual "head count" taken by ushers in every parish on all the Sundays of October. That's the best month to take the count. Kids are in school, vacations are over, weather is good.

The survey shows that only about 150,000 Catholics in the archdiocese are participating in Mass on an average Sunday. This is one-third of the Catholics.

Where is everybody?

The Archdiocese of Washington is probably typical of the church as a whole throughout the United States and Canada. A lower and lower percentage of Catholics is joining in the church's common prayer life.

Of course, we need to put this in perspective. According to surveys by George Gallup and Jim Castelli, church attendance probably peaked in the religious revival years of the 1950s when all churches, Protestant and Catholic, had a higher percentage of people coming than ever.

Today's percentages have fallen from a peak that could probably not be sustained. Actually, the percentage of people going to church in the 1990s is probably about the same as in the 1920s and 1930s — down from the peak years, but still a respectable showing compared to Europe and Latin America.

We can never expect 100 percent attendance. Even in the peak years of the '50s, when practically every able-bodied person got himself or herself to church on Sunday, the percentages never exceeded 80 percent or so, except in a few rural dioceses.

There are always a certain number of people away on travel; some are too infirm to get out, and some babies are too young to take to church.

But even allowing for the 25 percent or so who cannot come for one reason or another, the figures are discouraging.

On the other hand, if everyone came to church, we probably could not accommodate them.

My little parish church holds only 200 people. I currently preside at five Sunday Masses each week — in the summer sometimes six.

Nearly all seats always are taken. If all the 1,900 or so parishioners came on Sunday, about 700 would have to stand on the porch and look in the windows, as they do on Ash Wednesday and Easter.

Part of the decline is cultural. It touches every religion in the industrialized West. Christianity values simplicity (poverty), modesty (chastity) and acceptance (obedience) of God's will. The culture values material wealth, eroticism and personal autonomy (choice).

Obviously, when people get beyond their childhood years, they have to decide. Sometimes they cast their lot with the culture.

Another part of the decline might be that there are too few priests and too many people. I cannot possibly have a personal relationship with the 750 people who come to Mass on Sunday, let alone the 1,900 or so registered in our parish.

My Protestant neighbors usually minister to about one-fifth as many

See **Daly,** page 12

Spanish Colonial Gallery Opens At Mint Museum

CHARLOTTE — The opening of the Spanish Colonial gallery on March 21 will be the latest phase in the thematic reinstallation of the Mint Museum of Art's permanent collection, "Art in the Americas." Paintings, precious metalwork, sculpture, furniture and decorative arts from the 17th through the 19th centuries illustrate the unique culture that emerged from the Spanish colonization of the Americas.

Art in the New World first served the Catholic Church. Images of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary and the saints accompanied the Conquistadors and missionaries in their quest for wealth and conversion of native souls. Paintings were used in the instruction of converts as well as the decoration of churches.

Talented natives were trained in crafts and the visual arts for whom such work would be a manifestation of devotion. The native sense of color and form, technical heritage and symbolic preference modified imported European styles. Spanish Colonial art often appears as folk or "outsider" art, with a naiveté which contributes to its special character. The flatness of the design and unique gold "tooling" of elaborate arabesques, rosettes and flower petals on the garments of favorite figures were original breaks from European conventions. New elements, such as mirror decorated frames, added vitality to the works.

Huge silver and gold deposits produced a New World affluence that staggers the imagination. On display at the Mint are vessels in the form of an Andean deer, silver statuary crowns, elaborate tupus (cloak pins), cocoa leaf caddies and incense burners that hint at the towering silver and gold altars and tabernacles common to even the poorest of New World churches.

Of particular note in the Spanish Colonial installation is the second coming of "Ecco Homo" (Behold the Man), a processionary statue of Christ's appearance before Pontius Pilate, on loan from the New Orleans Museum of Art. The emotional resignation of Jesus, contrasted with the vivid, bloody realism of his physical wounds, created a sensation among visitors to the 1992 Mint exhibition "Splendors of the New World."

The Mint Museum of Art is located at 2730 Randolph Road. Hours are Tuesday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 12-5 p.m. Admission is $4 for adults, $3 seniors, $2 students and free for members and children 12 years and under. Free days are each Tuesday evening from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and the second Sunday of each month. For information, call the Mint Museum of Art any time (704) 337-2000. Web address: www.mintmuseum.org

Papua New Guinea Bishop Says Media Poorly Portrays U.S. Church

By TOM TRACY

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Media portrayals of the U.S. Catholic Church as fractured and at odds with church authority in Rome — however exaggerated — are discouraging to Third World Catholics, said a bishop from Papua New Guinea.

"The church in the U.S. is very influential in the world, and we are very interested in the church in the U.S.," said Bishop Cesare Bonivento of Vanimo, Papua New Guinea.

"When I talk to the common people (in the U.S.) I find great support for the Holy Father, but when I see the media I see a lot of conflict. Newspapers that act only in their own interest are harmful to us because they create an image of this country that is not real," Bishop Bonivento said during a February visit.

He also said that incomplete or incorrect world perceptions of what is happening among Catholics in the United States is damaging. Catholics in the United States need to challenge the big media organizations or journalists who poorly represent the Catholic faith and Catholic affairs, he said.

"I love American people, but we have a picture that is not real at this moment, and the U.S. is giving the world a picture of its church that I don't think is realistic," the bishop said.

French missionaries established a lasting Christian presence in Papua New Guinea beginning in the late 19th century. In a country of 4 million people, approximately 1.4 million are Catholics.

"Some of these people have been evangelized only as recently as the 1960s, and their faith is very strong," the bishop said.

America is the leading country in the world and is the dream of many Third World peoples, said Bishop Bonivento. But Catholics in the United States need to be more united in finding ways to react against media abuses, he added.

"Remember that you have some brothers around the world, and they can be comforted or humiliated in their faith by what you do," he said.

Bishop Bonivento recalled an occasion recently in which a Catholic bishop from Australia spoke out against a popular film that was offensive and anti-Catholic. Although the bishop's objections were ultimately ineffective in stopping the film's distribution, Bishop Bonivento said Catholics in the region took encouragement from the Australian bishop's example.

"If Americans did this it would help you fulfill your role as a leading Catholic country in the world with a great responsibility to the world," he said.

Thanks to
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prayers answered.
— J.R.M.

Summer Family Program

Are you interested in...
Strengthening Christian family values?
Looking for a way to get away and recharge?
Making friends with others who think spirituality is important?
Having fun at the beach? Daily mass?

The program begins Sunday (5pm) and concludes Friday afternoon. The cost includes lodging, all meals and snacks and program materials needed for the retreat. Each room has a private bathroom, shower and A/C.

1998 Summer Weeks for 1998

June 7-12	Family Week	July 19-24	Single Parent
June 14-19	Family Week	July 26-31	Family Week
June 21-26	Family Week	Aug. 2-7	Alcohol Free
June 28-July 3	Hispanic Week	Aug. 16-21	Family Week
July 5-10	Family Week	Aug. 23-28	Family Week
July 12-17	Family Week	Aug. 30-Sept. 4	Family Week

Other Weeks

May 31-June 5	Adult Week (mid-life spirituality)	Sept.7-11	Adult CFL Week "Potpourri" of prayer
Oct. 13-15	Windows (healing & helping through loss)		

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2 - 7	$74.00	(maximum fee)	

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Entertainment

Wry Comedy In "Love And Death On Long Island"

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Love and Death on Long Island" (Lions Gate) is a wry comedy that delicately explores an aging widower's unexpected longing for a handsome young man he first glimpses on a movie screen.

This small-scaled film is thoroughly carried by actor John Hurt, whose performance as the fusty old Englishman with a mad crush on a teen-movie heartthrob is at times poignant, touching and achingly funny.

Hurt is prissy London author Giles De'Ath, for whom owning a radio — or "wireless" as he calls it — would be about as radically modern as he is willing to tolerate.

A virtual recluse since his wife's death, he unwittingly locks himself out of his house one afternoon and so stumbles into a nearby cineplex, thinking he would see an adaptation of an E.M. Forster novel.

But Giles had wandered into the appalling comedy "Hotpants College II" where he is transfixed by its blue-eyed star, teen idol Ronnie Bostock (Jason Priestly).

Knowing an adolescent crush in his dotage is insane, Giles nonetheless finds himself reading fan magazines and buying a VCR to see Ronnie's previous movies on video. So uninitiated is he, he doesn't realize the VCR still requires a television for viewing the videos.

His folly escalates when Giles flies to New York and rents a motel room in the Long Island community where Ronnie lives with his fiancee (Fiona Loewi). Soon he has met the couple and they warm to his Victorian manners, literary connections and obvious interest in Ronnie's career.

The naive actor proves unusually dense in realizing that Giles has taken more than a professional interest in him, but Ronnie's eventual response is kindly, allowing Giles to put it all in perspective and re-embrace living as opposed to holing up in his musty quarters.

Directed by Richard Kwietniowski, the narrative is simple —and marked by simple charms. Giles is as amazed by the technological wonders of the '90s such as talking cars as he is, alas, resigned to accepting some civilities are past. (His expression as he leaves his shoes outside the motel room door as if they would be instantly polished is priceless.)

Giles' journey of self-discovery is less about possible homosexual tendencies than it is about a man who had closed in upon himself, and now will look at life as a gift to be lived and enjoyed. We know his crazy crush is doomed, but Hurt brings a positive eloquence to his character's dignified attempts to adjust to rejection — as well as such modern mysteries as microwaves and mirrored motel ceilings.

The dry British humor at hand concentrates on the culture clash between a Old World esthete and a gullible Hollywood pretty boy, but it is never mean-spirited or sleazy in any way.

Because of a live-in relationship, veiled homosexual reference, minimal profanity and an instance of rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 —parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Leonardo DiCaprio stars in the dual role of King Louis XIV and the enigmatic Phillippe in "The Man in the Iron Mask." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Eve's Bayou" (1997)

Poignant drama set in 1962 Louisiana, where a precocious 10-year-old (Jurnee Smollett) observes how her family is affected by the womanizing of their prosperous doctor father (Samuel L. Jackson) which culminates in a violent tragedy. Writer-director Kasi Lemmons' beautifully lyric tale probes human failings, though the result is marred by the action's melodramatic treatment. Mature theme of adultery, fleeting sexual encounters, brief violence, intermittent rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Full Monty" (1997)

Droll British comedy in which an unemployed steelworker (Robert Carlyle), desperate to earn some needed cash, convinces five jobless buddies there's easy money to be made putting on a one-night male strip show. Director Peter Cattaneo downplays the narrative's sleazy aspects, focusing instead on the characters' financial needs and ridiculous ineptitude as performers. Comic treatment of sexuality, brief rear nudity, fleeting homosexual innuendo, occasional profanity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"In & Out" (1997)

Sex farce about the comic confusions of a 40-year-old small-town teacher (Kevin Kline) whose life goes topsy-turvy days before his wedding when an Oscar-winning former student announces to the world that the teacher is gay. Director Frank Oz mixes warm-hearted humor with broadly funny performances as the farcical proceeding poke fun at gay and straight stereotypes. Flippant treatment of homosexuality, brief male kissing scene, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"In the Company of Men" (1997)

Disturbing picture of two callous corporate colleagues (Aaron Eckhart and Matt Malloy) who decide to pay back rebuffs by women by deliberately romancing, then abruptly dumping a vulnerable deaf secretary (Stacy Edwards), though things don't quite work out as planned. Writer-director Neil LaBute chillingly explores the vicious nature of office and sexual politics without settling for a simple good-triumphs-over-evil outcome. Harrowing depiction of deceitful activities, an implied affair and much rough language as well as profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"A Life Less Ordinary" (1997)

Romantic fantasy clunker in which two angels (Holly Hunter and Delroy Lindo) are assigned to make a spoiled heiress (Cameron Diaz) and her dimwitted kidnapper (Ewan McGregor) fall in love and marry. Director Danny Boyle attempts to mix unexpected violence with screwball comedy but the results are strained and unconvincing. Some violence, sexual innuendo and intermittent profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Peter Pan" (1953)

Walt Disney's animated feature is a delightful adaptation of Sir James M. Barrie's 1904 play about an impish 12-year-old boy (voice of Bobby Driscoll) who refuses to grow up. Directed by Hamilton Luske, Clyde Geronimi and Wildred Jackson, it offers dreamy fantasy panoramas of London and Never Never Land, along with the antics of feisty pixie Tinker Bell and some mostly unmemorable songs. Some dated sexist (jealous women) and racial (Native Americans) stereotypes are wrong-headedly intended as fun. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"She's So Lovely" (1997)

Gritty, unappealing story of a woman (Robin Wright Penn) who's torn between her first husband (Sean Penn) who's just been released from a 10-year stay in a psychiatric asylum and her present husband (John Travolta) who has provided a good home for her and their three children. Directed by Nick Cassavetes from a script by his late father, John Cassavetes, the arbitrary love story involves three unlikable people in sordid situations that evoke little sympathy, though there are occasional flashes of wit and originality sprinkled throughout. Some violence including an off-screen rape, sexual references, occasional profanity and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

The hope that even thrives in impossible situations

By Mary Miller Pedersen
Catholic News Service

What do country music and soap operas have in common? Each tells tale after tale about cheating hearts, broken dreams, plans gone wrong and hopeless situations.

People relate to country music and soap operas because these relate to crisis and personal tragedy. None of us escapes pain, loss or disappointment of some kind.

Most people have been on the brink of giving up hope, either with a child who has gone astray, a job that seems headed nowhere, a marriage partner who continually disappoints or an illness that changes lives drastically.

> **"For Christians, however, hope adds up to much more than the power of positive thinking. Instead, hope is a firm belief in what we cannot see.... Hope is a virtue ... based on a deep-rooted and time-tested belief in God's providence."**

Maybe that's why an interest in "coping" has become a modern American pastime. Bookstores and speakers' bureaus overflow with experts on coping with situations that appear hopeless.

The longest running of these resources on how to deal with life's negative side is the famous "positive-thinking" film, book, videotape, cassette and speaker. The power of positive thinking is based on our ability to overcome or overlook obstacles by modifying our own behavior.

For Christians, however, hope adds up to much more than the power of positive thinking. Instead, hope is a firm belief in what we cannot see. Hope isn't just a mental construct or a learned habit. Hope is a virtue.

But hope is not just any virtue. It is one of three theological virtues, that is, virtues from God.

The virtue of hope goes beyond optimism alone or positive attitudes. Hope is based on a deep-rooted and time-tested belief in God's providence.

Hope isn't based on our own power to change our attitudes, but on the covenant God made with us.

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FAITH alive!

The Letter to the Romans says it well: "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (5:5).

CNS photo by Michael Hoyt

■ ■ ■

We hope that our child's addiction will be healed, that our friend's home will be spared in the brush fires or that our sister's husband will find a job.

We hope about these ordinary everyday events because God is involved intimately in our everyday lives.

The Spirit of God fuels the fire of hope in our hearts when things look dark. When we look at Scripture, the family of God's "family album," there is story after story about God's faithfulness and God's power to overcome our limitations.

Moses, who was minding his own business just trying to keep his father-in-law's sheep safe and well fed, was called by God to lead a nation of people. What an unexpected challenge for Moses! "Who am I that I should got to Pharaoh?" was his response. But God was with him through every frog- and fly-bitten plague. "Hoping against hope, he believed and thus became the father of many nations" (Romans 4:18).

In the New Testament, there is Mary, who was caught completely off guard when asked to be the mother of Jesus. Her response was similar to that of Moses: "How can this be? I don't even have a husband?"

In Mary's story we see how God deals with what humans see as impossible situations.

This is why we can have hope in the face of impossible tasks, unexpected obstacles and dangerous situations. We can hope for good weather for the crops if we are farming or for peace among Palestinians and Jews.

We can have hope because our God has such a long record of being there for us. God's covenant with us is the source of our hope.

So, what does living by the virtue of hope mean? It means placing our lives in the hands of God, who saves us.

Living by the virtue of hope means living as Jesus did, with absolute confidence in the Father's gracious love. And that's not easy in a world full of hopeless situations.

That's why we need to stick together with others who can buoy up our spirits when our hope runs thin. That's why it's not enough for us simply to have hope. We are called to be bearers of hope to others.

■ ■ ■

When my mother was diagnosed with cancer and throughout her treatment, she never lost hope. But after her surgeries and months of weight loss and sickness, I began to lose hope.

My friends brought dinner to us, put our family on the prayer chain and sent me encouraging notes. These friends were a sign for me that God loved us, had not abandoned us, and was sustaining us despite the darkness. This is what we can confidently hope for! This is what has been promised.

The great spiritual writer Julian of Norwich, who lived through plagues and wars in medieval England, sums it up in her little mantra: "All will be well; all will be well; all manner of things will be well." That might make a nice little song, don't you think?

Christian hope goes beyond optimism and positive thinking because it acknowledges, and it also manifests, the power of God at work in our lives.

(Pedersen is coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I'd say this about the virtue of hope: Even "if" we could survive without it, we couldn't thrive without it. Our well-being is tied to hope.

It's a serious situation, then, when hope retreats from anyone's life.

But what is hope? And what is it not?

I'm pretty certain that hope is not a basis for inaction in the face of real problems. Hope doesn't provide a reason for thinking, "Shucks, everything will work out in the end; my efforts won't matter." Instead, hope draws out the best in us, whether in a particular situation that means our love, our problem-solving skill, our hard work or our prayer.

Pope John Paul II envisioned two reasons to focus on hope during 1998. First, with hope we keep life's ultimate goal in mind; thus we can see life's "meaning and value." Second, hope gives us "profound reasons" for making the commitment to transform our world.

Hope is a dynamic force. Maybe that's why hope has been linked with the Holy Spirit. For the Spirit is a dynamic force empowering us to act courageously when it matters, enlightening our judgment and enabling us to give direction to life.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH alive!

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What hope really is

By Father John W. Crossin, OSFS
Catholic News Service

Some people seem naturally hopeful. To them, a glass of water is always half full, their drive from the tee will land a few inches from the cup and the possibilities for the future appear endless.

For others the glass is half-empty, the drive will land in the sand-trap and the future is obscured by many obstacles.

> **"Each of us is weak.... We have our 'blue Mondays' ... physical burdens discourage us.... We need others to accommodate our weakness. Yet we also live in hope."**

"Hope springs eternal" is a wise popular saying. People want to be hopeful in spite of their predisposition to pessimism.

For Christians, hope is both a natural disposition and a virtue. The virtue of hope comes into our hearts with the Holy Spirit's arrival. In baptism, as we receive the Holy Spirit, we begin the journey of hope.

—Christian hope is a gift.

This gift comes from God. We nourish it in personal and communal prayer. Our deepest potential for hope develops only gradually as we grow spiritually. Yet over time, even a pessimistic personal disposition can yield to the fire of the Spirit's hope.

—Hope orients us to the future.

Our heavenly home beckons us. But in many ways the "future is now." We already share, modestly to be sure, in the life of the Spirit, the life of eternity. This grace orients us to our ultimate destiny and empowers us to act in the present moment.

—Hope is a spiritual energy; it propels us into the future.

—Hope pulls us out of ourselves.

This virtue urges us to positive acts of goodness toward our neighbor. A cheery good morning, an expression of concern for the sick or our attentive listening to a colleague can express our hope. A host of small actions can show a hopeful attitude. Hope brings us into solidarity with others daily.

—Hope persists despite our disabilities.

Each of us is weak. We are deficient in many ways. We have our "blue Mondays" or our "blue anydays." Physical burdens discourage us. We fear being dependent. We need others to accommodate our weakness.

CNS photo by Bill Wittman

Yet we also live in hope. Progress is always possible. And, interestingly enough, our personal limitations can make our solidarity with others in need quite real. Our hope despite our weaknesses may enable others to hope as well.

For example, an alcoholic now in recovery is often the most powerful witness to hope for the person still struggling with alcoholism.

Long ago, St. Paul taught that when Christians are weak they are strong. It is precisely in our weakness that we are best able to put our talents at God's service. For then we realize that hope ultimately is in God.

Such a hopeful person embraces substantive projects for the good of others. He or she seeks to change the neighborhood, the city, civil society and even the whole country — and doesn't take "no" for an answer. Hopeful people see that the reign of God begins now and requires intensive effort. While this world will never be heaven, it can be better with God's help.

Thus we see hopeful people reforming business practices, working with the homeless, fighting abortion-on-demand, and caring for the sick and the infirm.

Hopeful people realize that this earth is not our heavenly home. Yet good works can prepare the way for eternity.

Hopeful people are people of light, not of darkness. Their focus on eternity's light enables them to enlighten the earth.

(Oblate Father Crossin is a visiting fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University. He is the author of "Friendship: The Key to Spiritual Growth," published by Paulist Press.)

How the Mass speaks of hope

By Father Lawrence E. Mick
Catholic News Service

The First Letter of Peter (3:15) challenges us to "always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."

It is good that the church's liturgy regularly reminds us of the solid reasons for being people of hope -- especially on those difficult days when we might be asking ourselves what the reasons are!

Two fundamental reasons for our hope are reflected in the liturgy. Recall that the liturgical year's two major cycles of celebration are Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas.

Lent/Easter celebrates Christ's death and resurrection, and the promise that we will share in his resurrected life. This gives us hope on two levels:

—It assures us that whatever pain and suffering we endure, in the end we will share Christ's life eternally.

—It reminds us that what feels like death in daily life often leads us to new life. We experience many smaller resurrections, constantly reminding us of the ultimate resurrection.

And Christmas, celebrating Christ's coming into the world at Bethlehem, offers visible evidence of God's love for the world. Christ's first coming also reminds us that he promised to come again. This is a powerful basis for hope, based on the confidence that Christ's promises can be trusted.

Actually, these two mysteries also are reflected in every celebration of the Eucharist. In the midst of the Eucharistic Prayer, we recall Christ's death and resurrection, and anticipate his second coming:

—"Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again."

The two reasons for our hope are placed side by side in that brief acclamation.

A few moments later in the Eucharist, we join in the Lord's Prayer, praying for the coming of God's kingdom in its fullness:

—"Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

The kingdom has come into the world through Jesus, but we wait and hope for its completion.

Then, before the concluding doxology to the Lord's Prayer ("For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours"), the priest expands on the petition for deliverance from evil and speaks of our hope, saying:

"Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace.... Keep us free from sin, and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior."

So, if anyone asks the reason for our hope, the liturgy teaches us how to reply. It is because Christ came to live among us and will come again.

We live in hope because Christ assures us that nothing, not even death, is stronger than the God who loves us and gives us life.

(Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Tell one way — one type of situation — in which Christian hope sustains you.

"I work in a homeless shelter, and sometimes it's difficult to see hope in the family situations we encounter here. But my faith in the Lord helps me sustain a sense of hope for them and in this work. Without that faith and hope I couldn't work here." — Jean Wright, Hoyle, Mass.

"For myself, Christian hope is a feeling of peace in situations, that God is right there and that he is going to help us through, whatever the difficulty is." — Aline Lynch, Wilmington, Del.

"I work with Catholic Charities, and we deal with a lot of situations of child abuse.... My grounding in Catholicism helps me to look ahead with hope, with a sense of the Spirit, that our work here is having a positive effect." — Bruno Finocchario, Sioux City, Iowa

An upcoming edition asks: What action or words played a key role in healing a damaged relationship for you? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

In a Nutshell

- ***We can have hope because our God has such a long record of being there for us.***
- ***Does Christian hope add up to more than optimism and positive thinking? Yes, it acknowledges the power of God at work in our lives.***
- ***When we hope despite our weaknesses, we may enable others to hope as well.***

People In The News

Missionaries Of Charity Head's First Year Marked By Stability, Growth

By ANNE NIGLI

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — A year after Sister Nirmala Joshi became the Missionaries of Charity head, nothing seems to have changed in the fast-growing women's religious congregation Mother Teresa founded.

The only activity and flashbulbs on March 13, the first anniversary of Sister Nirmala's election, were around the grave of Mother Teresa, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Missionaries of Charity nuns told UCA News that people continue to flock to the grave, although publicity surrounding Mother Teresa is on the wane.

The signboard at the Missionaries of Charity motherhouse still reads: "Mother Teresa — IN." She died of cardiac arrest Sept. 5.

CNS photo from Reuters

Sister Nirmala Joshi leads a group of nuns from the presidential palace in Venezuela in January after meeting with the country's president. One Missionaries of Charity nun said there have been no policy changes since Sister Nirmala took over leadership of the order a year ago.

Nuns escort visitors to Mother Teresa's customary place in the chapel, where her life-size statue with her characteristic hunched back sits.

"It has become a place of pilgrimage now," a nun told UCA News. The sisters have made a special entrance from the road to allow direct access to the grave and fixed visiting hours from 8 a.m. to noon and 3-6 p.m.

Flowers, candles, Missionaries of Charity nuns and volunteers distributing cards with Mother Teresa's sayings greet visitors. Outside, a now-dusty cloth banner proclaiming love for Mother Teresa peeps through campaign banners from recent elections.

The rest of the house resembles a traditional convent rather than the bustling house that drew people from all walks of life for Mother Teresa's blessing.

"They don't do the same for Sister Nirmala," said one nun.

The new leadership has made no policy changes, one nun said, adding, "It is surprising, since one would expect people with different personalities to have different preferences."

Missionaries of Charity nuns, who generally decline to divulge their names, still go out to work in pairs.

When she took charge, Sister Nirmala said the congregation would continue to do what they had been doing and remain "true to our charism and spirituality."

Lay volunteers still come to help serve the sick, poor and dying, nuns said.

Missionaries of Charity sources said that except for her shift from the contemplative to the active, Sister Nirmala has not changed. In the past year she has visited Africa, the Americas, the Philippines and Rome, attending professions of vows despite attacks of malaria. Fifty women enter the congregation each year.

Archbishop Henry d'Souza of Calcutta told UCA News the 51-year-old congregation is "doing well" under Sister Nirmala's leadership.

Jesuit Father Lawrence Abello, chaplain at the motherhouse, said nothing has changed.

Msgr. Eric Barber, confessor for Missionaries of Charity contemplatives, agreed, adding that the general council that elected Sister Nirmala had finalized the order's agenda, and "there seems nothing new."

A Jesuit associate said the waning of Mother Teresa's popularity has helped the order "to go about their work without hassles." An order shows its worth only after the founder is gone, he added.

British Prime Minister Says He's Not Converting To Catholicism

LONDON (CNS) — British Prime Minister Tony Blair has been attending Mass on his own at London's Westminster Cathedral, a spokesman admitted, but he has no plans to convert to Catholicism. Blair, who ousted John Major's Conservative government in the May 1997 general election won by the Labor Party, is married to a Catholic, Cherie, and the couple's three young children are all baptized Catholics. For years Blair, a member of the Church of England, has attended Mass with his wife and children most weekends. But in late February and early March, if in London without his family, he attended the Saturday or Sunday evening Mass at Westminster Cathedral.

U.S. Bishops Urge Solution To El Salvador's Agrarian Crisis

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — U.S. bishops, religious, sister parishes and individual churches urged authorities in El Salvador to stem the worsening crisis among poor farmers. "We call for an immediate solution to the agrarian and bank debt problem as a first step toward producing alternative policies which favor rural development," said an open letter with more than 300 signatories published March 12 San Salvador newspapers. "We are concerned about the increasing poverty in rural areas," it said. Among the signatories were Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly of Louisville, Ky.; Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond, Va., president of Pax Christi USA; and Lutheran Bishop H. George Anderson, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. More than 60 other bishops also signed.

Publishing Editor Named To USCC Education Department

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Daniel S. Mulhall, executive editor of Benziger Publishing Co., has been named representative for catechesis and multicultural concerns in the U.S. Catholic Conference's Department of Education. Mulhall succeeds Sister Elaine McCarron, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, who leaves the position at the end of July. Since 1990 Mulhall has been an editor at Benziger Publishing, responsible for developing and publishing educational materials for the religious market.

New Executive Director Named For Research Center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bryan T. Froehle, a senior research associate at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate since August 1995, has succeeded Gerald H. Early as executive director. "Dr. Froehle has the energy, creativity and dedication to bring CARA to new levels of service to the church," said Bishop William B. Friend of Shreveport, La., who chairs the CARA board of directors and announced the appointment. "His charge is to make CARA known to and useful to every Catholic diocese, religious order, and organization and association, where its expert and objective handling of church research and planning needs will be of invaluable assistance," the bishop added.

Surviving Dionne Quintuplets Get Multimillion-Dollar Settlement

OTTAWA (CNS) — Six decades after they served as Ontario's star tourist attractions, the three surviving Dionne quintuplets finally got the justice they had long sought. The Catholic sisters are to receive $4 million (US$2.9 million) tax-free from the Ontario government. "We are pleased to accept this offer which will allow us the dignity of beginning a new chapter in our lives," the sisters said in a statement read by their lawyer, Clayton Ruby. Cecile, Annette and Yvonne, age 63, recently argued that they helped generate millions of dollars into the province's coffers and lost some $22 million (US$16 million) as a result of mishandled trust funds in their name and, as a result, have had to live on a combined income of $746 (US$533) a month.

Pole-Sitting Priests Raise Funds For Baseball Fields

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Fathers Dennis Darilek, pastor, and Jimmy Drennan, parochial vicar, of St. Paul's Parish in San Antonio spent five days perched on plywood sky boxes 20 feet above the ground to raise $100,000 for the construction of ballfields for the children of the neighborhood. With each priest committed to raising $50,000, the two added an extra gimmick when they decided that the first to reach his goal would be able to shave the head of the losing priest. After five days, a victor emerged. Father Darilek was the first to reach the $50,000 mark, with Father Drennan less than $800 behind.

Cardinal Calls Catholics 'Disciples, Not Combatants'

OCONOMOWOC, Wis. (CNS) — Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles said he hopes the Catholic Common Ground Initiative will help U.S. Catholics realize their conduct needs to reflect that "we're disciples of Jesus first, not combatants." Cardinal Mahony made the comment at a press conference the second day of the March 6-8 Cardinal Bernardin Conference in Oconomowoc, a city about 40 miles west of Milwaukee. The Los Angeles prelate said the legacy of the late Chicago Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin, who founded the Catholic Common Ground Initiative, "is his own witness of the way he exercised authority in church, his extraordinary reaching out to people, consultation, and listening."

Public Schools Lack Moral Direction, Legal Scholar Says

DETROIT (CNS) — Changing America's education system to accommodate parents' desire for reinforcement of their religious values may be the only way to save public schools, according to author and legal scholar Stephen L. Carter. The greatest danger to the survival of public schools is if they lose popular support as a result of continuing to stonewall parental wishes regarding curriculum and moral instruction, Carter tells those who attend his lectures.

CSS Award, from page 3

School. The award was established by the Charlotte office of Catholic Social Services to honor persons and organizations that have shared their talents and treasures in an effort to enrich the lives of those who come to CSS seeking help.

Each year at Christmas, CSS provides CCHS with a list of wishes from needy families. The lists are divided among homerooms, clubs and individuals. The students, along with the Student Council Advisors, and faculty, raise money to purchase gifts, organize and deliver toys, and provide tickets to special events and food to CSS. Through this program, CCHS has helped more than 400 families with special needs. The school has also supported CSS through contributing to the Indigent Burial Program.

"Requests are always met with a spirit of genuine compassion and desire to help mankind," said Geri King, director of the Charlotte office of CSS, who presented the award. "CCHS truly exemplifies the spirit of giving, caring, compassion, love and sacrifice for others that is reflective of the mission of Catholic Social Services."

Accepting the award on behalf of CCHS were Student Council President Patrick Cahill and Treasurer Lacey Niedosik. Cahill thanked Martha Hadaway, student council advisor, and Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, principal, who in "every way creates an atmosphere at Charlotte Catholic which encourages us to live God's greatest commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself."

With 68 full and part-time staff members, more than 250 volunteers, and regional offices in Asheville, Charlotte and Winston-Salem, CSS served more than 12,000 clients during the 1996-97 fiscal year.

Employment Opportunities

Chief Financial Officer/Director of Business Services:
Catholic Diocese of Raleigh:
Responsible for oversight of all financial affairs of the Diocese including financial reporting and planning, accounting, internal controls, budgeting, investments, and banking and insurance relationships. Also responsible for the management of the offices of Development, information systems, and property and construction. Serves in a consultative role on finance and administration for 80 parishes and schools. Successful candidate must be a practicing Catholic, have a strong service orientation, have several years of financial management experience, must be able to work well in a collegial environment, and should be computer literate. MBA and/or CPA or equivalent strongly preferred. Send resume including salary requirements to: Director of Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, 715 Nazareth Street, Raleigh, NC 27606. EOE.

Director of Faith Formation:
Parish seeks enthusiastic and knowledgeable person for the Catholic Faith as full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsible for the total parish Faith Formation program for growing faith community of over 800 families. Minimum of a BA in relevant field of study and parish/faith formation experience. Position requires strong leadership, organizational, interpersonal and basic computer skills. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Starts July 1998. Send cover letter, resume, salary expectations and 3 references by April 17 to : DFF Search, Attn: Rob Griffin, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC 27262. Visit our home page at www.massintransit.com.

Diocesan Regional Coordinators:
Charlotte Diocese Office of Religious Education has two openings: Northern Vicariates and Southern Vicariates. Diocese seeks persons with master's degree in Rel. Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris V. Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee. Inquiries: (704) 370-3244.

Director of Total Youth Ministry:
Grades 6-12: Full time position in 1600 family parish. Primary responsibilities include: coordination of all youth ministry activities — lectionary-based catechetical sessions, retreats, service projects, social events; recruiting, training and supporting volunteers; sacramental preparation for confirmation. Shared responsibility with intergenerational religious education program. Most parish catechetical programs are lectionary-based. Member of Religious Education Team with Children's Coordinator and Catechumenate, Liturgy and Adult Education director. Master's Degree or equivalent in religious education or related field preferred. Excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and references to TYM Search Committee, Saint Patrick's Church, 2840 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304. ATTN: Don Gray, Phone: (910) 323-2410, x 106.

Principal:
St. Thomas More School, an accredited PreK-8 school, seeks an experienced replacement for its retiring principal. The school, with 475 students and a brand new middle school facility, is located in a growing, dynamic Vatican II parish in a university town. Successful applicant is a practicing Catholic with a Master's degree in administration and is eligible for NC certification. Strong people and communication skills must. Send letter, resume, and references by April 15 to: Principal Search Committee, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Position available 7/1/98.

Director of Youth Ministry:
St. Thomas More Church and the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish, growing and dynamic Vatican II communities in a university town, seek a full-time director for their joint youth ministry serving both parishes beginning 7/1/98. Present ministry involves 300 students between grades 6-12, uses the Total Youth Ministry model and includes Confirmation preparation. The program uses a lectionary-catechesis approach and the Confirmation program uses a sacramental-catechesis approach. Successful applicant possesses relevant college degree as well as strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills. Experience preferred. Professional salary and benefits commensurate with background offered. Send letter, resume, and references by April 15 to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Catholic School Principal:
Immaculata Catholic School, Immaculate Conception Parish, a Franciscan community in Durham, NC, invites applications and nominations for the position of Principal. Founded in 1990 in center-city, close to Duke University, Immaculata has a reputation for balued centered education, academic excellence, dedicated to diversity and the principals of Catholic social justic. Offering two classes per frade level, Pre-K through 8, Immaculata if firmly established, well run and financially sound. Budgeted enrollment for 1998-99 in 400 students. The successful candidate will be a practicing Cahtolic with both teaching and administrative experience, committed to the ideals of Catholic education, with a personal style that is professional, reconciling, joy filled and visionary. The Principal. is supported by an experienced Assistant Principal and staff, a dedicated faculty, and a loyal cadre of parent volunteers. The position, offering a competitive salary and benefit pacakge, will be filled July 1, 1998. Applications, and nominations, may be sent in confidentce to The Chair, Search Committee, 810 W. Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701. The deadline for submitting a letter of interest, resume with references and supporting documentation is March 31, 1998. Immaculata is an AA/EO school. Tel: (919) 682-3449, Ext. 264; Fax: (919) 682-7999; E-mail: 1022523130@compuserve.com; Website: http:\\thor.hc.net\~icce.

Diocese To Host Series Of Financial Seminars

CHARLOTTE — Pastors, bookkeepers, business managers, accounting representatives and finance council members serve as stewards of their parish's resources. In their roles, they are responsible for maintaining budgets and assisting the church in exercising solid fiscal management in regard to every donated dollar.

To assist each parish in fiscal matters, the Diocese of Charlotte's Finance Office will be hosting a series of seminars in April and May where participants will receive updated information on new federal and state finance regulations and have the opportunity to network with peers. Two seminars will be geared toward smaller parishes with less than 400 families; two other workshops will focus on larger parishes with more than 400 families.

According to Pat Rhyne, diocesan parish financial liaison, the seminars will focus on five areas: revenues; expenditures; employees and individual contractors; cash management; and financial reporting.

"We will focus on changes that have taken place in these areas over the last few years," Rhyne said. "Some diocesan policies have changed as well. In many instances, regulations change so quickly it is hard to keep up with them."

The workshops will also address internal controls and accounting procedures and build on the "Financial Policies & Procedures Manual for Parishes and Missions" promulgated by the diocesan Finance Office.

The meetings will be similar to a series of seminars held in 1996; those workshops provided a very hands-on training experience for participants. The meetings also allow parish representatives to meet and network with their peers.

"We've found cases where parishes have the same finance-based questions, and we're trying to provide a forum where people can discuss them," Rhyne said.

The parish financial liaison's goal is to have every parish represented during the series of seminars. Thus far, 130 people have registered to take part in the workshops.

"It is very gratifying to see the number of people who have already registered for these workshops," said Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the diocese. "It is an indication of the commitment by those involved in parish finances to fulfill their call to be good stewards of the financial resources of the church."

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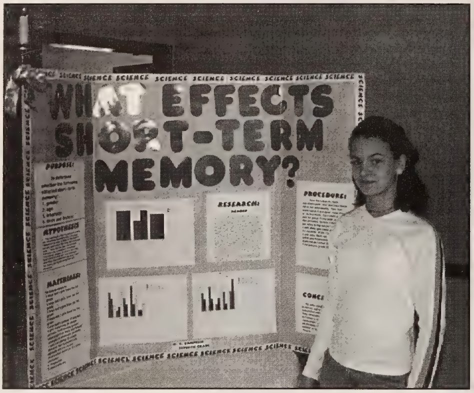

Asheville Catholic school held its annual Science Fair on Feb. 5. After presenting their projects in the classroom, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and teachers scored the projects and selected finalists from each grade. Finalists and overall winners presented the projects to the school during a special assembly. The winning project was created by seventh grader Molly Campbell, who studied "What Effects Short-Term Memory?" Tied for second place were Andrew Whatmore, 6th grade, and Richard Thompson, 8th grade. Whitney Williams, 6th grade, placed third. Class winners were: Andrew Whatmore, Whitney Williams, Patrick Chidnese, Molly Campbell, Ann Marie Coddington, Elizabeth Lamy, Elizabeth Dray, Richard Thompson, Courtney Sinsky and Tyler Whatmore.

Cardinal Law, from page 2

approve direct, humanitarian flights between the United States and Cuba. He also called on Clinton to lift the trade bans put into place by the Helms-Burton Act, and for Congress to pass two bills that would end the ban on food and medicine sales to Cuba.

"The lack of medicines more quickly and cheaply attainable from the United States severely restricts the treatment that can be provided (in Cuba)," Cardinal Law said. "The effects of the lack of sufficient food threaten the most vulnerable members of the population, the old and the young.

"The people of Cuba deserve better than that from us," he continued. "It adds no honor to our country to deprive a people of those necessities which should never be used as bargaining chips. Change is occurring in Cuba. The question is: Do we have the political and moral courage to change?"

Daly, from page 5

people and are therefore able to know their people better (though oddly, their level of church attendance is worse).

Perhaps it is the liturgy itself. In an age of entertainment saturation, people are not always used to participating. Perhaps they expect to be entertained in a way the liturgy cannot provide.

I don't know what the answer is. If they think the liturgies are mundane or uninvolving, imagine how much more exciting liturgies could be if everyone was there and participating.

If they think the parish is too impersonal, imagine how warm and inviting it could be if they would make an effort to greet someone and stay a few minutes after the last hymn to chat.

Perhaps in our push for evangelization as we approach the new millennium, we should figure out where the rest of the body of Christ is and why they are staying away.

Father Peter Daly is a CNS columnist.

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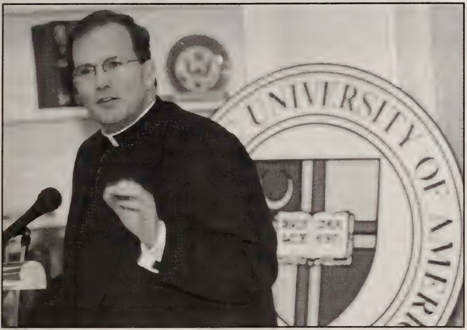

CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

Father David M. O'Connell addresses a news conference after being introduced as the next president of Catholic University of America in Washington March 17. The Vincentian priest, a native of Philadelphia, is an associate vice president and dean at St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y.

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Dietzen,

from page 5

grace, on our sharing in the life of God, we can't place a pound or quart label on which of these is "more" forgiving.

We are dealing with a God whose love for us goes beyond measure, who asks us only to open ourselves to his mercy and redemptive love.

We believe that the church, guided by the Holy Spirit, tells us how, and helps us, to move consciously and reverently into the presence of that mercy.

The Penitential Rite of the Mass is among its ways of doing that.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about cremation and other funeral regulations and customs is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

MACS SCHOOL BOARD OPENINGS

The Mecklenberg Area Catholic Schools Regional Board of Education is seeking applications to fill Board positions for the 1998-99 school year. The three-year terms will begin July 1, 1998. Practicing Catholics who have a child in MACS, intend to enroll a child in MACS or have previously had a child in MACS qualify for Board service. Individuals having MACS committee, PTO or other school experience, are particularly encouraged to apply by sending a resume and letter stating why you would like to serve by April 6, 1998 to:

MACS Nominating Committee
C/o Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
MACS Business Office
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

IN BRIEF:

BMHS Hosts Fund Raiser

WINSTON-SALEM — The Bishop McGuinness High School Home School Association presents its annual dinner and auction fund raiser May 2 in the school gymnasium. The theme for this year's event is "Angels in Paradise" and features a silent and live auction, fine dining and live music. Tickets are $50 per person. Raffle tickets for a $2,500 cash prize are $1 each or $5 for 6. New this year is a raffle for a 1998 Honda CR-V sports utility vehicle or $15,000 cash. A limited number of 350 are available for $100 each. Proceeds for the fund raiser will benefit the school. For more information or to buy tickets, call (336) 725-4247.

Statesville Priest Receives Army Promotion

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Father Peter Fitzgibbons, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, was recently promoted as a Reserve commissioned officer of the U.S. Army. Father Fitzgibbons spent seven years as an Army chaplain, including service in the Persian Gulf War. He has been in the Army Reserves the past two years and is currently the Catholic chaplain for the 312th Field Hospital. Father Fitzgibbons has served as pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church since July 1996.

Mercy Sister Elected To Housing Coalition Board

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Barbara Sullivan was recently elected to serve on the board of directors of the North Carolina Low Income Housing Coalition.

The coalition provides leadership, expertise and support to develop affordable housing programs and strategies for North Carolinians. In addition, it serves as an advocate and repository of information about affordable housing for public officials, the business community, nonprofit organizations and low-income housing consumers.

Sister Barbara has a lengthy record of advocacy in the development of affordable housing. She is the chief executive officer of Catherine's House, a transitional facility in Belmont for homeless women and women with children. She also serves as chairperson for the Belmont Housing Authority. A paralegal, she assists in legal preparation in cases of landlord and tenant disputes as well.

Oratory News

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The members of the Rock Hill Oratory recently assembled to elect officials to govern the congregation for the next three years.

Oratorian Father Joseph A. Wahl was reelected provost (president). The four deputies elected were Oratorian Fathers David Valtierra and Edward McDevitt and Oratorian Brothers Joseph Guyon and David Boone. Father Valtierra was also elected vicar (vice-president).

Each Oratorian congregation is an autonomous house with no central government or province. Members join in a congregation with the intention of spending their lives in the community they joined.

Other Oratorian congregations in the United States are in Monterey, Calif.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Pharr, Texas; and Brooklyn, N.Y. New Oratories in the process of forming are in Philadelphia, Pa.; Chicago, Ill.; and Mt. Pocono, Pa.

The Rock Hill Oratory has been situated in York County since 1934. Members minister at four parishes, one mission, Winthrop University, local hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and other places where ministry is wanted or needed. The Oratory also operates the Center for Spirituality, which offers retreats, spiritual direction, Bible institutes, theology seminars and lay ministry gatherings.

Father Wahl, a native of Jersey City, N.J., was ordained to the priesthood in 1956. His many areas of service have included the pastorates of St. Ann Church in Rock Hill and St. Catherine Church in Lancaster. He has also served as provost of the Oratory in two previous terms. For the Diocese of Charleston, he serves on the presbyteral council and the college of consultors and is the director of the Diocesan Institute for Parish Leadership.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Love and Life Seminar

ASHEVILLE — Junior high and high school students, young adults, parents, teachers and youth ministers are invited to "God's Plan for Love and Life," a retreat facilitated by renown speaker Barbara McGuigan, April 4 at the Basilica of St. Lawrence from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, call the parish office, (704) 252-6042.

Symposium Examines Weaver Philosophy

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College sponsors The Richard M. Weaver Symposium March 27-28. The gathering will focus on the 50th anniversary of the publication of "Ideas Have Consequences" by Richard Weaver, respected philosopher, critic, rhetorician and professor of English at the University of Chicago. Nationally prominent scholars and presenters will examine Weaver's views on order and liberty in society and how they apply today. The symposium is being directed by Belmont Abbey's Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture. The registration cost is $65. To register or for more information, call (704) 829-7231.

"Gift of Life" Program

CHARLOTTE — The African American Affairs Ministry at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., co-sponsors a "Gift of Life" program with LifeShare of the Carolinas April 15 at 7 p.m. at the church. Debbie Gibbs, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte and a LifeShare associate, will be the main speaker. The program is intended to heighten awareness of the need for organ and tissue donations, and will explore the Catholic faith's position on the matter. For more information, call Cheryl Sledge, (704) 847-7854.

Media Resources

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Media Resource Department has a new home in the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St. You are invited stop in at the center to check out videos and books. The celebration of the sacraments and the liturgical seasons are occasions when many schools and parishes need resource materials for instructional use. As such, the media department suggests two weeks' notice for certain items. For more information, call Sister Patricia Durbin, RSM, (704) 370-3241.

Community Mission and Planning Series

CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese St. Joseph's Catholic Community in Charlotte hosts a Lenten mission, "Community Mission for the Year 2000," at St. Ann Church March 20-22. Redemptorist Father Dai An Le from Carthage, Kan., is mission leader. The mission opens with a talk and Mass for the entire community March 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A gathering for leaders of pastoral councils, ministries, religious groups and related entities is March 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. A gathering for youth group leaders and members ages 16 and up is March 22 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. A closing Mass for the entire community is at 4 p.m. For more information, call Minhthu Lynagh, (704) 341-3781, or Father Tan Le, (704) 529-0553.

Interested persons are also welcome to join in the Vietnamese Catholic community's planning for the November opening celebration of the new Vietnamese Catholic church on Sandy Porter Road. Call the above numbers for details.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to forget the past and start anew. The program begins March 27. For further information, call Nick and Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Campus Ministry Series

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte hosts Voices, a series featuring guest speakers and discussion focusing on the voices and stories of the marginalized. Gatherings include potluck dinner. To R.S.V.P., offer to bring a potluck dish if you wish to have dinner, order an accompanying book or receive more information, call (704) 547-4069. The next meeting is March 29 at 6:30 p.m. in Aquinas Hall on the parish grounds of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Rice Bowl Gathering

CLEMMONS — The Secular Franciscans of St. Clare's Fraternity of Winston-Salem offers a simple soup supper March 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the Holy Family Church family center. The event involves participation in Operation Rice Bowl, a Lenten program benefiting the hungry in third-world countries. Donations will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call Ann Michel, SFO, (336) 766-8843.

Craft Fair and Bake Sale

CHARLOTTE — The St. James Church Women's Guild presents its annual spring craft and bake sale April 4 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish enter, 251 N. Union St. More than 30 crafters have created handmade items for the fair, which will also include a variety of baked goods, refreshments and free door prizes.

Campus Ministry Requests Chapel Furnishings

HICKORY — The Lenoir-Rhyne College campus ministry is setting up a prayer chapel and needs furnishings (crosses, crucifix, statues of saints, icons, small holy water font, and so on). If you or your parish has such items which are not being used, and you would be willing to donate or sell them, write to Chaplain Andrew F. Weisner, Box 7354, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, NC 28603; call (704) 328-7248; or send E-mail to <Tyconius@aol.com>.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter is April 3-5 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details, call Michael or Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181, or for reservations call Tom or Emilie Sandin, (336) 274-4424.

Evangelical Mission

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church hosts an evangelical mission, presented by Bill Wegner and Brent Heiser of Good News Ministries, April 3-5. The speakers will discuss their personal experiences in discovering God and renewal in faith. Times are 7 p.m. on April 3, and at 2 p.m. on April 4 and 5. There is no fee, but donations will accepted. For more information, call the parish office, (336) 884-0244.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — A Holy Week silent retreat is April 5-12 and will focus on walking with Jesus from Palm Sunday through the solemnities of the Triduum into Easter Sunday. No conferences will take place. Liturgies will be celebrated in St. Margaret Church. Cost is $225.

"Living Trinitarian Faith" is a May 1-3 retreat focusing on the meaning of the Trinity doctrine and its practical consequences. Glenmary Father John McNearney facilitates. Cost is $95.

Special rates for couples and opportunities for self-conducted retreats are available. A $25 non-refundable deposit is required with each registration. To register, get more information, or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Age of Faith in Concert

MOORESVILLE — Age of Faith performs an outdoor concert with rock songs of praise and worship April 3 at St. Therese Church. All are invited, especially youth groups. Tickets are $5 each, and youth leaders and adults are admitted free. Please RSVP as soon as possible. Group discount applies to groups of 10 or more who respond by March 27. For more information, call Diana Hollenback, (704) 664-7762.

Grief Workshop

WINSTON-SALEM — Rapha Triad presents a free workshop on the grief process following tragic loss March 27 from 11:30-2 p.m. at 3637 Old Vineyard Rd. Author, singer and speaker Renee Coates Scheidt and Dr. David E. Jenkins, clinical psychologist, will present. Two hour certificates of attendance will be presented to participants, and a complimentary lunch is included. To R.S.V.P., call (800) 441-2673, ext. 3271 by March 23.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Lenten Programs

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church hosts "Fridays in Lent," featuring a soup and fish supper at 6 p.m., stations of the cross at 7:30 and faith-enriching talks at 8 each Friday. Upcoming speakers are Father Peter Jugis, diocesan judicial vicar, who will discuss the sacrament of marriage and the annulment process on March 27, and Father Ray Williams, parochial vicar of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, who will reflect on the sacrament of reconciliation on April 3. For more information, call (704) 549-1607.

Capuchin Father Vincent Fortunato leads a Lenten discussion, "Let's Prepare for Holy Week," March 30 at 7 p.m. in St. Matthew Church. The event includes Benediction and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

CONCORD — "Follow Me! Disciples for the 21st Century" is a small group discussion series at St. James Church each Lenten Thursday from 7:30-9 p.m. in the parish center. The focus is on the Holy Spirit and the virtue of hope in relation to the Jubilee Year 2000. Call Mike Leake, (704) 782-8425, for more information.

GASTONIA — "Still," a three-act musical drama, addresses social concerns and the questions people may have when life is not going quite right. Act Three focuses on the themes of Lent and Easter with a portrayal of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. The play is written and directed by Mercy Sister Larretta Williams-Rivera. The first presentation is March 28 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Michael Church, Gastonia. An encore presentation is at Curtin Hall in Belmont on April 4 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call Sister Larretta, (704) 829-5260.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church is among the sponsors of an ecumenical Lenten series each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. through April 4. Lunch is available after each service for $4. For details, call St. Pius X's parish office, (336) 272-4681.

HICKORY — Stations of the Cross and Benediction are hosted by St. Aloysius Church each Lenten Friday through April 3.

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church hosts Benediction and Stations of the Cross each Lenten Friday at 7 p.m.

MONROE — An ecumenical Lenten worship service is at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 12 p.m. on March 25. A light luncheon follows.

Many Lenten programs, retreats and services are being hosted throughout the diocese. For information on those events nearest you, check your bulletin or call your parish office.

World And National News Briefs

Priest In Diocese Of Madison Found Apparently Murdered

MADISON, Wis. (CNS) — The body of a parish priest in the Diocese of Madison was found March 4 in the school at St. Michael Church in Dane after his apparent murder. The body of Father Alfred J. Kunz, pastor at St. Michael Church, was discovered by a teacher who came to open the school just 30 minutes before students would have arrived. Father Kunz, 67, had been pastor of St. Michael's for the past 31 years. He lived in quarters adjoining the school. Dane, a small village north of Madison, has a population of 621. The Dane County Sheriff's Office was investigating the possible murder around the clock.

Public Funding Cuts Hit Catholic Charities In Virgin Islands

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (CNS) — Catholic Charities of the U.S. Virgin Islands is in for some rough financial times because of recent public funding cutbacks. According to a report appearing in the February issue of the Catholic Islander, a 22 percent cut in grant monies, administered by the Virgin Islands Human Services Department, will affect all nonprofit agencies. It is a shortfall in funding of around $85,000 and will seriously impede service to those most in need, Alice Hamilton, the acting executive director of Catholic Charities, told the Catholic newspaper, published by the Diocese of St. Thomas. The Catholic agency runs Bethlehem House Shelters for the Homeless on two islands: a shelter for women and children, and an all-male annex on St. Thomas; and another facility for women and children on St. Croix.

Vatican Issues Ecumenical Formation Guidelines For Church Workers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a new document on ecumenical formation, the Vatican outlined principles and specific course topics to be used in programs for future priests, religious and other pastoral workers. The guidelines, issued March 9, recommend study of a wide range of issues, including the history of Christian divisions, theological points of agreement and disagreement, and main areas of potential dialogue with other churches. Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, which prepared the text, said the document underlined the importance for seminarians and others to know "what ecumenism is and how it should be taught."

Colombian Bishops To Launch Peace And Reconciliation Campaign

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — The president of the Colombian bishops' conference said the bishops will launch a peace and reconciliation campaign now that the country finished one of its bloodiest elections. "In this dramatic and crucial moment, we call all Colombians to reflect and join an effort for peace, reconciliation and respect for life," said the conference president, Archbishop Alberto Giraldo Jaramillo of Medellin, after the voting offices closed March 8. That day Colombians elected their new Congress for a three-year period in the midst of the country's most violent elections in the last 10 years.

Youngstown Bishop Issues Pastoral Letter On Eucharist

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (CNS) — In a pastoral letter, Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of Youngstown has called for regular teaching about the Eucharist throughout his diocese. He urged parishes to "seriously consider re-establishment of traditional practices that foster devotion to the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament." He said recent polls indicating that many Catholics do not believe in Christ's real presence in the Eucharist "raise up serious concerns." Bishop Tobin's pastoral, titled "The Eucharist: To Be Loved, To Be Lived," was published in booklet form and in the March 6 issue of the Catholic Exponent, his diocesan newspaper.

Common Ground: Disagreeing Without Being Disagreeable

OCONOMOWOC, Wis. (CNS) — At a national meeting in Wisconsin, 51 prominent U.S. Catholics of varying ideologies and church perspectives agreed to disagree without being disagreeable. Gathered in Oconomowoc March 6-8 for the second annual Cardinal Bernardin Conference of the Catholic Common Ground Initiative, they debated, challenged, and questioned each other on the topic "Church Authority Within American Culture." A bishop decried bishop-bashing. Some theologians urged increased listening to the "sensus fidelium" ("sense of the faithful") while one of their colleagues argued that consultation with the faithful arouses expectations that later are difficult to quell. No consensus was reached, no statements issued.

U.S. Hunger Study Finds 21 Million People Needing Emergency Food

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 21 million U.S. citizens, including many of the working poor and their children, needed emergency food assistance in 1997, according to a new survey. Another 5 million received food assistance, not in emergency settings such as food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters, but through day care, counseling and high school equivalency programs. The landmark research study — "Hunger 1997: The Faces and Facts" — was commissioned by Second Harvest, the nationwide network of 186 community food banks.

Brazilian Bishops: Court's Decision Favors Killing of 'Excluded'

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS) — The Brazilian bishops' Indigenous Missionary Council condemned the decision by a Brazilian court not to try the case of five teen-agers accused of killing an indigenous man in Brasilia as murder. The five youths admitted that last April, they doused the body of Galdino Jesus dos Santos with alcohol as he slept at a bus stop, then set him on fire. The court decided in early March to charge four youths with manslaughter and not second-degree murder, thus ending the need for a trial by peers. The other youth, a minor, was sentenced to three years in juvenile detention but allowed to serve his sentence at home.

CNS photo from Reuters

Chinese girls bring up the offertory gifts during Mass celebrated in government-approved St. Joseph's Church in Beijing. Although Chinese bishops will not attend the Synod of Bishops for Asia, the "open" and "underground" churches of China will likely be discussed during the April 19-May 14 meetings at the Vatican.

New Vatican Documents Discuss Formation Of Permanent Deacons

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Permanent deacons are ordained ministers whose spiritual and intellectual preparation must prepare them to be models of Christ the servant, said two new Vatican documents. The permanent diaconate is a vocation sealed by the Sacrament of Holy Orders, which is reserved to men, Vatican officials said during their March 10 presentation of the documents. The Vatican published "Fundamental Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons," by the Congregation for Catholic Education, and the "Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons," by the Congregation for Clergy, in a single 144-page volume available only in Italian.

Blue-Chip Ad Firm To Promote CCC In Pro Bono Campaign

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Saatchi & Saatchi, an advertising firm known for such blue-chip multinational clients as Delta Air Lines, DuPont and Eastman Kodak, is developing pro bono a public service ad campaign for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign. The ad campaign was announced March 10 by Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla. He is chairman of the U.S. Catholic bishops' Committee on Communications, which oversees the CCC. According to the announcement, the campaign will stress the power of people to forgive one another and is part of the Catholic Church's efforts to prepare for the third millennium and Great Jubilee Year 2000.

Father Burghardt's 11th Book Of Homilies Published

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Paulist Press has published the 11th volume of homilies by Jesuit Father Walter J. Burghardt, who last year was the only Catholic on Baylor University's list of the 12 most effective preachers in the English-speaking world. Titled "Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters," the 288-page volume includes 47 homilies for various Sundays, saints' feasts and other occasions. It also includes two comprehensive indexes of all 11 volumes, one arranged by the Scripture readings each homily was based on, the other by the Sunday, feast or other occasion on which the homily was delivered.

Vatican Envoys To Africa Discuss Continent's Ethnic Tensions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican called together its ambassadors to African nations to discuss ways the Catholic Church could promote democracy, respect for human rights and an end to ethnic conflicts on the continent. The Vatican described the March 10-11 meeting as "an interesting exchange of information and evaluation of various aspects of the political, social and religious situation on the African continent." According to the Vatican's March 12 statement, Pope John Paul II met the two dozen nuncios at the end of the meeting "and thanked them for the work which they perform at the service of the church and for the peaceful coexistence of the African peoples."

Peace In Kosovo Still Possible, Says Bishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A peaceful solution to the crisis in the Kosovo region of Yugoslavia is still possible, but the Catholic Church can only offer limited help achieving it, the region's bishop said. In an interview published March 11 by Fides, the news service of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Auxiliary Bishop Marko Sopi of Skopje-Prizren, Macedonia, said the roughly 60,000 Catholics in Kosovo are caught in the middle of the conflict. On at least one occasion, Bishop Sopi said, police had beaten and otherwise mistreated Catholics as they emerged from a recent Sunday Mass.

National Plan Hatched To Foster Strong Marriages

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A plan to keep good marriages from going bad, and to stop bad marriages before they start, will soon be going nationwide. Backers of the plan, called Marriage Savers, say the program has found homes in 80 cities in 32 states, and point to dramatic reductions in divorce rates in cities where the program has been implemented. Journalist and author Mike McManus, a Presbyterian layman who founded Marriage Savers with his wife, Harriet, said at a press conference in Washington that the Catholic Church has been a leader in marriage preparation programs that other churches could emulate. McManus singled out the six-month — or longer — preparation period required in U.S. dioceses, plus the Engaged Encounter, Marriage Encounter and Retrouvaille programs offered by Catholic dioceses and parishes nationwide.

Parish Profile

Our Lady of the Angels Church

MARION — During the mid-1940s, the nearest Catholic churches to the McDowell County town of Marion were a few dozen miles away, in Swannanoa to the west, Spruce Pine to the north, and Morganton to the east. It was the gathering of that small Catholic community in Morganton that led to the establishment of Our Lady of the Angels Church in Marion.

Father William McShea celebrated Masses in a Hickory hotel and in a private home in Morganton during the mid-1940s. His successor, Father James King, began traveling to Marion as well to celebrate liturgies in the county courthouse.

In 1953, the Marion Catholic community purchased a house on South Main Street and prepared it for use as a chapel.

Years later, the Catholics in town began to save money for a new church. Property was eventually purchased on Fleming Avenue, and by 1970 the community was planning to begin construction. Plans were put into motion several years later, and in September 1976 Marion Catholics celebrated the completed construction of Our Lady of the Angels Church.

The church was canonically established as a mission of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Morganton, although especially in recent years it has become increasingly more independent.

The Catholic community in Marion has participated in a number of church and civic outreach programs and services, among them Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity and volunteer work at the local senior center.

The late John Gallen, a permanent deacon of the Diocese of Charlotte, is noted by the congregation for his longtime leadership in parish ministerial life, particularly prison ministry. His legacy of service continues at Our Lady of the Angels Church through the congregation's activities in church and community life.

Further growth and vitality has been fostered in part by Father Jerome Aung Shwe, a priest from Burma in residence at Marion. With his presence there, Our Lady of the Angels Church maintains a full Mass schedule, including a Spanish Mass for the growing immigrant Hispanic population.

Father Kenneth Whittington, pictured above, has served as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton and Our Lady of the Angels Church in Marion since 1992.

Our Lady of the Angels Church

Marion, NC 28752
(704) 652-8690

Vicariate:
Hickory

Pastor:
Father Kenneth Whittington

Priest in residence:
Father Jerome Aung Shwe

In San Salvador, Crypt Of Romero To Be Opened To Public

By MIKE LANCHIN

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — For the first time in recent years, ordinary Salvadorans will be able to visit the crypt of Archbishop Oscar A. Romero on the anniversary of his murder, the San Salvador Archdiocese announced.

Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle of San Salvador said March 15 that the general public will be given access to the tomb, which lies beneath the partially reconstructed metropolitan cathedral, as part of the religious activities to mark Archbishop Romero's death.

The cathedral, which lies in the busy city center, has been closed for the past eight years due to a long rebuilding process. It was last opened for the visit of Pope John Paul II in February 1996 and for the funeral of Archbishop Saenz's predecessor, Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas, in November 1993.

Archbishop Saenz said a Mass for the dead will be celebrated in parishes around the country March 24, the day in 1980 Archbishop Romero was shot by a death squad while celebrating Mass in a chapel in San Salvador.

In previous years religious groups and community organizations have also organized street parades to mark the day.

The archbishop also announced that in April, Father Rafael Urrutia and Father Jesus Delgado will travel to Rome to assist in the process of beatification of Archbishop Romero, currently under consideration in the Vatican.

"The two vice postulators (for the sainthood cause of Archbishop Romero) will go to meet the vice postulator in Rome and give the cause a nudge along its way," Archbishop Saenz told reporters.

Father Urrutia and Father Delgado, both close to Archbishop Romero during his three years as the head of the archdiocese, have been working closely with the canonization process since it was initiated in 1990.

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For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 7 Number 30 • April 3, 1998

Bishop Curlin Returns From "Ad Limina" Visit

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin returned from Rome last week, having completed his report to Pope John Paul II on the state of the Charlotte Diocese. The experience, he said, was a call to recommitment.

"It truly was a spiritual pilgrimage," the bishop said of the visit. "The first place we bishops celebrated Mass was at the tomb of Peter. I remember the sense of God's presence at that moment.

"We came to that holy place to reconsecrate our lives and our ministry as successors to the Apostles. It was very humbling."

The "ad limina" is a visit made to Rome every five years by the head of each Catholic diocese in the world. The visit includes a series of meetings with Vatican officials on matters affecting the church and a private meeting with the pontiff to discuss diocesan issues.

Bishop Curlin was among some two dozen bishops from the southeastern United States in Rome March 15-27 for the "ad limina." The Diocese of Charlotte is part of Region 4, one of 13 regions in the U.S.

"I told the Holy Father of the wonderful generosity of our people, and that I bring with me their prayers and love for him," Bishop Curlin said. His meeting with the pope, which lasted for about 15 minutes, included dialogue about:

- the rapid increase in the number of Catholics in western North Carolina;
- the Catholic schools, youth ministry and faith formation programs in the diocese;
- the rise of multicultural ministry in the diocese, especially to Hispanic, Korean and Vietnamese families;
- the strong identity of African-American Catholics in the diocese;
- vocations in the diocese and the growing seminarian program, in which 29 men are currently enrolled.

Bishop Curlin and his fellow bishops joined the pope for a Mass in the private papal chapel, and concelebrated the ordination of three of the pontiff's closest aides to the office of bishop. The pope also dined with several bishops at a time to talk about church and world affairs.

The bishops met with officials of Vatican congregations and councils to converse about particular areas of ministry. Each diocese sends a status report to Rome prior to the bishops' visits.

"We shared with them our general and particular concerns, and they shared how they can help us in our work," Bishop Curlin said. "That was very encouraging."

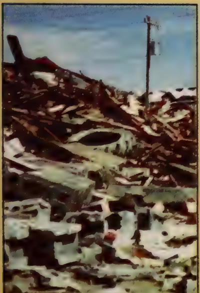
The visit included bidding farewell to a brother shepherd, Bishop John R. Keating of Arlington, who died in Rome following a heart attack the evening of March 21-22.

"That was a moment of great sadness, because we knew him so well," Bishop Curlin said of his friend of 15 years. "He was from our region; we made retreats together and attended meetings. He truly loved his work."

The Region 4 bishops celebrated a Mass for Bishop Keating March 24 at the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome where Bishop Keating spent several years studying for the priesthood.

See **Ad Limina**, page 2

Pope John Paul II and Bishop William G. Curlin are shown during the recent "ad limina" visit by bishops from the southeastern United States. Bishop Curlin was making his second "ad limina" visit and his first as ordinary of the Diocese of Charlotte.



A March 20 tornado reduced Claybrook Tire Recapping in downtown Stoneville to mangled heaps of wreckage. A 25-year-old woman was killed at this site, pictured here one week after the storm touched down.

Photos by Jimmy Rostar

Tornado Torments Rockingham County

Eden Parish Spared, Joins Relief Effort

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY — The tornado that damaged or destroyed more than 300 structures in Rockingham County spared St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden, and the Catholic parish has joined local communities as they set forth to rebuild homes, businesses and lives.

Within hours after the twister tore through on the afternoon of March 20, Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara, administrator of St. Joseph of the Hills Church, ventured out to check on parishioners living in the storm's trail.

"You see images like that in photographs and on television, but it's especially terrifying to see the destruction of a tornado in person," Sister Bernadette said. "People were just stunned; no one was prepared.

"But to see the help and support

See **Tornado**, page 3

United Way President's Faith Guides Her Each Day

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — As president of United Way of Carolinas, Inc., Gloria Pace King oversees the day-to-day operation of one of the area's largest and most successful non-profit organizations. Her 1997 fund-raising campaign created national headlines when it raised $26.5 million, nearly 20 percent growth over the previous year.

Her drive to succeed was instilled by her parents, who would not allow their children to settle for mediocrity.

King also sets those high standards in her faith life. A member of St. Peter Church, she asks the Lord to guide her through each day's challenges; King also ends each day by taking time to reflect. "I don't close my eyes at night — I don't care how tired I am — without praying," she said. "I offer thanks for my family and health, and even though my father passed away 10 years ago, I still ask for his eternal rest, because all these things are important to me.

"I try to live a faith-filled life and make it a part of everything I do," she added.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, King was brought up in an AME Zion household before realizing as a teen-ager "there was something different I was personally looking for." An invitation from some friends led Gloria to a catechism class at a local parish, and at age 16, King was baptized into the Catholic faith.

Gloria Pace King

Her parents were supportive, and their support was even further solidified when they allowed Gloria to attend a private, all-girls Catholic high school during her junior and senior years.

"This had some implications because it wasn't free, but they thought it was an excellent educational opportunity for me to go to a top-notch school, so they agreed," King added.

King's Catholic education continued when she enrolled at John Carroll University, then St. Alexis Hospital School of Nursing, both in Cleveland. "I applied to three nursing schools, and St. Alexis was the only one where I got accepted," she noted.

After earning her degree, King worked third shift for two years at Cleveland's University Hospital. She grew tired of the long hours and inflexible schedule and learned of a position at St. Vincent's Charity Hospital. She stayed there 14 years, calling the time spent at St. Vincent's one of the best experiences of her life. "Again, it wasn't by design, but I found myself in a Catholic institution and things worked out really well for me there," she said.

While working at St. Vincent's, King pursued and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Cleveland State University and a master's in business administration from Baldwin Wallace College.

King's career also saw her serve as president and chief executive officer of the Visiting Nursing Association of Cleveland for eight years. In 1988, she joined United Way Services in Cleveland and served as vice-president of planning, allocations and government relations and later senior vice president of community investment and resource management until moving to her current position in May 1994.

Since arriving in Charlotte, King has become active in various civic and professional groups, including the board of advisors of Carolinas Healthcare System, the board of Leadership Charlotte, and the board of trustees at Belmont Abbey College — the only Catholic college in the Carolinas, to name a few.

"I hope I am able to bring to these experiences what I am getting the benefit of by participating in them," she said.

King's children, Kara, 23, a graduate student at UNC-Charlotte, and Rhett, 21, a senior at Morehouse College in Atlanta who plans to attend law school, are also Catholic schools graduates and mirror the high standards set by King's parents many years before. "When we look back, there aren't many things we have that don't come from somebody," she said. "We are all products of our past experiences."

Ad Limina,

from page 1

Bishop Curlin said a theme of preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 pervaded this "ad limina," adding that the pope has issued "a plea to look at the millennium as a time of a great spiritual reawakening in the church, a time of rediscovering God in people's lives."

The bishop said Pope John Paul II's preaching sparked much reflection on the true universality of the church and the leadership of its chief shepherd. "The Holy Father impresses you as a very holy man, not just as a man of great experience and knowledge," he added. "He has such a strong will to fulfill his ministry, and it's astounding to witness how he can move so many hearts."

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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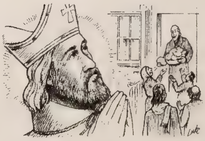
Isidore of Seville



Isidore, a very learned man and remarkable educator, became bishop of Seville, Spain, in the early seventh century. He presided over important councils and ordered that a seminary or school be set up in each diocese. Notable works are attributed to him, including Origins, a compilation of information resembling an encyclopedia. Other writings centered on theological and church issues. St. Isidore was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1722. His feast is April 4.

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

Readings for the week of
April 5 — April 11, 1998

Palm Sunday
Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Luke 23:1-49

Monday
Isaiah 42:1-7
John 12:1-11

Tuesday
Isaiah 49:1-6
John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday
Isaiah 50:4-9
Matthew 26:14-25

Holy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

Holy Saturday
Exodus 14:15—16.1
Romans 6:3-11
Luke 24:1-12

School Shootings Are A Wake-Up Call, Experts Say

By CAROL ZIMMERMAN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the days following the shooting at Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Ark., people everywhere were trying to make sense of the horrible news that two boys, a 13-year-old and an 11-year-old, had allegedly gunned down their classmates, killing four students and a teacher and wounding 10 others.

But eventually people will stop talking about the March 24 incident and the wave of school shootings that have preceded it — five in the past two-and-a-half years. "People will forget and put it out of their minds," said Paul Jose, an associate professor of psychology at Loyola University in Chicago.

"And that's too bad," he told Catholic News Service, "because clearly there are things we can do."

Jose is quick to add his voice to countless others who advocate more gun control, but he also readily admits that there is more to the recent shootings than just access to guns.

"People try to come to grips" with the Arkansas shooting and "make it explainable, make it preventable," he said. But as he sees it, this incident does not fit in such a neat category because "it was not totally predictable or preventable."

He points a finger at adolescent immaturity and what goes along with that — a failure to understand long-term effects of one's actions. He also says young people face more stress today than decades ago, often dealing with their parents' difficulties, divorces and financial concerns.

"Kids are growing up fast, but they also don't function well" with the added responsibilities and can tend to deal with stress either by becoming withdrawn or exerting anger, he said.

The trouble is, in the heat of the moment, angry kids are picking up guns, whereas 30 years ago, he pointed out, "there would have been a fistfight and maybe a bloody nose" — not something with lasting consequences.

He's also convinced that schools should do a better job of identifying and getting help for students who are prone to aggressive behavior.

Vincent C. Gray, executive director of Covenant House in Washington, is also a big advocate for working with young people before problems occur, primarily to teach them how to resolve conflict.

He hopes the isolated school shootings do not make people condemn all youths as participants in violent crime. "Juvenile crime is down since 1996," he said. "It's tragedies as heinous as this one (in Arkansas) that color people's perceptions."

Although the motives are still unclear in the Arkansas school shooting, the word among the students is that a suspected shooter, Mitchell Johnson, was mad that a girl had broken up with him.

"There's nothing new about adolescent breakups," said Gray. "Adolescent relationships come and go." What is new, he added, is that today "the stakes have increased and people see violence as a way to solve problems."

Young people need to be taught how to deal with the hurt that goes along with unrequited love, he added.

Following the shooting, parents collectively seemed to raise the question of how they could prevent their own children from doing something similar.

At Covenant House, and in many schools and youth programs across the country, young people are taught mediation skills and problem solving with an eye to compromise, not to win at all costs.

"As much prevention as you can do" is never in vain, according to Gray, because he sees it as creating a need for "less repair" in the long run.

St. Patrick Cathedral

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Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

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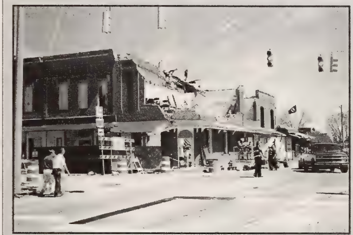
Tornado, from page 1

from all over the area is gratifying. People are coming together, thanking God they are alive."

St. Joseph of the Hills Church offered two second collections to the relief effort, and parishioners have donated food, clothing, labor and other supplies and services.



"I looked up, and there were big oil trucks from across the street flying through the air. I just stood there, and I thought I was dying. I was praying out loud, because I really thought this was the end. They tell me it took about 15 seconds to come through here; it seemed a lot longer. It was the worst thing I've ever seen in my life." — Patty Solomon, parishioner of St. Joseph of the Hills Church, who witnessed the tornado tear through downtown Stoneville while working at Sparky's convenience store on Main Street.

Several Triad-area Catholic churches to the south have assisted financially as well.

The twister began its path of fury at Mayodan, a small mill town near the county's western border, and smashed its way northeast to Stoneville. In minutes, the tornado killed two people, injured more than two dozen others and left entire city blocks in ruins. The majority of the winds averaged 125 miles per hour.

One week later, chainsaws roared and bulldozers razed as the clean-up continued. The bright, blue springtime skies provided a stark contrast to the injured landscape's twisted trees and battered buildings — testimony of the wind, rain and hail of seven days earlier.

None of St. Joseph of the Hills Church's parishioners reported major injuries or damage to personal property, although the needs of their neighbors are significant. In downtown Stoneville alone, the devastation is estimated at $5.5 million. Estimated damage to a textile plant in Mayodan exceeds $25 million.

Further help will be needed for months to come. In addition to federal, state and local government assistance, the Red Cross, civic groups, businesses, banks, media, churches and concerned citizens have pitched in. The county's Salvation Army has set up a supply station in a Stoneville tobacco warehouse.

"Back in January, we had a meeting to plan the whole year out. Now we've been reduced back to day-to-day." — Tom Fox, parishioner of Mayodan United Methodist Church, Mayodan. Pictured from left at the site of the destroyed church are Fox, fellow parishioner Charles Martin and Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara, administrator of St. Joseph of the Hills Catholic Church, Eden.

Financial contributions, non-perishable food, lumber, cleaning supplies, household items and toiletries are among the most pressing needs, Sister Bernadette said.

Though devastated, the small towns of Rockingham County will rebound thanks to their people's concern, said Rev. Mr. Jerry Potkay, permanent deacon at St. Joseph of the Hills Church. "It's all coming together now," he added. "The spirit of brotherly love is really being demonstrated in the aftermath."

"There was one woman who was in a mobile home. The tornado picked it up and threw her out. She looked up and she could see her home just comin' apart. It got tore to pieces." — Wayne Carter, parishioner of St. Joseph of the Hills Catholic Church, Eden

Want to help? You can assist the Rockingham County tornado relief effort by making contributions at any BB&T bank. Call Shirley Frye at WFMY-TV, (336) 379-9369, for more information. To donate supplies, call the Salvation Army, (704) 522-4970. Contributions can also be sent to The Red Cross of Rockingham County, 3692 N.C. 14, Reidsville, NC 27320, (800) 435-7669.

Pro-Life Corner

For the littlest of children, that as they acclaimed Christ on his entrance to Jerusalem, they might know his love and protection at every moment of their lives;
We pray to the Lord.

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 3 — 9:15 a.m.
First Friday Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 5 — 11 a.m.
Passion/Palm Sunday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 6 — 7:30 p.m.
Penance Service
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

April 7 — 12 noon
Chrism Mass
Blessing of the Sacred Oils and Recommitment of Clergy to Priestly Ministry
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 8 — 7:30 p.m.
Meeting with RCIA Candidates
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 9 — 7:30 p.m.
Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 10 — 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday, Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 11 — 8 p.m.
Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 12 — 11 a.m.
Easter Sunday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

THE CATHOLIC
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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience March 25.

Dear brothers and sisters,

After my pastoral visit to Nigeria for the beatification of Father Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi, I take this opportunity to thank God for this gift of the church in Nigeria to the universal church, the gift of an outstanding model of holiness and priestly zeal. In Nigeria I met a young and lively church, firmly built on the work of wise and intrepid missionaries and now full of hope for the future.

I wish to express my thanks to the head of state and the authorities of the country for their sincere welcome and hospitality. I pray that my visit will encourage everyone to intensify the quest for reconciliation and respect for justice in public life.

With deep appreciation, I thank the bishops of Nigeria who shared with me the joy of celebrating Mass at Onitsha and Abuja in the presence of immense numbers of the faithful. I encourage the priests, religious and lay faithful to continue on the path of Christian growth and generous service to the common good of the whole nation.

During this visit I also had a significant meeting with the Muslim leaders of Nigeria, with the aim of fostering ever better understanding and cooperation.

From heaven, may Blessed Tansi intercede for his fellow Nigerians and for all the people of Africa as they seek to be faithful to God, as Mary was when she fully accepted God's plan for her at the Annunciation, which we commemorate today.

I extend a cordial welcome to the English-speaking visitors and pilgrims, especially to the members of the Society of Missionaries of Africa. Thank you for your commitment to that dearly beloved continent. Upon the visitors from England, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and the United States I invoke the grace and peace of the Lord.

Pope Discusses Youth, Aging During Rome Parish Visit

ROME (CNS) — Youth and the reality of aging were on Pope John Paul II's mind during his visit to The Adolescent Jesus Parish in Rome.

"The very title of your parish is a call to pay attention to and care for new generations," the 77-year-old pope said March 29 during his homily.

"At almost 80 years old, I try to keep myself young, and I meet with young people everywhere," the pope told young parishioners after the Mass.

"These young people are happy that I am with them; they don't see my years; they rejuvenate me," he said. Pope John Paul said it is beautiful to be young because the future holds so much promise.

"But if one is 80, does he still have prospects?" the pope asked. "Yes, because he sees the possibility of eternal life."

As Easter approaches, he said, Christians all over the world reflect on the fact that Christ, rising from the dead, ensured everyone's final victory over death. The pope's homily at the parish Mass and his Angelus address at the Vatican later focused on the Gospel story of the woman caught in adultery and threatened with stoning.

When Jesus told the crowd that whoever was without sin should throw the first stone, he was saying more than that judgment belongs to God, the pope said.

"He reveals to us the true meaning of divine mercy, which leaves open the possibility of repentance and sheds light on his great respect for the dignity of the person, which even sin cannot take away," the pope said in his homily.

Too often, he said, people equate a person with the sinful behavior he or she commits. The Gospel story, on the other hand, is truly "good news" for every sinner and an example of how Christians should treat others.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

The Lent to Easter Love Story: How Can I Find God?

The book title grabbed me — "How Can I Find God?" (Triumph Books). In this publication, James Martin has collected answers from 68 people, some famous, some unknown.

Martin said the book came about after a close friend who had lost touch with religion and church asked him the question. After responding as best he could how his friend could find God, Martin, a Jesuit scholastic preparing for ordination to the priesthood, decided to ask people of many different faiths how they would answer.

Each contribution prodded me to explore how I would answer.

I sense that most of the contributors stumbled a bit before they put their thoughts on paper. For the question goes to the heart of everything about us, from our origins to our destiny. It's never easy to put something that profound into words.

"First of all, relax, and be assured that God is also seeking you," wrote Kathleen Norris, poet and author of "Dakota" and "The Cloister Walk."

Dr. Robert Coles, the Harvard child psychiatrist and writer, answered, "We find God, I think, through others — through the love we learn to offer them, through the love we learn to receive from them — no small achievement and indeed a lifelong effort. We find God with difficulty — the obstacle of pride is always there."

The briefest answer came from Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel. "How do I find God? you ask. I do not know how, but I do know where — in my fellow man."

Chris Erikson, a 33-year-old Nebraska farmer, responded: "How can we find God? He is all around us. The essence of our very existence. When we look at God's creation, we see the wonderful work of the almighty hand. I find God in the soil I till, the crops I grow, the water I use — all working together to provide food.... I see God in other people through their acts of kindness and caring. And I believe you can find God in the way our universe functions, in the intricate and magnificent way it operates.... If you have faith, all you have to do is open your eyes and God is easy to find."

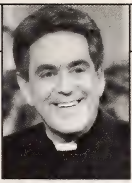
I could imagine myself saying very similar things to those quoted here. But I myself couldn't think of God without including his son Jesus. I spent this past Lenten season in the darkness of personal suffering remembered, but not in isolation. For I do not suffer alone. Jesus suffers with me, even as he promises that from his pain, from our pain, will come great joy.

It was a grace for me to find this book. I asked myself, "How can I find God?" And the answer shouted back to me: I find God right now, in holding Jesus' hand and living with him the Lent to Easter love story.

Antoinette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Shalom! Peace!

On Sunday, as on every Easter, Christians everywhere celebrate Jesus' final victory, the fulfillment of his life and ministry. The Prince of Peace has conquered, not by the power of the sword, but by the power of love. Easter is the day which puts us at peace with God, at peace with ourselves, at peace with one another and at peace with the world.

In Hebrew, the biblical word for this peace is "shalom," a word that expresses complete fulfillment, being in a right relationship. There is nothing better you can wish for yourself and others. When a friend comes along and you say, "Shalom," you have wished the best of everything. The word connotes much more than the English definition: the absence of warfare, discord, disharmony, and confusion. Rather it is the presence of harmony and wholeness. This is what Jesus means when he comes into the midst of his friends, offering them the gift of wholeness of life.

Deep down inside, we all want to be fully and completely the person God created us to be. And this is what shalom is. The first Christmas, angels sang "On earth peace, among those whom he favors." On the very last night of his earthly life, while in the upper room, Jesus said to his disciples, "My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give it to you." And, in between, again and again, he offered this gift of peace, of shalom. And so, taking a cue from the prophecy of Isaiah, we call him the "Prince of Peace," the one who has the authority and the power to make this gift of wholeness of life real to us.

This peace really changes our whole way of looking at God and at life's meaning and purpose — if we let it. We cannot, we will not experience "shalom" unless we enter into, identify with, and become part of Jesus' victory over darkness and despair. When you have the shalom of God, your spiritual, mental, even physical health is affected in a very positive way.

Look at the conversations Jesus had with others who needed this healing in one way or another. There was Zaccheaus the tax collector, perched in a sycamore tree, trying to see who Jesus was. There was the Pharisee, Nicodemus, who sought Jesus out in the dead of night to ask about the Kingdom. There was the woman at the well in Samaria whose life was beset with moral and religious confusion. There was Martha who was trying to serve Jesus yet "worried and distracted by many things." And there were all those others we read about in the bible who confronted Jesus with their infirmities and hurts and problems. In each of these cases Jesus entered into conversation with these people and made God real to them.

Jesus brought the reality of God's loving presence into their lives — disharmony and terrible chaos was transformed into a new completeness, a new wholeness. It is vitally important this Easter to become aware, more than ever before, of the reality of God's presence in our lives.

Jesus comes to you as the Prince of Peace. Wherever you are right now, he confronts you with the reality of God's presence. He engages you in conversation, telling you, over and over again, "God is with you. God loves you. God wants to be at the center of your life. Peace be with you."

"Shalom! Shalom!"

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note "Living Peace Giving Peace," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Baptisms at Mass

Q. Our new pastor has begun having baptisms at Sunday Mass, if requested. Otherwise they are on Sunday afternoon.

Almost every Sunday we have not only parents, godparents and children around the altar after the homily, but a host of cameras and video recorders in full action at the font.

At the end, the congregation applauds, and Mass is resumed.

A neighboring priest told me he disagrees. Nothing should disrupt the continuity of the Mass, he says. The church provides special liturgies (funerals, weddings) when interruptions are expected by the congregation. Who is right?

A. The church's liturgy provides for, and sometimes highly recommends, the celebration during Mass of all the sacraments except penance.

Confirmation, holy orders, and marriage (at least when both people are Catholic) are routinely celebrated during Mass. The ritual for care of the sick includes a ceremony for anointing of the sick after the homily at Mass.

It is just assumed that baptism of adults will always take place at Mass, either at the Easter Vigil or another time (Christian Initiation of Adults, 209).

Baptism of children may be celebrated during Sunday Mass "so the entire community may be present and the necessary relationship between baptism and the Eucharist may be clearly seen" (Rite of Baptism for Children, 9).

Interestingly, the quote I just gave regarding baptism of children ends by saying, "This (baptism at Sunday Mass) should not be done too often."

The concern is, of course, that the practice could become tedious for people, and inappropriately lengthen the Mass.

That does not need to happen. Some parts of the baptism ceremony, (naming and signing of the child with the cross, blessing of the baptism water if necessary) may be done privately before Mass.

Other parts may be omitted or are already included in the Mass (Scripture reading, profession of faith, the Lord's Prayer, final blessings).

In my experience, if well prepared, a baptism need not add more than a few minutes to the Mass. And the photo extravaganza can easily be controlled.

So, while there's nothing wrong or improper with what your pastor is doing, much depends on what a parish is accustomed to, how it understands the connection between baptism and Eucharist, and how the ceremony is carried out.

The Nicolaitans

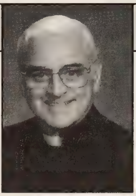
Q. Who were the Nicolaitans? In Revelation, Jesus commends one church for hating them and praises another for condemning them (Rev 2:6,15). What was their problem?

A. Apparently, the Nicolaitans were one of several sects or trends in early Christianity attacked by the apostles for their rejection of any moral norms and their ambiguity in cooperating with Ro-

See **Dietzen,** page 16

Spirituality For Today

Father John Catoir



Addictions and the Spiritual Healing of Easter

At Easter we celebrate the victory of life over death. Jesus showed us that joy truly triumphs over sorrow.

Sometimes it is difficult to see victory and joy in this world, but look again. A symbol of spiritual victory occurs every time someone recovers from substance abuse.

Alcohol and drug addictions are chronic illnesses which need medical and psychological treatment. However, the success of the 12-Step program shows that these diseases respond to spiritual healing.

The soul has a profound need for intimate consolation. After being separated from the warm comfort of the womb, a baby immediately cries for help. Instinctively the infant's mouth is ready to receive milk. After two years of nursing or bottle feeding, the child becomes orally fixated. Relief comes through the mouth.

Later in life this oral gratification continues in different forms — smoking, overeating, excessive drinking and pill-popping.

The 12-Step program teaches recovering addicts a different way to satisfy their spiritual hunger using the mind instead of the mouth. St. Augustine said, "Our souls are restless until they rest in Thee, O Lord." Our restlessness is often found in our hunger for God.

We care for the soul by improving our conscious contact with God. For example, John Doe has been using drugs since he was 15. At age 19, after a year in prison, he finally admits that he is powerless over drugs. He embraces the 12-Step program and in so doing turns his life over to God as he understands God.

His soul has been starving for spiritual nourishment, and now he seeks supernatural food instead of some chemical. As he turns his life over to his higher power, divine love flows into his soul.

Ideally, each day he engages in wordless prayer for 15 minutes, and gradually the need for alcohol or drugs becomes less insistent. By the grace of God, he finds he can stay clean and sober one day at a time. He did it by depending on God, not drugs.

Millions of recovering addicts testify to the success of this mysterious process. They learned that sobriety becomes possible when the underlying need for the artificial substance subsides. We know that addicts can transcend their problems with the help of God.

Addiction is a chronic illness which can be treated medically, but it is also a spiritual disorder. The essential thing in recovery is humility and a spirit of surrender.

C.S. Lewis, the British writer, once said: "There are two kinds of people. Those who say, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'OK, do it your way.'"

The spiritual healing of Easter is only possible when you die to yourself as Jesus did.

Father John Catoir is a CNS columnist.

Lenoir-Rhyne Colloquium Discusses Papal Address, Message To Youth In Cuba During January Visit

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — During his historical visit to Cuba in January, Pope John Paul II delivered a heartfelt address to youth, a conversation full of direction and hope. The Holy Father's words at Camaguey not only resonated with Cuban youth, they also touched young people throughout the world, including students at Lenoir-Rhyne College.

At a colloquium sponsored by the Lutheran school March 14, students had an opportunity to share their thoughts about the pope's message. Pastor Andrew Weisner, campus minister and facilitator of the event, gave participants a copy of Pope John Paul II's homily to the Cuban youth beforehand so people would have time to reflect on it. Colloquium participants also included area clergy and laity who attend the college's monthly series.

"I believe that his message is applicable to the youth of western culture in general, not only Cuba," said Pastor Weisner. Students in attendance agreed, adding that the pope's words had meaning for them because they also confronted the same social problems prevalent in Cuba such as crime, drugs, self-indulgence and materialism.

In his message, Pope John Paul II addressed those problems and tried to present an alternate way of life, a blueprint for true happiness that can only be obtained by pursuing virtue. One of the temptations of youth, the pope said, was the rejection of legitimate authority. Students at the colloquium, many who are not Catholic, mentioned the Holy Father as a legitimate authoritative figure and shared their disillusionment with others in authoritative positions.

"In Cuba, the only authority is the state. It is considered the messianic savior but has failed the people," said Dr. Robert Winter, head of the Lenoir-Rhyne art department, whose insight into Cuba comes from extensive study and his experiences while living in Argentina during a time of social unrest. "The pope, as shepherd and verbum incarnate, is pointing to the universal authority, Christ, and those who represent him."

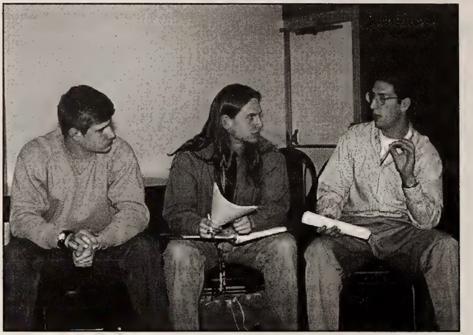


Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Lenoir-Rhyne students share their thoughts on the pope's message to Cuban youth.

Brian Keaser, a junior psychology major, felt Pope John Paul II was 'prophetic' when he said, "Be assured that God does not hinder or waste your youth nor does he disturb your happiness....God's power gradually brings about the growth of the whole person in body, mind and heart...." Keaser was searching for concrete proof that happiness can be maintained, even through the sacrifice and self-denial which the pope earlier described as essential for Christian witness. Although examples such as Mother Teresa exist, participants concluded that it takes faith to believe these challenging ideas.

There was also discussion about the pope's description of "a crisis of identity" which is "causing young people to live meaningless lives, without direction or plans for the future, suffocated by immediate concerns."

Sarah Hinlicky, a theology and philosophy major, sees a similar crisis among youth in the U.S. "Our parents were idealistic and rejected the traditions of their parents, but their ideas failed them and left them cynical. Our generation has been given the cynicism of our parent's generation with no traditions to rely on, so we have had to pave our own way," she said, adding the pope's message was providing guidance to Cuban youth who have been greatly deprived of their religious identity through government interference.

Dr. Winter believes the Holy Father has given the young people in Cuba an anchor. "When Fidel Castro dies, there will be turmoil, and they will need something concrete to turn to," he said. "The pope is not handing out a way of life, saying try it. He is saying, here is the way, test it."

The words of a young Cuban man who addressed the pontiff before the Camaguey Mass demonstrate a yearning for more. "We come to you with our limitations and our problems, with our sins, but with the doors of hearts opened to let the love of Jesus Christ come into it and communicate today's message of hope. John Paul, our friend, the youth are with you."

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Phil DeLuca

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For more information contact the Family Life Office at 704-370-3250.

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Entertainment

New Soulful Drama "Eden" Grapples With Real Emotions

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — A young mother beset by multiple sclerosis, a patronizing husband and a lovestruck boarder finds relief in her dreams of flying through the universe in the soulful drama, "Eden" (Legacy).

It is 1965 in New England's Mount Eden Academy where childhood sweethearts Helen and Bill Kunen (Joanna Going and Dylan Walsh) have returned, he to teach the adolescent boys and she to raise their two little children.

Helen, age 27, is stoically coping with gradually worsening MS and must wear a heavy leg brace. Bill, who believes in never giving in to adversity or laziness, expects her to do the vacuuming and chores, but scoffs at her desire to teach.

Another wedge in their relationship is Dave (Sean Patrick Flanery), a junior who boards upstairs and though very bright is Bill's worst student. The young man adores gentle Helen, who feels Dave is a creative free spirit who needs encouragement to bring out his best. Bill laughs at Dave's crush on Helen and feels he should be rigidly disciplined until he shapes up academically.

Helen makes some progress in urging Dave to apply himself, but Bill assumes all the credit is due to his own threats of expulsion.

Around this time Helen has a dream of flying which she finds incredibly liberating. As her body weakens and the animosity between Bill and Dave escalates, Helen takes refuge in what she now firmly believes are cosmic out-of-body experiences and astral projection. Dave studies up on the subject while Bill dismisses it as nonsense, although he is alarmed that his wife is slipping away from him.

Seemingly of her own volition, Helen slips into a coma (in voiceover narration she speaks of longing to become one with the universe), while Bill finally tries to understand his wife's feelings as Dave has explained them to him. A tentative truce between the two men is forged as they prepare for the worst and Helen lingers between life and death.

Writer-director Howard Goldberg has fashioned a sensitively told story, firmly anchoring it in the mid-60s just as women like Helen were expressing resentment about being narrowly confined to the housewife role.

Most well-written is the character of Bill, who is entirely well-meaning and loves his wife, but initially has no clue how his chauvinistic behavior belittles her.

As the heart of the movie, the character of Helen is very sympathetic and Going's restrained performance is just right for the role to evoke genuine poignancy as she struggles to be a mom, an attractive wife, and mentor to the needy Dave.

But her sudden rapture with out-of-body experiences, though understandable given the prison of her diseased body, is poorly dramatized. Her astral projections are visualized with cheap special effects of blurred clouds and starry night skies that, if anything, make her claims seems absurd rather than even slightly convincing.

Her relationship with Dave takes the story back to a more resonant human scale and wastes no time on suggesting he would like it to take on a sexual dimension.

The symbolism of Helen's children taking in a sick bird, caging it until it is well enough to be set free, is truly heavy-handed, but overall the dynamics of how the children are also affected by Helen's illness is realistically captured.

The movie suffers from an overly rosy conclusion, and Helen's search for spirituality through union with the universe often seems wacky, but the narrative stresses how Helen, Dave and Bill all achieve significant personal growth as they face Helen's dire physical crisis.

"Eden" comes across as a small but highly personal film which despite its ethereal nature, grapples with real emotions. Due to fleeting substance abuse, occasional profanity and some rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

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CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

A family of bank-robbing brothers plan their next heist in "The Newton Boys." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Demetrius and the Gladiators" (1954)

In this meandering sequel to "The Robe," the Greek Christian of the title (Victor Mature) is made a Roman tribune after renouncing his faith, then falls under the spell of Messalina (Susan Hayward) until her husband, Claudius (Barry Jones), replaces the mad Caligula (Jay Robinson) as emperor and Demetrius regains his faith. Directed by Delmer Daves, the gaudy proceedings have less to do with early Christianity than with the brutal world of the gladiators (Ernest Borgnine, William Marshall and Richard Egan), the luxury of Caligula's court and his increasingly bizarre behavior. Stylized violence and sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II —adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"From a Far Country" (1981)

In this episodic dramatization of the major events and formative experiences that shaped the life of Karol Wojtyla before he became Pope John Paul II, the focus is on the Polish resistance to both Nazi and Soviet repression as portrayed through characters representative of his generation, with occasional pauses for documentary segments about Wojtyla. Filmed in Poland by director Krzysztof Zanussi, this is the 128-minute version originally broadcast on NBC with lapses in narrative continuity presumably the result of cutting over an hour's worth of material from the European version. Appropriate for general audiences, though the violence of the times is shaky fare for pre-teens.

"The Last Days of Pompeii" (1935)

Creaky but colorful tale in which a happy Pompeii blacksmith (Preston Foster) turns dour seeking wealth as a gladiator, then finds it as a trader in Judea after his boy is cured by the miracle worker later crucified by Pontius Pilate (Basil Rathbone). But back home the unworldliness of his now-Christian son puzzles him until he turns to saving others in the volcanic eruption of Vesuvius. Directed by Ernest B. Schoedsack, the episodic story of a good man changing into a greedy one, then shedding selfishness in the face of disaster, plods fitfully along until the spectacular effects depicting the city's destruction. Stylized violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Return of the Saints" (1996)

Great Britain's Cardinal Basil Hume, the archbishop of Westminster, takes viewers on a pilgrimage to northeastern England to commemorate the monk-bishops who brought Christianity to this part of the island in the sixth and seventh centuries. Produced and directed by Father Joseph D. Fenton, the 48-minute video records Cardinal Hume's reflections about the deep faith and evangelical zeal of these early English saints and their relevance to the troubled times of today while touring the ruined monasteries and abbeys which are all that remain of the era. The result offers a rare opportunity to meet a leading member of the hierarchy and share his thoughts about the saints of yesterday and the need for those of today. For all, especially young people.

FAITH alive!

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A priest and therapist talk about confession

By Father Robert L. Kinast
Catholic News Service

A Protestant friend of mine who is a marriage and family counselor is fascinated by the sacrament of penance. We often compare his professional role as a therapist and my priestly role as a minister of the sacrament. His questions and observations have helped me come to a greater appreciation of the sacrament itself and my role as its minister.

He is amazed at the readiness of penitents to talk about the worst parts of their lives with a priest whom they may not know very well. He finds, on the other hand, that he may have to spend two or three sessions establishing a sufficient trust level before his clients will speak openly to him about their marriage or family problems.

His observation makes me realize how much trust Catholics have in the church, the sacraments and the priesthood. I am the beneficiary of a long tradition which has upheld the importance and the integrity of this sacrament. I do not have to establish my personal trustworthiness to make the sacrament effective.

While this relieves me of the preparatory work my friend must do with his clients, it also reminds me that people do not confess their sins to me because of me, but because of the Lord I represent.

CNS photo top by J. Michael Fitzgerald, below by The Crosiers/Gene Plaisted

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A dose of introspection accompanies the sacrament of reconciliation. We take stock of ourselves and our actions, judge our motives, assess our relationships with others and with God. To someone unfamiliar with the sacrament, it might sound a little negative. Won't we, in judging ourselves, become our own worst enemies? Won't we be putting ourselves down?

The experience of the sacrament, however, doesn't prove negative. Judging our actions proves quite different from judging ourselves to be unworthy human beings or undeserving of God's attention. As with all sacraments, reconciliation proves to be all about life.

Sacraments don't diminish us. They expand us.

And this is a sacrament of healing, the catechism explains. I take that to mean that in the sacrament we are being made whole, hardly torn down.

Should I mention that people tend to feel happy after celebrating this sacrament?

Rather than finding ourselves pushed too far inward, the sacrament ultimately draws us out of ourselves. Even the process of celebrating it puts us into contact with the larger church: with the priest and, very visibly in communal celebrations, the community.

We discover again that we don't have to go it alone. We have each other.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

13

■ ■ ■

My therapist friend is curious to know how people talk to me about their sins. His clients usually give him bits and pieces of their story, putting themselves in the best light and blaming others for their problems. It takes him a long time to feel that he has an accurate picture of a situation and can help the person deal with it effectively.

His comments make me realize that most penitents who have a serious sin to confess are willing to discuss it honestly and maturely. Rather than shifting blame or looking for excuses, they candidly admit their guilt and take responsibility for their actions.

If anything, I sometimes have the impression that individuals are too hard on themselves.In my experience the honesty and maturity of penitents have been enhanced by the option of face-to-face confession. There is something about the direct encounter and personal presence in this setting that helps people drop their defenses and declare honestly who they are.

"My therapist friend is curious to know how people talk to me about their sins. His clients usually give him bits and pieces of their story, putting themselves in the best light and blaming others for their problems."

In response I often have found myself willing to share experiences from my personal life that might be helpful to the penitent. While not a mutual confession of sin, it is a mutual bonding in the Lord.

Although my friend's clients come to him presumably looking for solutions to their problems, he finds that many of them hold on to a negative, almost pessimistic, outlook on their lives.

He sometimes wonders if they prefer to dwell on their negative experiences because that's when they get attention from him as a therapist. He wishes he had an effective way to reinforce a more positive attitude and celebrate their successes.

His reflection makes me realize how positively oriented most penitents are. They confess their sins, not to wallow in misery or indulge in a false sense of sinfulness, but in order to lead a better life.

This positive emphasis is expressed well by referring to this sacrament as "reconciliation." This highlights the sacrament's primary effect, which is reinforced in a positive way when it is celebrated communally.

A communal celebration of reconciliation, coupled with the individual's private confession, is a public, joyful affirmation that the forgiveness proclaimed privately in the sacrament will continue in each person's life. Whether it is celebrated publicly or privately, however, the result of confession is a positive feeling of renewal.

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Finally, my therapist friend is intrigued by the practice of penance. In his work he finds it very difficult to move people from talking about their problems to doing something concrete about them. In dealing with marital and family relationships, he knows that if actions aren't taken, problems won't go away.

I always have determined a penance in dialogue with the penitent. Usually the specific penance I describe is an action relative to what the person has confessed; I ask if the action seems meaningful and possible.

Quite often the person will counter with something more demanding or make an alternative suggestion that seems even more pertinent to his or her circumstances.

In negotiating these penances, it is clear to me that the penitent is committed to living a better life, not just to talking about it. This example certainly puts my own resolutions and good intentions to the test.

In ministering the sacrament of penance I am constantly edified at penitents' honesty, their openness, their positive attitude toward improvement and their willingness to make practical changes to bring it about.

My therapist friend says he is envious of my role, but so far he hasn't asked to confess his envy.

(Father Kinast is the director of the Center for Theological Reflection, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.)

Is penance relevant to your “real needs”?

By Father Paul J. Schmidt
Catholic News Service

A youngster, when asked what “confession” means, replied, “That’s when you tell your sins to the police.”

Priests in the sacrament of reconciliation are not the police. They are not God either.

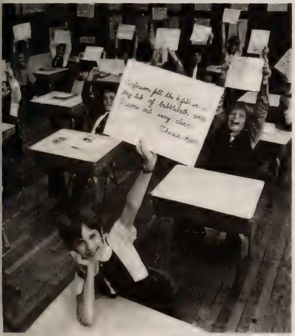
The priest is a minister of the church, celebrating and effecting God’s mercy and forgiveness.

People can experience fear when approaching confession. Some of their fear may come from legitimate embarrassment. But much of it comes from childhood.

Admitting to a parent or teacher that we have done wrong can be a formidable experience. If the priest in confession is seen as a surrogate parent or teacher, or if God is seen as a stern judge and an angry punisher, a host of fears may well up in penitents.

Actually, there is no reason in the world to have a sacrament of reconciliation other than the love and mercy of God, the forgiving grace of Jesus Christ, the healing comfort of the Holy Spirit.

If we insist on being afraid of God, the place to be afraid is outside the confessional, not inside it. If we have difficulty with confession face-to-face to a priest, anonymous confession is always an option.


CNS photo from the Catholic Witness

“A youngster, when asked what ‘confession’ means, replied, ‘That’s when you tell your sins to the police.’... If we insist on being afraid of God, the place to be afraid is outside the confessional, not inside it.”

Some have difficulty with the sacrament of reconciliation because it seems routine or mechanical to them. They say they don’t “get anything out of it.” Some of these people may have a “confession conscience.” This is distinct from the “complete conscience.”

The confession conscience consists of those things one has learned to say in confession — maybe a list of “acceptable,” even “comfortable” sins that we list without touching the depth of our real needs.

The complete conscience goes beneath the surface to deal with things that really alienate us from God and our fellow human beings. It gets at causes. It is serious and may feel threatening.

Some people have learned to bring this conscience to confession. They “get a lot” from the sacrament. But many have never learned to look beneath the surface. So they do not “get all” they could and should get from the sacrament. Sometimes they set the sacrament aside because they regard it as irrelevant to their “real needs.”

Then they miss a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth.

Confession deals with a spiritual dimension at a different level from psychiatry. It can assist mental health, but it cannot replace psychological help, any more than spiritual counsel sets a broken arm.

The sacrament of reconciliation, however, is a wonderful gift given by Jesus to the church for pardon and peace. But if it has become something like “telling our sins to the police,” I think we need to see if we can understand it better.

(Father Schmidt is the director of Priests Personnel for the Diocese of Oakland, Calif.)

In a Nutshell

- ***When people discover that the sacrament of reconciliation can address their real needs, it leads to a positive sense of renewal for them.***
- ***Some penitents find it hard to forgive themselves. Do they fear that God and the confessor also will withhold forgiveness?***
- ***Referring to this sacrament as “reconciliation” highlights its primary effect.***

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FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What do people value about the sacrament of penance? As a priest, how would you answer from your experience?

“I feel the most attractive thing about the sacrament of penance for penitents is the opportunity to talk to the priest as a friend and confidant, to discuss their spiritual life and other aspects of life bordering on the spiritual. All this helps them to be able to make a better decision about important life, and spiritual, matters.” — Father Edmund Bernauer, Short Hills, N.J.

“Those who make a good confession about something that has weighed heavily on them value the words of forgiveness, which lift the weight of sin and allow them to start anew. Being able to be who they are in the Lord’s presence and say, ‘I’m sorry, take me back,’ and feel that he has done that is very valuable.” — Father Chris Orndorff, Tucson, Ariz.

“I think the certainty of God’s forgiveness celebrated in a human sign. They feel it’s a visible sign that God forgives them.” — Father Rallen H. Stencil, Hilbert, Wis.

An upcoming edition asks: As a parish minister to the sick, what do you actually do? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Learning of penance by doing it

By Father Lawrence E. Mick
Catholic News Service

Experience is the best teacher. That adage may be especially true when what we need to learn touches the heart as much as the mind.

Learning what a treasure Christ gave us in the sacrament of penance is often a matter of the heart.

As a confessor I find that my heart is lifted and that I am encouraged when a penitent discovers deeper meaning in this sacrament. Then I know God has used me to help the penitent experience the love and mercy God offers to all of us.

Sometimes the movement on the penitents’ part is toward a fuller revelation of themselves during penance. People were taught to list every sin they can remember during penance, along with the number of times each was committed. This was a way of teaching that the confession should be complete, with nothing hidden or omitted. But sometimes the list itself may become a way of hiding. I find it is possible for people to list all their sins and still not reveal what is really happening in their lives.

Sometimes I will ask a penitent which sin needs the most attention or what he or she thinks is really at the root of a sinful habit. Often such a question helps a penitent to begin really to share what is happening in his or her life.

That can be when true change begins to happen and when true healing begins, because we are beginning to deal with real issues at a level deeper than their symptoms alone.

Sometimes the movement is physical, from behind a screen to face-to-face confession. Many people are hesitant to make this move, but those who try it a few times almost never go back behind the screen.

This movement to come out of hiding physically often bespeaks a similar openness of spirit.

When a person is ready to really reveal who he or she is and what is really happening in his or her life, a face-to-face encounter often seems natural. This simple change in setting generally facilitates a much more satisfying experience, not only for the penitent but for the confessor.

Sometimes the movement is from a stance of dread to a sense of gratitude for God’s healing love. Some penitents come to the sacrament with great hesitation, often because they find it hard to forgive themselves for what they have done and expect the same negative response from God and the confessor.

When people discover that the confessor, whose role is to make God’s forgiving love tangible, does not condemn but offers understanding and love, their sense of relief frequently is obvious. This usually is a moment of healing, as the penitent realizes how deeply he or she is loved by God despite whatever sins have been confessed.

Because this sacrament touches the deepest parts of our lives and hearts, it can be a powerful experience. Because both confessors and penitents are human beings, the experience is not always what it should be.

Some people have memories of negative or painful experiences of the sacrament of penance. To allow such memories to keep us from turning to this sacrament today would be a shame, however. As many Catholics have learned through experience, this sacrament is a wonderful gift Christ gave to the church.

A good experience of this sacrament is one of the best ways to deepen our understanding and appreciation of this sacrament. Try it; you’ll like it!

(Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a freelance writer.)

People In The News

Georgetown Ethicist Named 1998 Laetare Medal Winner

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Dr. Edmund D. Pellegrino, John Carroll professor of medicine and medical ethics at Georgetown University in Washington, has been named the 1998 winner of the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal. The medal is presented annually to a man or woman "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church, and enriched the heritage of humanity."

Jesuit Wins Oscar For Film On Japanese Diplomat Who Saved Jews

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After receiving the Oscar for best live action short film, Jesuit Father Chris Donahue said he and his partners "feel truly honored, but the true honor goes to Mr. Sugihara and to other people who stand up for their beliefs." Father Donahue produced the winning "Visas and Virtue," a 26-minute, black-and-white film about a Japanese diplomat — the late Chiune "Sempo" Sugihara — who saved East European Jews during the Holocaust. In 1940, after the Nazi invasion of Poland, Sugihara, who was Japanese consul general in Lithuania, defied his government's orders and issued more than 1,500 transit visas to fleeing Jews. His actions enabled between 2,000 and 6,000 refugee Polish and Lithuanian Jews to travel east to safety.

Nuns Begin Prison Term For School Of Americas Protest

PEKIN, Ill. (CNS) — On March 23, Sister of St. Joseph Rita Steinhagen, 70, of Minneapolis and Franciscan Sister Mary Kay Flanigan, 65, of Chicago entered prison gates four hours apart to begin serving identical six month sentences stemming from their protest actions last Nov. 16 on the grounds of the U.S. School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga. In all, 600 of the more than 2,000 participants in that peaceful demonstration were arrested, with 25 drawing prison terms and $3,000 fines. Eighteen members of that group began their sentences at facilities across the country March 23. Also serving her sentence in Pekin will be Judith Williams, 58, of the Catholic Worker House at Waukesha, Wis.

CNS photo by Tom Dermody, Catholic Post

Friends of Sister Rita Steinhagen of Minneapolis place their hands on her before she enters the federal prison in Pekin, Ill., March 23. She will serve a six-month sentence for her participation in a mass protest at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Ga., last November.

Pope, Cuban Foreign Minister Discuss Prisoners' Release

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II met with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez to discuss Cuba's release of prisoners and the prospects for church social action following the papal visit to the island. After meeting privately with the pope March 27, Robaina also held talks with Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state. The Vatican said both sides had given "renewed attention to the significant humanitarian measures the Cuban government has taken and will continue to take as a sign of respect to the pope's wishes."

S. African Church Official Says Clinton's Words Must Be Tested

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A South African church official praised U.S. President Bill Clinton's address to the country's parliament, but said his words must be tested by U.S. government action. Father Peter-John Pearson, Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference parliamentary liaison officer, called Clinton's March 26 talk of the "African renaissance" and his promise to support justice and democracy "inspiring." "He made strong, positive points in his speech, but these need to be tested against his government's policies, such as which regimes it props up, details of its trade agreements, as well as its arms trade," Father Pearson said. Also March 26, Clinton visited a housing project in Cape Town built on land donated by the Catholic Church and pledged $3 million toward housing in South Africa.

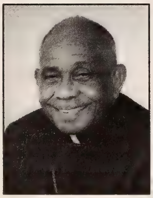
U.S. Actor Says Film Based On Pope's Play Was Dual Challenge

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Protestant playing a Catholic monk in a film written by a man who would become pope "was both a professional and personal challenge," said U.S. actor Scott Wilson. Wilson stars in the 1997 film "Our God's Brother," a play written more than 50 years earlier by the future Pope John Paul II. The film, directed by Krzysztof Zanussi, tells the story of Adam Chmielowski, an insurgent in Poland's war of liberation against Russia in the mid-1800s. Wilson plays Chmielowski, who later gained fame as a painter. Distraught by the poverty around him, Chmielowski begins to question whether giving alms is enough. Finally, he becomes a monk — Brother Albert — and founds a religious order to serve the poor. Pope John Paul canonized him in 1989.

Bishop Howze Marks Silver Jubilee As Mississippi Bishop

By SHIRLEY HENDERSON

BILOXI, Miss. (CNS) — Celebrating his silver jubilee as a bishop, Bishop Joseph L. Howze of Biloxi reminisced with a gathering of priests and Biloxi Catholics about the day in 1973 when he became the second black Catholic bishop in the United States.



"It was a great day and one I will always remember," he told the congregation that filled the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary for his jubilee Mass March 19.

Bishop Howze, 74, was named an auxiliary bishop of Natchez-Jackson on Nov. 14, 1972, and ordained on Jan. 28, 1973, but he chose the feast of his namesake, St. Joseph, to celebrate the jubilee.

When he was installed as bishop of the newly created Diocese of Biloxi in June 1977, he was the first black bishop in this century to head a diocese.

The diocese covers the southern third of Mississippi. In his 20 years there, the Biloxi Diocese's Catholic population has grown almost 30 percent, from 50,000 to nearly 65,000.

Born Aug. 30, 1923, in Daphne, Ala., Lawson Howze took the name Joseph when he converted to Catholicism in 1948. In 1959 he was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C., and became a priest of the Charlotte Diocese when North Carolina was divided into two dioceses less than a year before he was made a bishop.

He was a pastor in Asheville, N.C., and diocesan liturgy commission chairman, home mission director and Society for the Propagation of the Faith director in 1972 when he learned he was to be named a bishop.

At the time the only African-American in the U.S. hierarchy was Auxiliary Bishop Harold R. Perry of New Orleans.

The only other black bishop in U.S. Catholic history had been Bishop James A. Healy, Georgia-born son of an Irish immigrant father and a slave mother, who headed the Diocese of Portland, Maine, from 1875 to 1900.

Since Bishop Howze's appointment, 16 other African-American priests have become bishops. Eleven others are currently active, one has retired and five have died, including Bishop Perry in 1991.

Recalling when his appointment was announced in 1972, Bishop Howze said, "My rectory phone was ringing off the hook. The local newspaper called for an interview, as well as Catholic publications across the country." Between interviews he got dozens of other calls from well-wishers.

"I was overwhelmed with so much media attention — something I was not accustomed to receiving. At the end of the day I was glad to get a little respite," he said.

"I will always remember that Bishop Perry presented me with my first zucchetto," the purple skullcap worn by bishops, he said.

He also recalled that on his first visit to the Natchez-Jackson Diocese, which then covered the entire state, he visited retired Bishop Richard O. Gerow at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson.

"Bishop Gerow presented me with his bishop's ring and pectoral cross which he had worn during the 50 years he was bishop of the diocese," he said.

He said that 41 archbishops and bishops joined Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, apostolic delegate in the United States, as co-consecrators for his episcopal ordination on Jan. 28, 1973. The Mass was held in the Jackson Civic Auditorium to accommodate the congregation of more than 3,000, which included the governor of Mississippi and the mayor of Jackson.

Another exciting moment when he became a bishop, he said, was the invitation by then-Bishop John L. May of Mobile, Ala., to celebrate Mass at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Mobile.

"This was an historic occasion for me," he said. "As a youth I had passed that church too many times for me to recall. Now I was there celebrating Mass as a bishop of the church."

He said what he cherished most in his five years as auxiliary to Bishop Joseph L. Brunini of Natchez-Jackson was "the privilege of traveling to every part of the state" to administer the sacraments and minister to the people.

Priest Gives Clinton Communion; Vatican Declares Error

By **BRONWEN DACHS**

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The parish priest of the South African church where U.S. President Bill Clinton attended Mass said he was following a new South African bishops' directory on ecumenism when he gave Clinton Communion.

A Vatican official said it appeared clear that Clinton should not have been given Communion.

Father Mohlomi Makobane, parish priest of Regina Mundi Church in Soweto, said he knew Clinton was likely to come up for Communion but that he had not asked permission to give it to him from Bishop Reginald J. Orsmond of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Father Makobane said after he had read the Directory on Ecumenism in Southern Africa, accepted by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference at its plenary meeting in Pretoria in January, he "took it for granted" that Clinton would be allowed to receive the Eucharist.

The priest said he gave a copy of the bishops' document to the organizers of Clinton's visit when discussing the possibility of Clinton wanting to receive Communion.

Clinton, a Southern Baptist, and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, a Methodist, joined more than 1,000 people at the March 29 Mass. Both received Communion.

At the Vatican March 31, Archbishop Geraldo M. Agnelo, secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, said: "Since this is a person who is not a Catholic, he cannot be admitted to eucharistic Communion. This is a canonical norm ... and therefore no bishops' conference can advance a different rule."

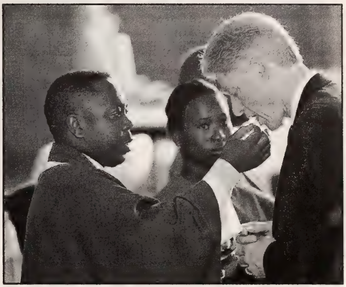
Archbishop Agnelo said the exceptions noted by canon law were limited and were designed for situations in which other Christians are unable to worship in their own churches. For example, he said, canon law could allow for an Orthodox Christian who is unable to find an Orthodox church in his area to attend Mass in a Catholic church and take Communion.

A secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Bishop Jean-Claude Perisset, also cited the limitations of canon law in such cases, along with the pontifical council's own 1993 ecumenical directory.

That directory said that "in general the Catholic Church permits access to its eucharistic Communion ... only to those who share its oneness in faith, worship and eternal life."

"The rules are given by the ecumenical directory of 1993, and we must follow them, as well as canon law," Bishop Perisset said.

The Vatican press office had no comment on the episode.



CNS photo from Reuters

President Clinton receives Communion from Father Mohlomi Makobane at Regina Mundi Catholic Church in Soweto March 29. The priest later told Catholic News Service that Clinton, who is not Catholic, would be allowed to receive Communion in special circumstances outlined by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

The Code of Canon Law permits non-Catholics to receive Communion in a Catholic Church in cases of "grave necessity" if they "cannot approach a minister of their own community and on their own ask for it" and if they hold what Catholics believe about the Eucharist.

The Southern African bishops' ecumenical directory says that "abstinence from ecumenical sharing is the normal state of affairs." It says that "a special need" for eucharistic sharing "can be said to exist on occasions when Christians from other churches attend a eucharistic celebration for a special feast or event."

"On these occasions, eucharistic sharing may be both meaningful and desirable, expressing the degree of unity that the participating Christians already have with each other," the document says.

It also says: "It has been a longstanding pastoral practice in the Catholic Church not to refuse someone who comes to receive Communion in good faith. However, where possible and according to circumstances, it may be advisable or even necessary to inform such a person afterward of Catholic discipline."

Father Makobane said, "One shouldn't embarrass a president, though obviously not at the expense of Catholic Church teaching." He added that Clinton was "coming to our church not for a political meeting, but to pray with us at a

See **Clinton,** page 12

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 19, 1998

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Long-Term View Needed To Judge Holocaust Document, Say Experts

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The mixed, and at times highly critical, Jewish reaction to the Vatican document on the Holocaust might have left church officials discouraged, if they were expecting rave reviews in the next day's newspaper.

But Catholic and Jewish dialogue partners have learned over the decades that the long-term impact of a document does not always reflect short-term criticism.

That may explain why, at a private reception a few days after the document was released, Jewish and Christian experts were already talking about how to beef up the influence of the Holocaust document and build on it in the future.

"You cannot measure reaction in a week. You need two years to find a perspective. That is always true," said Bishop Pierre Duprey, one of the Vatican's most experienced ecumenical officials.

Bishop Duprey recalled that in 1965 when the Vatican issued "Nostra Aetate," the Second Vatican Council document that today is universally hailed as the church's first courageous step in improving relations with Jews, there was initial criticism from Jews and Catholics. He said he had to travel to the United States at the time to promote the document's acceptance.

Judith Banki, program director for the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding in New York, also noted in a statement that "Nostra Aetate" was "immediately criticized by Jewish leaders as a compromise, an insufficient and over-cautious document." So were later Vatican "guidelines" and "notes" on Catholic-Jewish relations, issued in 1975 and 1985.

"Yet these very documents laid the groundwork for a new relationship between the church and the Jewish people. Key elements are now routinely invoked by Catholic and Jewish leaders alike. Implementation made the difference," she said.

The late Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum wrote in 1986 that "Nostra Aetate" was primarily criticized for its lack of any note of contrition or repentance for the sufferings Jews have undergone in the Christian West. Although the latest Vatican document expresses repentance on precisely this point, it has come in for even more criticism.

Rabbi Tanenbaum also wrote that the mixed reaction among Jews to "Nostra Aetate" was greatly influenced by the mass media. In effect, he said, many Jewish leaders were reacting not to the content of the declaration but to headlines about it.

Many of the headlines and news stories following release of the latest document were bluntly negative, too.

"The document does not seem complete. The Vatican does not accept the collective responsibility of the church. It defends the memory of Pius XII," read a leading Italian daily, Corriere della Sera.

Eugene J. Fisher, longtime director of Catholic-Jewish relations for the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said each document in Catholic-Jewish dialogue has built upon previous ones.

"It's all part of a process, and that makes all the difference," Fisher said. Implementation is the key to whether these documents are ultimately seen as positive, he said, and that will be true of the latest text on the Shoah, which contains important new elements.

"It expresses a very clear moral teaching, that anti-Semitism is sinful and that the church as a whole has to deal with it," Fisher said. He and others stressed that the text should be seen as an educational tool for the future, not as a "last word" statement that sits on a shelf.

"We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah" was prepared over an 11-year period, at the request of Pope John Paul II, by the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. The 14-page text was released at the Vatican March 16.

Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, whose commission prepared the text, said he thought that despite initial criticism, the document would be remembered as the one that condemned the Holocaust and the one that expressed "repentance" for some Christians' failure to oppose it.

Cardinal Cassidy, Fisher and about 20 other participants in the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee meeting at the Vatican came together March 24 for a reception in the home of the Israeli ambassador to the Holy See, Aharon Lopez. A few hours earlier, they had discussed the Vatican document in what many members described as a blunt exchange.

"Some were disappointed, and they said so," Cardinal Cassidy remarked.

Yet there were no long faces in the group, and they spoke optimistically of future dialogue on the same topic. A mixed committee was being set up to do just that.

"This is an extremely important document. That doesn't mean we are happy with every phrase, but that is reality, and we have to live with reality," Gerhart Riegner of the World Jewish Congress said in a toast.

Rabbi David Rosen of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, echoing Cardinal Cassidy, said it was a mark of how far Catholics and Jews have come in their dialogue that they could sit down and speak so directly to each other, even when they disagree.

Clinton,

from page 11

eucharistic celebration."

Father Makobane added that the Gospel reading at the March 29 Mass, Jn 8:1-11, was "not purposely chosen to embarrass the president."

The verses recount the tale of an adulteress who was saved from death by stoning by Jesus Christ, who challenged her accusers, saying the one without sin should cast the first stone.

"When I saw it (the Gospel reading) I thought 'Oh my God,' but what could I do? I had to follow the reading of the day," Father Makobane said in a March 30 telephone interview from Soweto.

Allegations of sexual misconduct by Clinton are "American business, not our business," he added.

Father Makobane said the church had not initiated Clinton's visit, but was honored that the U.S. president had come to such "humble surroundings" as an "acknowledgement of the role of the church during the struggle" against apartheid.

He said it was likely Regina Mundi was picked for the visit by the trip's organizers because it had been "so active in opening its doors to the voiceless to shout, pray and protest in a peaceful manner" during apartheid.

In his homily, the priest said he spoke about "the love of God, forgiveness, politics" as well as the spiritual aspects of Clinton's six-country African visit.

South Africa was Clinton's fourth stop on his 11-day trip through sub-Saharan Africa. He left for Botswana March 29 and from there was to go to Senegal.

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— L.R.D.

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Pilgrimage from Morganton to Raleigh to Focus on Justice for Poultry Workers

MORGANTON — The Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America (CITCA) is sponsoring a 200-mile walk from Morganton to Raleigh beginning Palm Sunday, April 5, at St. Charles Church, 714 W. Union St., at noon.

Following Palm Sunday Services, the group will walk to the Case Farm Poultry Plant for a prayer service and then along Old Route 70 to Valdese. This year's pilgrimage focuses on justice for poultry workers, support for Hispanics in North Carolina, and also protests the large number of imprisoned young black men and women.

The pilgrimage will stop in Hickory the night of April 5, in Statesville April 6, in Greensboro April 7, in Siler City April 8, in Durham April 9, and head into Raleigh April 10 for an Economic Justice Way of the Cross starting at noon at the State Capitol.

"The poultry industry is victimizing poultry workers and growers," said the Rev. Jerry Taylor, head of the Poultry Justice Alliance. "Major poultry companies obstruct workers from organizing and deny adequate wages, proper health care and safety in the work place."

"We will link the Good Friday commemoration of Jesus' suffering and death with the enormous suffering caused by unjust and dangerous working conditions in the poultry factories, the treatment of Hispanics, and the large number of African-American in prisons, as well as the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement on the Mexican people and the U.S. Army's School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, Ga.," added Gail Phares, CITCA director.

While the Way of the Cross is often associated with the Catholic Church, others helping plan the event include the Lutheran Peace Fellowship, the Baptist Peace Fellowship, the Methodists for Social Action, the Helping Hand Mission, the Poultry Justice Alliance and St. Martin's Catholic worker community.

Because Hispanic people are sometimes met with hostility and distrust, the pilgrimage will offer congregations the opportunity to understand why so many people from Mexico come north, Phares said. It will also provide concrete ways to support poultry workers.

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Member of St. Gabriel Church

Photo by Mike Krokos

The Feast of St. Joseph was celebrated March 19 at St. Joseph Church in Mt. Holly, one of the two oldest standing Catholic churches in the state. Seventy-four people attended the Mass concelebrated by Father Richard Hokanson and Monsignor Anthony Kovacic. In his homily, Father Hokanson (pictured) encouraged those in attendance to follow St. Joseph's example and trust God in all they do.

Employment Opportunities

Chief Financial Officer/Director of Business Services — Catholic Diocese of Raleigh:
Responsible for oversight of all financial affairs of the Diocese including financial reporting and planning, accounting, internal controls, budgeting, investments, and banking and insurance relationships. Also responsible for the management of the offices of Development, information systems, and property and construction. Serves in a consultative role on finance and administration for 80 parishes and schools. Successful candidate must be a practicing Catholic, have a strong service orientation, have several years of financial management experience, must be able to work well in a collegial environment, and should be computer literate. MBA and/or CPA or equivalent strongly preferred. Send resume including salary requirements to: Director of Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, 715 Nazareth Street, Raleigh, NC 27606. EOE.

Director of Faith Formation:
Parish seeks enthusiastic and knowledgeable person for the Catholic Faith as full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsible for the total parish Faith Formation program for growing faith community of over 800 families. Minimum of a BA in relevant field of study and parish/faith formation experience. Position requires strong leadership, organizational, interpersonal and basic computer skills. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Starts July 1998. Send cover letter, resume, salary expectations and 3 references by April 17 to : DFF Search, Attn: Rob Griffin, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC 27262. Visit our home page at www.massintransit.com.

Principal:
St. Thomas More School, an accredited PreK-8 school, seeks an experienced replacement for its retiring principal. The school, with 475 students and a brand new middle school facility, is located in a growing, dynamic Vatican II parish in a university town. Successful applicant is a practicing Catholic with a Master's degree in administration and is eligible for NC certification. Strong people and communication skills must. Send letter, resume, and references by April 15 to: Principal Search Committee, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Position available 7/1/98.

Director of Youth Ministry:
St. Thomas More Church and the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish, growing and dynamic Vatican II communities in a university town, seek a full-time director for their joint youth ministry serving both parishes beginning 7/1/98. Present ministry involves 300 students between grades 6-12, uses the Total Youth Ministry model and includes Confirmation preparation. The program uses a lectionary-catechesis approach and the Confirmation program uses a sacramental-catechesis approach. Successful applicant possesses relevant college degree as well as strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills. Experience preferred. Professional salary and benefits commensurate with background offered. Send letter, resume, and references by April 15 to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Director of Faith Formation:
The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi seeks an energetic team player with imagination and creativity to promote and implement the lectionary-based family faith formation vision of our Franciscan parish. Our rapidly growing 2900+ household community has a strong mission of social outreach and family perspective. Our future growth includes a possible parochial school opening in 2000. Responsibilities include collaboration with a 17-member parish staff to direct a classroom-based faith formation program for 800+ PK-8 students, including sacramental formation, volunteer recruitment & training, and parent formation. MA or equivalent required. Salary commensurate with experience & education. Send resume by April 17 to Search Committee, 11401 Leesville Rd., Raleigh, NC 27613.

Coordinator of Children's Religious Education:
Full-time position in 1,600 family parish. Responsibilities: recruiting/training volunteer catechists for PreK-5 lectionary-based program, sacramental preparation for first penance/eucharist; religious education consultant to K-8 parochial school. Member of Religious Education team. Master's degree or equivalent in Religious Education or closely related field preferred. Excellent benefits, salary commensurate with experience/education. Position available July 1, 1998. Contact is Don Bray (910) 323-2410, x106. Send resume/references no later than May 1 to CRE Search Committee, St. Patrick's Church, 2840 Village Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28304.

Advertising Representative:
The Catholic News & Herald has an opening for a full-time advertising representative. Previous sales experience preferred. Candidate will be responsible for sales, billing and collections. Good benefits package. Please send resume by April 20 to: *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Catholic Home School Support

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, western North Carolina's Catholic home school support group, meets each third Friday for a family potluck dinner in the Laurentine Hall of St. Lawrence Basilica. For more information, call Sheryl Oligny, (704) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (704) 645-6990.

St. Francis of Assisi Book Reading

ASHEVILLE — Susan W. McMichaels, a teacher and independent scholar residing in Fletcher, will read from her new book, "Journey Out of the Garden: St. Francis of Assisi and the Process of Individuation," April 19 at 3 p.m. in Malaprops book store. The book draws on St. Francis' own writing, lives of the saints, legends, art and modern historical scholarship to examine aspects of Francis' psycho-spiritual journey in the context of Jungian psychological individuation. For more information, call Robert Benitez, (704) 251-6811.

Rosary Society Chicken Dinner

CHARLOTTE — The Rosary Society of Our Lady of Consolation Church hosts its annual chicken dinner April 26 from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the church. Baked or fried dinner plates are $6 each. For more information, call (704) 375-4339.

WNBA Star to Visit Parish

CHARLOTTE — WNBA's Charlotte Sting star Andrea Stinson visits St. Thomas Aquinas Church April 17 in the family life center for a presentation and video. She will also lead basketball drills for children. The event begins at 6 p.m. with hot dogs and refreshments on sale. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Raffle prizes, including WNBA basketballs and T-shirts, will be awarded. Members of the parish's athletic ministry will be on hand to register families for the parish's athletic association and to answer questions about the ministry.

Polish Services

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church hosts the sacrament of reconciliation in Polish April 5 at 4 p.m. A Palm Sunday Mass in Polish follows at 6 p.m. in the church.

Relationship Seminar

CHARLOTTE — Family therapist and author Phil DeLuca presents an innovative approach to repairing relationships with unresponsive and uncooperative partners at a workshop April 25 from 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St. The cost is $25 per person. Call Gerry Carter to register, (704) 370-3250.

Hibernians Meet

CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Mecklenburg County Division, hosts its next business and social meeting April 9 at the 911 Bar and Grill, 911 E. Morehead St. All Catholic men of Irish ancestry are invited to attend meetings and participate in the annual Charlotte St. Patrick's Day parade and various fund raisers and service projects. For more information, call Mike Callinan, (704) 544-7006, or send e-mail to <NCAOH@aol.com>.

Lady Hibernians Meet

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in America meets April 30 at 7 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church. All Catholic women of Irish ancestry are invited to attend this first meeting. For more information, call Tim Lawson, (704) 522-9728.

Divine Mercy Celebration

CHARLOTTE — The third annual Divine Mercy Mass and Devotion are celebrated at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., April 19 at 2:45 p.m. Father Karl Kaltreider, pastor of St. Mary Church in Shelby, is the main celebrant. Bring your Divine Mercy images to be blessed on the altar. For more information, call Terri DeLuca, (704) 888-6050.

"Gift of Life" Program

CHARLOTTE — The African American Affairs Ministry at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., co-sponsors a "Gift of Life" Program with LifeShare of the Carolinas April 15 at 7 p.m. at the church. Debbie Gibbs, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte and a LifeShare associate, will be the main speaker. The program is intended to heighten awareness of the need for organ and tissue donations, and will explore the Catholic Church's position on the matter. For more information, call Cheryl Sledge, (704) 847-7854.

Spring Cleaning Attic Sale

CHARLOTTE — A spring cleaning attic sale is at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., April 25 from 8 a.m.-noon. Call now to reserve your table for $15 if you need a table or $10 if you have your own. Call Kathy, (704) 455-5507, or Denise, (704) 599-1649, for details.

50+ Club

CHARLOTTE — The next meeting of the 50+ Club at St. John Neumann Church is April 8 at 11 a.m. Featured will be police officers who will discuss security, scams and fraud. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided. For more information, call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745.

Pastoral Letter Training

GREENSBORO — Training for Greensboro-area parish implementation of N.C. Catholic Bishops William G. Curlin and F. Joseph Gossman's economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," is April 18 from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. in the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St. All interested parishioners, parish leaders, business people and educators are invited. There is no cost, but registration is required by April 10. Call Bridget Johnson, (336) 274-5577, to register.

Adult Education Series

GREENSBORO — Dominican Father Jude Siciliano of the Deporres House in Raleigh leads a discussion on eucharistic images in today's world April 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of St. Paul the Apostle Church. Baby-sitting is available; to R.S.V.P., call Joe Casacchia, (336) 632-0729.

50+ Spring Fling

HICKORY — The 12th Annual Spring Fling for parishioners aged 50 and up is April 29 at the Catholic Conference Center from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and includes breakfast, bingo, music, games, lunch, Mass and fellowship. The cost is $10 per person. To register call your parish seniors' club or the elder ministry program, (704) 370-3250.

Big Band Senior Prom

HIGH POINT — The second annual Senior Prom for High Point area senior citizens is in the Immaculate Heart of Mary School gymnasium April 17 from 5-9 p.m., featuring food, fellowship, big band music, dancing and door prizes. A prom king and queen will be crowned. Admission is free. For reservations or more information call Ed or Sue, (336) 869-8483.

Living Waters Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Living Trinitarian Faith" is a May 1-3 retreat focusing on the meaning of the Trinity doctrine and its practical consequences. Glenmary Father John McNearney facilitates. Cost is $95. To register, get more information, or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Attic Treasure Sale

TRYON — The St. John the Baptist Church Ladies Altar Guild Attic Treasure Sale is May 2. Items will be collected soon. For details, call (704) 859-9574.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Drama

WINSTON-SALEM — Actor and producer Leonard Defilippis presents the one-man drama "Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz," the story of the World War II martyr Father Maximilian Kolbe, at St. Leo the Great Church on April 25 at 7 p.m. for audience members ages 10 and up. Admission is $4 for adults, $2 for students. For more information, call (336) 724-0561.

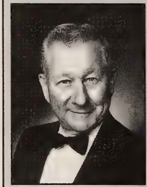
The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the Diocesan News Briefs page. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Charismatic Masses

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated April 19 at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

WINSTON-SALEM — A charismatic Mass is celebrated every third Thursday in the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel.



School News

CHARLOTTE — Dr. Stanley Michalski, Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools' coordinator of instrumental music, was elected president of the American Bandmasters Association during the organization's convention last month. He served as conductor of bands and as professor of music at Clarion University in Pennsylvania for 31 years, and upon retirement moved to Charlotte, where in addition to his work with MACS he is also associate conductor of the Winthrop University Olde English Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Michalski has served as conductor and clinician of more than 500 music festivals in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Mexico. He most recently served as adjudicator for the St. Patrick's Day parades in Limerick and Dublin, Ireland. He will travel to Australia this summer to adjudicate and conduct bands in preparation for the upcoming Olympic events. The American Bandmasters Association was founded in 1929.

WINSTON-SALEM — Linda Kennedy, a teacher and chairman of the foreign language department at Bishop McGuinness High School, has received the 1997 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in teaching. Representatives of Wal-Mart presented a framed certificate and a $500 grant to the school. Kennedy is one of 1,500 recipients of the award from around the nation, and was selected by a panel of local community leaders. She was noted for developing the Latin program at BMHS and for her school involvement as moderator of the student council and Latin Club.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo from Reuters

Residents of Santa Lucia, Ecuador, make their way over a flooded street on rafts and in boats March 24. The small coastal city, which has suffered from the El Nino weather phenomenon, has been flooded for 30 days.

Court Rejects University Graduation Prayer Appeal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Tennessee professor's challenge to his university's use of prayer at graduation ceremonies was rejected by the Supreme Court March 23. Without comment, the court turned down Dilip K. Chaudhuri's lawsuit over the practice of having nonsectarian prayers at Tennessee State University graduation ceremonies and other events. In 1992, the court ruled against clergy-led prayers at public elementary or secondary school graduations. Federal appeals courts have split over whether graduation prayers led by students are lawful and the Supreme Court has not ruled on any of those cases.

Studies Show Changes In Abortion Views, Practice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — By a 6-1 margin New Jersey voters think most partial-birth abortions should be illegal, according to a poll released in March. Substantial majorities of those voters also favor a 24-hour waiting period before a woman seeking an abortion can obtain it and parental consent before a minor can obtain an abortion, the poll found. The poll, conducted in late February and early March by the Quinnipiac College Polling Institute in Hamden, Conn., surveyed 1,184 New Jersey residents who said they were registered voters. The institute, which conducts public service and research polls in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, said the poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.9 percent.

Archibishop Saddened At Kansas Death Sentence

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — Archbishop James P. Keleher of Kansas City called the first possible execution by the state of Kansas in 33 years "an affront to human dignity." Crawford County Judge Donald Noland sentenced Gary W. Kleypas, 41, to death March 11 for the 1996 murder of Carrie A. Williams, a 20-year-old college student. It was Kansas' first death sentence since it reinstated capital punishment in 1994. Its last execution took place 33 years ago. Its last death sentence, in 1971, was later commuted to life imprisonment.

Latin-Rite Patriarch, Israel's Chief Rabbis Condemn Violence

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah and Israel's two chief rabbis, in their first official meeting in the country's history, condemned all acts of violence committed in the name of religion. "Now hope is arrested, therefore, there is a danger that in this void violence will come again, but we condemn violence and say violence is useless," Patriarch Sabbah said at the beginning of the meeting among the three men March 23 at the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem. A horde of TV cameras, photographers and journalists mobbed Patriarch Sabbah as he and his entourage entered the office of Sephardic Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron, who represents Israeli Jews of Middle Eastern ancestry. Patriarch Sabbah, who was born in Nazareth, spoke in Hebrew with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, who represents Jews of East European origin.

Suspended Dallas Priest Admits Three Sex Abuse Crimes

DALLAS (CNS) — In a surprise move, suspended Dallas priest Rudolph "Rudy" Kos pleaded guilty to three sex crimes against minors at the start of his criminal trial March 25. He denied five other charges, including three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child which carry a penalty of life imprisonment. The crimes Kos admitted — two counts of indecency with a child and one count of sexual assault of a child — are second-degree felonies, each punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a $10,000 fine. He pleaded not guilty to two additional counts of indecency with a child.

Bishop Mourns Shootings At Arkansas Middle School

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (CNS) — "No words can capture the pain and suffering of our people," said the Catholic bishop of Little Rock after two boys shot and killed four fellow students and a teacher at an Arkansas middle school. Bishop Andrew J. McDonald, whose diocese covers the entire state of Arkansas, said after the March 24 shootings that "prayers and offers of assistance have poured in upon us" from throughout the United States and the world. "Only our faith, our hope, our love, our readiness to forgive will put our lives back together," he added.

Pope, Polish Premier Exchange Copies Of Ratified Concordat

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Welcoming the formal ratification of a Vatican-Polish treaty, Pope John Paul II said the document permits normal relations between the church and state for the first time in 53 years. The treaty, called a concordat, was signed in 1993 by Poland's Solidarity-led government, but its ratification was blocked until February by left-wing political parties that claimed it violated the separation of church and state. "Today a new step, which I would define as normal, begins in the reciprocal relationship between the Holy See and the Republic of Poland," the pope said March 25.

Bishop: El Salvador Today Far From What Archbishop Romero Wanted

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — El Salvador is still a long way from being the country envisioned by Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, said a Salvadoran bishop on the 18th anniversary of the archbishop's assassination. "Re-reading his last writings, we discover that we are still far from what (Archbishop) Romero wanted for El Salvador," San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez said March 24. Archbishop Romero was gunned down by a rightist death squad while celebrating Mass in a San Salvador chapel in 1980. By the time of his death, his outspokenness had earned him death threats from the military and ruling aristocracy and adoration from the poor majority.

Portuguese Cardinal Ribierto Dies; Pope Praises His Leadership

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Portuguese Cardinal Antonio Ribeiro of Lisbon, known for his pastoral leadership at a time of church-state tensions, died at age 69 of cancer. In a telegram of condolences, Pope John Paul II called Cardinal Ribeiro a "generous pastor" who served the church with love and energy. The cardinal's death March 24 left the College of Cardinals with 162 members, of whom 119 are eligible to vote in a papal conclave.

Two Executed In Two Days In Florida; Two More Scheduled

STARKE, Fla. (CNS) — With four executions scheduled within eight days, the comings and goings of hearses were becoming commonplace at Florida State Prison in late March. On March 23, the body of Gerald Stano, 46, who was sentenced to die for killing three Florida women, was carried away for burial. Stano was the first to die in Florida since March 25, 1997, when flames leaped from the head of Pedro Medina during his execution by electrocution. After legal contests, the state Supreme Court and the Legislature agreed the electric chair was not cruel and unusual punishment. The next day, the body of Leo Jones, 47, who was convicted of killing a Jacksonville police officer, also was driven away from the prison in its hearse.

Archbishop Saddened At First Use Of Oregon Suicide Law

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland said he was "deeply saddened" at the news that a woman in her mid-80s had become the first known person to die under Oregon's assisted suicide law. The woman, who had breast cancer and reportedly had only two months to live, took a lethal dose of barbiturates mixed with syrup March 24, then followed it with a glass of brandy and went into a deep sleep five minutes later, according to proponents of the state's Death With Dignity Act. "The suicide of this elderly woman can only bring anguish to those who have resisted the public policy initiatives that changed the law in Oregon," said Archbishop Vlazny in a March 25 statement.

British Church Leaders Press For Changes In Human Rights Bill

LONDON (CNS) — Catholic Church leaders in Britain continue to press the government for changes to human rights legislation in Parliament. Church leaders are concerned that, if passed in its entirety, the Human Rights Bill could lead to them being sued for refusing to marry same-sex couples or for refusing to ordain women as priests. They also fear that Catholic schools could be forced to hire teachers who are agnostics or atheists. However, a coalition of more radical and progressive church groups is pressing the government to go ahead with the legislation, saying that churches should not be above the law.

Working Group To Study Catholic Conduct During Holocaust

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Members of the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee will establish a working group of historians and theologians to continue examining the conduct of Catholics at the time of the Holocaust. At the end of the committee's March 23-26 meeting at the Vatican, members said the Vatican's recent document examining anti-Jewish attitudes among Catholics and its relationship to the Holocaust was seen "as a beginning and not as an ending of a process" of reflection and examination.

Suspended Dallas Priest Found Guilty On Seven Counts Of Sex Abuse

DALLAS (CNS) — A Dallas County jury convicted suspended Dallas priest Rudolph "Rudy" Kos on seven counts of sex abuse of children March 28. Three of the convictions were for aggravated sexual assault on a child, a crime for which the maximum penalty is life in prison. The other counts — one of sexual assault on a child and three of indecency with a child — carry penalties of up to 20 years in prison and a $10,000 fine for each. The sentencing phase of the trial was to begin March 30.

Parish Profile

Cristo Rey Catholic Hispanic Center

Cristo Rey Catholic Hispanic Center
1228 S. State St.
Yadkinville, NC 27055
(336) 463-5533

Vicariate: Winston-Salem

Director:
Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott

Sacramental Minster:
Father Fidel Melo

Mass Schedule:
Sunday — noon
(a 1:45 p.m. Mass will be added after Easter)

Number of parishioners: 500

YADKINVILLE — Last week, The Catholic News & Herald profiled the growing Catholic Hispanic community in Surry County, where "La Iglesia del Corazon de Jesus," or Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, has served as a place of worship in Dobson since the mid-1980s. The story of outreach to the Hispanic community in that region continues with a look at "Cristo Rey" Catholic Hispanic Center in Yadkinville, located in south-central Yadkin County some 20 miles south of Dobson.

A migrant ministry was established in the summer of 1982 to serve families in Yadkin and south Surry counties working in the tobacco industry. The four Catholic parishes of Winston-Salem — Our Lady of Mercy, St. Benedict the Moor, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Leo the Great churches — founded the ministry in a joint effort.

With assistance from a Spanish translator, Masses were celebrated by clergy from all four parishes.

Father Joseph Waters, now administrator of Holy Trinity Church in Taylorsville, was appointed diocesan director of migrant ministry in 1982, and he led a search for more Spanish-speaking priests to celebrate Masses for the Hispanic communities in the western Piedmont.

For several years, the Hispanic community of the Yadkinville area gathered in the American Legion Hall in nearby East Bend for Masses. Volunteers transported church-goers to and from the hall, where in addition to attending Mass the community would linger to socialize.

The American Legion Hall Mass schedule had become year-round by 1986, as the number of Hispanics continued to grow in the area. That growth prompted the Diocese of Charlotte to purchase a former hardware store on Highway 601 just south of Yadkinville to provide a permanent pastoral center for the local community.

Father Joseph Mack, now pastor of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, celebrated the first Mass in the hardware store church on July 8, 1990. In August Tiffin Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott was hired as director of the center, and in December then-Bishop John F. Donoghue blessed the facility, giving it the name "Cristo Rey," or Christ the King.

At that time, the number of migrant families permanently settling in the area was rapidly on the rise.

A section of the facility was put to use in the summer migrant season of 1990 as a day care center. The day care was managed by Northwest Child Development Association and later by Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, Inc., until the summer of 1995. By then, the number of people attending Sunday liturgies was such that some worshippers were forced to stand on the porch or outside on the property.

At the end of summer, the day care contract was terminated and the community renovated the building to allow for more worship space.

Cristo Rey has served as a church and as a place assisting Hispanics by offering interpretation and translation needs, English classes, and cultural and practical orientation. Currently joining in center's ministerial efforts are a 16-member catechetical team, a lector team, eucharistic ministers, cleaning and yard work teams, and a youth group. The 10-week "English with Interest" program pairs English-speaking residents with Hispanic parishioners; the experience fosters learning as well as friendship.

As both the Yadkinville and Dobson Catholic Hispanic communities face continued growth, plans are underway to combine efforts in a multi-phase building project yielding a large church, family center and classrooms. The new center, it is hoped, will reside at a point between the two current communities and will serve the needs of all Catholics in the area.

Tiffin Franciscan Sister Linda Scheckelhoff joined the Cristo Rey staff in August 1992, and has since also assisted in Hispanic ministry with Father Waters in Dobson and Wilkesboro.

Sacramental ministry in Yadkinville is provided by Father Fidel Melo, parochial vicar of Holy Family Church in Clemmons, of which Cristo Rey is a mission. The parochial vicars of Holy Family Church have served the Cristo Rey center since 1990. They include Father Mack; Father John T. Putnam, now administrator of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville; and Father Mark Lawlor, now administrator of Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe.

Five hundred parishioners from Yadkin, Davie, Wilkes, Iredell, Surry and Forsythe counties currently worship at the center.

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

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Charlotte, NC 28206
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Steven Kuzma,
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Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Dietzen,

from page 5

man sacrifices to idols.

As a form of gnosticism, it seems the Nicolaitans were among those who claimed a "higher" knowledge than other Christians, a knowledge John refers to as "the deep secrets of Satan" (Rev 2:24).

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

OLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 31 • April 10, 1998

The Bishop's Easter Message

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

By BISHOP WILLIAM G. CURLIN

The sun that filled the heavens on that first Easter morning arose to see a woman hurrying on her way to the tomb of Christ. Mary Magdalene had not forgotten that when others, although sinners like herself, had looked at her with eyes filled with contempt, Jesus, the sinless One, had looked at her with love and mercy. Only three days before she had seen His bleeding body taken from the cross and laid in a tomb. His enemies were determined that He should lie there forever. When Mary Magdalene reached the tomb, she found it empty. To use her own words, she wept because "The Lord has been taken from the tomb. We don't know where they have laid Him." A moment later, however, love received its reward! She heard her name, Mary, and turned to look on the Risen Christ. Hate has lost and love had won! She hurried to carry the joyful news to those whom Christ had called His friends. And thus began Mary's journey throughout the centuries — telling the glad tidings of Christ's Resurrection. Today she stands in our midst proclaiming that Christ is risen and death is no more.

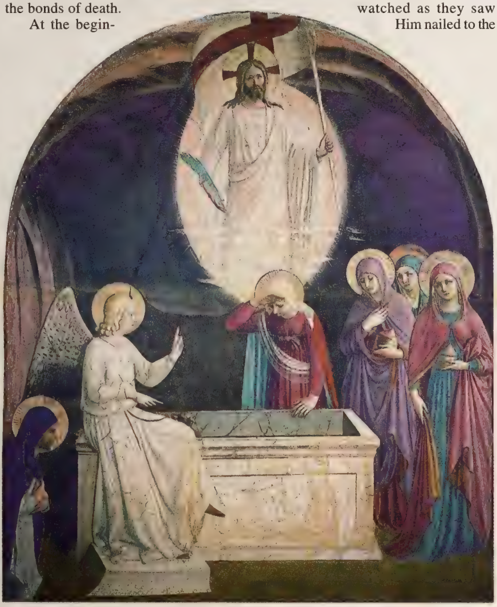
On this great truth of the Resurrection of Christ from the grave, we base our hopes for eternal life and eternal love. It was His Resurrection that Christ claimed would be the supreme proof of His divinity. When His enemies had asked Him for a sign to prove that He was the Messiah, the Son of God, His answer was: "Destroy this temple and in three days I will build it up again." Christ could have seized the sun from the sky and hurled it crashing against His enemies. But He would do more. He would die; He would go down into the darkness of the grave and after three days He would rise again. Christ alone could say: "I have the power to lay down my life and the power to take it up again." His enemies took Him at His word and destroyed the temple of His body. Yet, the very soldiers who guarded His tomb would be witnesses to His keeping His word by breaking the bonds of death.

At the beginning of His public ministry Christ had chosen twelve men to be His apostles and friends. So thrilling were his words that the apostles had staked all they had on Him. Yet, on Good Friday they kept a safe distance from Calvary. They watched as they saw Him nailed to the cross raised on high for all to see. They heard the curses and jeers hurled at the dying Saviour. What their feelings were only they themselves could tell. They had followed him for three wonderful years filled with hope and promise. All ended on Calvary!

No one will ever know the joy that must have filled the hearts of the apostles when, after the Resurrection, they looked upon the pierced hands and feet and side of a living Christ. His appearance must have been like a sunburst in a midnight sky. Three days before Easter they had run from Christ in fear; now they were ready to bear witness to Him in a hostile world filled with scorn, prison and even death. Henceforth they would dare all things for Christ! Dare we do the same?

The world still demands the supreme test of loyalty to Christ. The first Christians knew well that they must die to live and be with Christ forever. You and I desire to live forever. It is woven into the fibers of our being and finds roots deep within our souls. We can no more cease to desire eternal happiness than we can cease to hunger for food. It is in accord with our nature and the yearnings of our hearts.

If this celebration is one of joy, it is because its message is a response to the longings of our souls and brings to us, as it brought to the apostles, the promise of eternal life: "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me shall live forever." It brings heaven to earth and gives us poor travelers on earth a glimpse of our eternal home less we grow weary before our journey ends. For Christians Easter solves the riddle of life and death. It points to the grave as the gateway between two worlds. There we lay the heavy burdens of this world while our souls, homeward bound, pass to life and immortality.



CNS photo from Art Resource

Women visit the tomb of Christ and find it empty in this depiction of the Resurrection. The fresco was painted around 1440 by Fra Angelico on a wall of the Convent of San Marco in Florence, Italy.

Rev. Mr. Andy Cilone places the oil of catechumens for blessing by Bishop William G. Curlin.

See full story, page 16

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Southern African Bishops Say Priest Erred Giving Clinton Communion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Southern African bishops said a local priest made a "mistake in judgment" when he allowed U.S. President Bill Clinton to receive Communion, an act which Vatican officials termed a breach of liturgical norms.

The statement from a Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference spokesman came after a week of controversy and discussion of church requirements that govern when a non-Catholic may receive the Eucharist.

Clinton, a Southern Baptist, and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, a Methodist, both took Communion at the March 29 Mass in Regina Mundi Church in Soweto. White House officials said they had spoken with local church leaders beforehand about the eventuality of the president receiving the sacrament.

Father Mohlomi Makobane, the parish priest, defended his decision to give Communion to the Clintons and other non-Catholics in the congregation, saying he was simply applying the terms of a recent ecumenical directory published by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference. He said he had not asked permission from his bishop.

The Directory on Ecumenism in Southern Africa, which appears to give more leeway to local churches on shared Communion, was under review by the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, which asked for clarification after the Clinton episode.

Father Emil Blaser, media officer for the Southern African bishops, told Catholic News Service April 2 that Father Makobane "made a mistake in judgment" in applying the ecumenical directory.

The same day, the Southern African bishops' conference issued a similar statement, saying the priest should have asked prior approval of Bishop Reginald J. Orsmond of Johannesburg, South Africa. Bishop Orsmond was in the hospital and did not comment on the case.

Salesian Father John Coleman, the Johannesburg diocesan vicar for liturgy, said in a telephone interview that if he had been consulted on the possibility of Clinton receiving Communion, "my first reaction would have been to say no, unless there are very good reasons."

If Clinton had presented himself for Communion without warning, the priest concerned "certainly wouldn't refuse him, as it is the norm not to presume bad faith," Father Coleman said. But in this case, as Father Makobane himself said, there had been prior discussion on the issue and it was no surprise that Clinton came up for Communion.

The program for the Mass, which invited all baptized Christians to take part in Communion, was drawn up by the U.S. organizers of the trip — who said, however, that it reflected their understanding with local church officials.

Father Coleman said organizers of Clinton's visit appeared to have misjudged the effect of the action, which "surprised and hurt many Catholics, especially American Catholics whom Clinton wouldn't want to alienate."

Among those who questioned whether Clinton's reception of Communion was in line with church norms was Cardinal Anthony M. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia. He noted that these norms are outlined in the Code of Canon Law, in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," and in a Vatican ecumenical directory of 1993.

"Pastorally, the church recognizes that in very limited and exceptional circumstances, Christians of other denominations may be permitted to receive the Eucharist" at a Catholic service, Cardinal Bevilacqua said.

The rules are somewhat different for Orthodox and Protestants. But in general, as cited by Cardinal Bevilacqua, the rules say the person:

- Must be in a situation of "grave necessity."
- Must be unable to request the Eucharist from a minister of his or her own church community.
- Must ask for Communion on his or her own initiative.
- Must be spiritually and morally prepared.
- Must give evidence of holding the Catholic teaching in the Eucharist.

In their statement on the Soweto Mass, the Southern African bishops cited essentially the same requirements, but noted that the recent Southern African bishops' ecumenical directory leaves it up to the local bishop to determine what constitutes a "pressing need" or grave necessity.

The directory, in fact, makes a point of stating that while abstinence from shared Communion is the norm, "eucharistic sharing may be both meaningful and desirable" on occasions of special feasts or events.

Pope John Paul II, who has defended the church requirements on the issue, has also said legitimate eucharistic sharing is an important sign of ecumenical progress.

The Vatican press office had no reaction to Clinton's reception of Communion. But other Vatican officials said it appeared to go against church norms.

"Since this is a person who is not a Catholic, he cannot be admitted to the eucharistic Communion, this is a canonical norm ... and therefore no bishops' conference can advance a different rule," said Archbishop Geraldo M. Agnelo, secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, whose office was reviewing the episode.

He said exceptions to the rule apply to narrow circumstances of pastoral need, which did not appear to apply to Clinton.

No church official publicly questioned Clinton's motives in taking Communion, and he was not the first non-Catholic president to do so. In 1983, then-U.S. President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan received Communion at a Catholic funeral in Washington.

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

For more information:
Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Our Lady of Consolation Church
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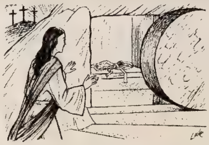
The Empty Tomb



On the first day of the week, Mary Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple who Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we don't know where they put him." They did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead. (John 20:1-2,9)

Saints & Scripture

©1998 CNS Graphics

Due to the Easter holiday, there will be no April 17 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*. Our publishing schedule will resume April 24.

Scripture

Readings for the week of April 12-18, 1998

Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

Monday
Acts 2:14, 22-32
Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday
Acts 2:36-41
John 20:11-18

Wednesday
Acts 3:1-10
Luke 24:13-35

Thursday
Acts 3:11-26
Luke 24:35-48

Friday
Acts 4:1-12
John 21:1-14

Saturday
Acts 4:13-21
Mark 16:9-15

Readings for the week of April 19-25, 1998

Sunday
Acts 5:12-16
Revelation 1:9-13,17-19
John 20:19-31

Monday
Acts 4:23-31
John 3:1-8

Tuesday
Acts 4:32-37
John 3:7-15

Wednesday
Acts 5:17-26
John 3:16-21

Thursday
Acts 5:27-33
John 3:31-36

Friday
Acts 5:34-42
John 6:1-15

Saturday
1 Peter 5:5-14
Mark 16:15-20

Christian Leaders Support Common Date For Easter

By LYNNE WEIL

ROME (CNS) — Leaders of Christian churches from around the world have shown support for a proposal to have a uniform date for celebrating Easter.

The initiative, which is being coordinated by the Geneva-based World Council of Churches, has resulted in numerous letters of approval by prominent church authorities, said Father Thomas Fitzgerald, an Orthodox priest and director of the WCC's Program for Unity and Renewal.

In an April 7 telephone interview, Father Fitzgerald said "it could be that in a few years Eastern and Western churches will be celebrating Easter on the same day."

Writing to the WCC in reaction to the plan, Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, head of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said "the Catholic Church is ready to endorse the conclusions of this consultation, and to work together with other Christians toward this much desired goal."

In a practice dating back four centuries to the reformation of the calendar by Pope Gregory XIII, most Protestants and Catholics celebrate Easter on one day while most Orthodox observe the feast day separately. On some years, the celebrations coincide. Easter this year falls on April 12 for Protestants and Catholics, and April 19 for the Orthodox.

The WCC developed a proposal last year at a meeting in Aleppo, Syria, that a common date would be set for Easter starting April 15, 2001 — the next time that the two Easter celebrations would fall on the same day — and would be observed every year thereafter.

Participants in the Aleppo meeting agreed on a calculation of the date of Easter based on a formula developed by the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in the year 325. According to this system, Easter would always fall on the Sunday after the first full moon in spring.

The WCC sent a copy of the proposal to all churches which took part in the Aleppo meeting, and then to all of its more than 330 member-churches. The Catholic Church is not a member of the WCC, but works in cooperation with the organization.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople said in a letter to the WCC that the Council of Nicaea formulation offers "the only solution for a pan-Christian celebration of Easter on the same date." The patriarch of Constantinople is considered "first among equals" of all patriarchs in the Orthodox Church.

Father Fitzgerald said letters of support had also been sent by authorities for the Russian Orthodox Church, the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Presbyterian Church of the United States and other Christian churches.

The issue "carries more weight in some parts of the world than in others," Father Fitzgerald said. "For example, in the Middle East, where there is concern for Christian witness, it creates a kind of scandal as seen by others, who might say, 'What are the Christians talking about if they can't celebrate their most important feast day at the same time?'"

He noted that in countries "where mixed marriage is fairly common, such as in the United States," households have been split over which day should be reserved for Easter commemorations — and in some homes, it is celebrated twice.

Father Fitzgerald said the target date of 2001 for starting the practice of common Easter celebrations "may be a bit optimistic" because "each church, with its own culture and structure of decision-making" will have to decide on the plan "in its own time."

Pope Celebrates Palm Sunday, World Youth Day

By CINDY WOODEN

CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II holds an olive branch as he prepares to lead Palm Sunday procession in St. Peter's Square April 5. The pontiff presided over Mass commemorating Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With palm and olive branches swaying in a strong breeze, Pope John Paul II celebrated Palm Sunday and World Youth Day with an estimated 100,000 people in St. Peter's Square.

"The wind loves young people and the not-so-young," the 77-year-old pope said at the April 5 Mass. "It rejuvenates us."

As French youths — hosts of the 1997 World Youth Day —prepared to pass a large wooden cross to their Italian peers —hosts of the year 2000 youth day — Pope John Paul encouraged young people to treasure the cross as the symbol of their salvation.

The Palm Sunday liturgy recalls Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his being welcomed as a king, the pope told the young people.

"Jesus knew, however, that the exultation of the crowd would lead him into the heart of the mystery of salvation. He was aware that he would meet his death and not receive a royal crown, but a crown of thorns," the pope said.

Pope John Paul told the youths to welcome Jesus and his cross today with the same exclamation of the youth of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

"Dear young people, the message of the cross is proposed to you today. This cross is entrusted to you, who will be the adults of the third millennium," he said.

"Your choice is clear: Discover in the cross of Christ the meaning of your existence and the source of your missionary enthusiasm," the pope said.

At the end of the Mass, Pope John Paul told Italian youths to gather around the World Youth Day cross over the next two years as it travels to each of the country's dioceses.

Meditating on the cross, he said, should help prepare them to host hundreds of thousands of young people from around the globe for the next international celebration of World Youth Day, scheduled for August 2000.

Addressing English-speaking youths, he said, "The cross of Christ speaks to the young people of today about the true meaning of life and death, of time and eternity. Be witnesses before the world to the grace of Jesus Christ."

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

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Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

For the gift of life,
that through the redeeming death
and resurrection of Christ,
we might come to cherish the share
he has given us in the
divine life of heaven;
We pray to the Lord

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 10 — 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday
Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 11 — 8 p.m.
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 12 — 11 a.m.
Easter Sunday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 15 — 7:30 p.m.
Novena to the Divine Mercy
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

April 19 — 11 a.m.
Diaconate Ordination of Ricardo Sanchez
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 23 — 7 p.m.
Speaker
St. Patrick Young Professionals Group
O'Donoghue Center, St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

April 26 — 11 a.m.
Mass for Sisters of Mercy
Presidents' Meeting
Belmont

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience April 1.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we reflect today on baptism. Jesus himself speaks of faith and baptism as the only way to salvation. When Peter calls on the people at Pentecost to repent and be baptized, he shows that conversion involves not only an interior attitude of repentance but also entry into the Christian community through baptism.

We come to a deeper understanding of this sacrament by meditating on the baptism of Jesus. When he receives the baptism of John, Jesus shows his solidarity with sinners and his desire for their salvation. The manifestation of the Spirit prefigures the gift of the Holy Spirit which Christians will receive in baptism.

St. Paul presents baptism as a sharing in the fruits of Christ's redemptive work, since it brings about the forgiveness of sins and communicates new life in Christ. As adopted sons and daughters of God, baptized Christians are enabled to lead a spiritual life under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May all Christians use this time of preparation for the jubilee to become more conscious of the great gift and mystery of baptism.

I welcome all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Denmark, Japan and the United States of America. Upon you and your families I cordially invoke the blessings of Almighty God.

Pope Marks Dedication Of Georgian Hospital

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking the dedication of a Vatican-built hospital in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, Pope John Paul II said he wanted it to be a sign of his affection for the Georgian people.

Redemptor Hominis Hospital, built under the supervision of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, was officially opened April 5 in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital.

The hospital is named after Pope John Paul's first encyclical, a 1979 letter on Christ the Redeemer of humanity.

The almost $1.7 million cost for constructing and equipping the full-service hospital was covered by contributions from Caritas Italy, the U.S.-based Catholic Near East Welfare Association, the German Catholic aid agency Misereor and the Italian bishops' conference. The hospital will be staffed by members of the Camillian Fathers and Sisters.

In his message for the dedication ceremony, the pope said he readily accepted Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze's request that the Vatican give a concrete sign of its solidarity with the Georgian people.

Pope John Paul said he hoped the hospital would be "a tangible sign of my closeness and my affection," as well as a "living expression of the love which believers in Christ are called to show toward those who suffer."

Pope's Holy Thursday Letter Encourages Prayer To Holy Spirit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged priests throughout the world to invoke the Holy Spirit as they minister to others and grow in their own spiritual lives. In a letter to priests, Pope John Paul said he joined all of them in "imploring from the 'Giver of gifts' the graces necessary to discern the signs of salvation and to respond with full fidelity to the call of God." The pope's annual letter to priests marking the Holy Thursday commemorations of the institution of the Eucharist and of the priesthood was released March 31 at the Vatican.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

Easter — When Love Conquers Despair

I do a lot of work with hurting people. I hope to share with them what I have learned from pain: If we don't stay stuck in the darkness, pain can give us a new and valuable blueprint for living, one we never could have imagined.

Not long ago, a woman grieving the sudden death of a small child challenged me for what she called my "optimism." She said she had lost her faith. In justification she said she believed Jesus also had given up on God as he suffered on the cross. She referred to Jesus' lament: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" She asked, "Where was God's answer?" She insisted that Jesus died in despair because God did not respond.

It wasn't the first time I had heard people struggle with those words. I myself sometimes had repeated them in the despairing moments of my life.

Because those words so burned in my soul and seemed to be a cry of despair, I desperately sought to understand what was going on in Jesus' mind when he uttered that wrenching lament. One day I found out.

I took courses in religious studies at Oxford a few years back. One of my teachers was Dr. Tom Wright, a noted New Testament scholar and now dean of the cathedral in Litchfield, England. He said these words of Jesus are misinterpreted as a sign of despair.

They are the first sentence of Psalm 22. Although the psalm begins with this cry, it ends with an affirmation not only of hope but of the coming of the kingdom of the Lord. It was an eye-opener for me.

We should read this psalm often, certainly during Lent. The beginning can move us to tears. "Why are you so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning? ... I am a worm and no man; a reproach of men and despised by the people. All those who see me ridicule me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the Lord, let him rescue him."

Then follows an affirmation in sheer poetry. "But you are he who took me out of the womb; you made me trust while on my mother's breasts. I was cast upon you from birth. From my mother's womb, you have been my God."

The psalm swells in acknowledging the goodness of God and ends with a prophecy of how God's goodness will be made known to all future generations.

One thing we know is that Jesus was a scholar and a teacher. He certainly knew chapter and verse of the Old Testament. When he spoke the first words of Psalm 22, he knew what he was doing. He was not disclosing despair, but rather the opposite. It is too bad that we jump to conclusions, hearing only the "forsaken" words and not the rest of the psalm that he must have been whispering to himself.

Certainly what was to come was astounding. For it would be by Jesus' life — transformed and remaining ever in this world beginning that first Easter morning — that the Lord always would be known.

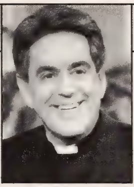
I think the words of South African Bishop Desmond Tutu are another affirmation of the great Psalm 22. "Easter means hope prevails over despair. Easter says to us that despite everything to the contrary, his will [and love] for us will prevail."

That was the truth Jesus wanted us to grasp: Easter is the victory over all darkness.

Antoinette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Where Is Your Molokai?

Damien DeVeuster, the young Belgian priest who gave his life to the care of lepers in the colony at Molokai in the Hawaiian islands in the 1800s, has long fascinated people of all faiths or no particular faith. What he did — and why he did it — still touches and puzzles us.

Within decades of the arrival of Europeans and Americans, diseases they brought took a terrible toll on the native population. Leprosy became nearly epidemic. Partly as a carry-over from biblical times, a leper was considered unclean and cursed, a person to be kept away from "clean" society. The barely accessible island of Molokai became a prison where lepers were exiled to literally rot and die. These unfortunate people had to fend for themselves without medical care, clean water or decent shelter. It was a far cry from the treatments available for what we now call Hansen's Disease. But, sadly, much of the stigma remains.

Damien went to his bishop and asked permission to move to the island and be with these people. To do what he could. The bishop loved this young priest, a man of great promise, and tried to argue him out of it. It didn't seem fitting that this man with so much potential should throw himself away in that forsaken place. It was what someone later called "Holy Waste."

But Damien finally persuaded his bishop and sailed to Molokai. He said that in the early weeks he was often dreadfully sick to his stomach as he saw the horrific conditions under which the lepers were living. It was all he could do to force himself to stay in spite of his strong intention. But he went to work.

He build a contrivance that brought fresh water from a mountain into the village — their first sanitation system. He showed the lepers how to build little houses to replace their flimsy hovels — their first housing project. He build a clinic and, although he had little medical knowledge, he dressed their sores and gave them comfort. Damien built a cemetery as an expression of respect for their dignity. And a church.

He would talk quietly about Christ but never in an offensive or aggressive way. He often would wait until the person asked him the question, "Why are you here?" And he never failed to take these opportunities to tell them that it was the love of God that sent him and sustained him. His infectious spirit of joy began to reach them and, for the first time in the memory of anyone on the island, the sound of laughter was heard.

It has been said that the lepers became accustomed over the years to hear him begin a sermon with these words: "You lepers know that God loves you." Then he would go on to preach from a heart full of hope, full of life, full of joy. But one Sunday he stood before them and said, "*We* lepers know that God loves us." Damien had contracted leprosy. He continued to pour himself out in his ministry of love until he died, a leper among the lepers he loved. He died on April 15, 1889, at the age of 49.

Damien DeVeuster understood that when Jesus said, "You will be My witnesses...to the ends of the earth," it included the isolated, desperate island of Molokai. And I think people are still moved by his story because we all have a Molokai waiting for us.

Where is your Molokai? If you have yet to find it, keep looking. This week, go out of your way to minister to one person. No lofty pledges, no big numbers, just one person. There is somebody out there who has a special need that only you can handle in a loving way. Someone is waiting for you.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Salvation for Those Who Don't Know Christ?

Q. Eight of us gather each week to read and discuss the Bible. One member recently quoted John 14:6 (Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life'') and Acts 4:12 ("There is no salvation through anyone else'' than Jesus) as proving no one gets to heaven except through Jesus.

What would you say? We find it hard to believe that so many of God's good people will never enjoy eternity with him.

A. Catholic teaching, and all Christian tradition, agrees totally with those words, of course. We believe that Jesus is the Lord of the world and of all history, that the Father has revealed to us all he can reveal in the person of Jesus and that all salvation is in and through him.

That is, however, not at all the same as saying that one is saved only through a personal, conscious and explicit faith in Jesus as savior.

The New Testament itself tells us otherwise. The first Letter to Timothy echoes other statements of our Lord and the apostles when it says God "wills everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth,'' and that this happens through the one mediator, "Christ Jesus, himself human" (1 Tm 1:4-5).

On the other hand, as Paul tells us often and in many ways, salvation is impossible without faith.

If both of those statements are true, then there must be other ways to faith, through Christ, but without explicit, conscious faith in him.

To put it another way, if faith is a pure, unmerited gift of God and God's will is that all people be saved through faith, then he must have other ways of bringing human beings to faith and salvation, ways we do not know.

Pope John Paul II, in his remarkable book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope,'' notes that "God the Creator wants to save all humankind in Jesus Christ.''

This salvation, however, is not worked out in neat patterns knowable and clear to us.

Speaking especially of the non-Christian religions and cultures of the Far East, the pope declares that Christ came into the world also for all these peoples, and redeemed them all.

Yet, our Lord "has his own ways of reaching them" he said. "Many accept him, and many more have an implicit faith in him" (Pages 81-83).

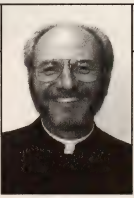
In saying this, the pope embraces the many good people you mention, the vast majority of the human race who, even to this day, know almost nothing of Jesus or the Gospels.

It is of these the Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks. "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart and, moved by grace, try in

See **Dietzen,** page 13

A Garden Teaches About Earth Day

Father John S. Rausch



A Garden Teaches About Earth Day

Raised beds of red cabbage, green beans, garlic and onions thrive beside more exotic rows of malabar spinach, claytonia and hyacinth beans. In David's one-third acre garden, 120 species of plants placed strategically testify that diversity nurtures abundance.

David gardens the bottom land on the campus of the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center (AMERC) in Berea, Ky., where seminarians train for rural ministry. He shows future pastors the effects of growing tobacco and corn for years with chemical herbicides and pesticides. As an organic gardener, he is now restructuring the soil to aerate it and improve its water-holding capacity.

Six bird houses designed for bluebirds that voraciously eat bugs dot the garden and the surrounding bottom land. Fixing a bird house for owls that attack rodents and a bat house for the night-feeding mammals that eat insects promises some balance in the pest population.

A meditation trail winds through a small woodlot close to a stream and continues near the garden through a trellis that surrounds a statue of St. Francis. Benches here and there invite students to pause and reflect on the beauty of creation. Pretty, productive and prayerful, the garden area rests harmoniously in the web of life.

On April 22 the world celebrates Earth Day, a day to recognize the interdependence of all life on this planet. The extinction of species both flora and fauna, the creation of radioactive waste and the possibility of global warming all attest to the environmental crisis that faces the world. The crisis arises from modern industrial civilization with its unsustainable consumption and unsustainable technologies of production promoted by corporations and governments. That approach contrasts sharply with the view of creation epitomized by the AMERC garden.

1. Diversity. In nature, life creates conditions for more life. A forest blossoms as an interconnected ecosystem, and not merely as a stand of trees. Industrial agriculture, in contrast, concentrates on monoculture production at the expense of the environment. The intensive growth of a single crop demands greater use of chemical fertilizers that frequently pollute nearby streams and increases the crop's vulnerability to blight, infestation or bad weather. Diversity insures healthier, more resilient crops by promoting interdependence in the garden and spreading the risks more broadly.

2. Stewardship. God put humanity in the garden "to cultivate and care for it." (Genesis 2:15) As co-gardeners the challenge focuses on preserving creation for God's glory and future generations. The industrial approach favors an after-the-fact clean up of pollution. But, just as organic gardening acts in harmony with nature by composting, covercropping and mulching, so industrial production could adopt a preventative strategy by banning obvious pollut-

See **Rausch,** page 11

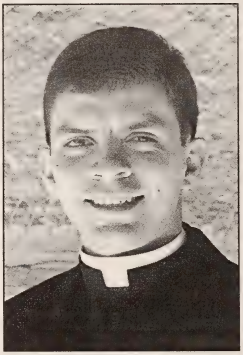
Diaconate Ordination

• *Transitional Diaconate: The Stepping Stone To Priesthood*

By FATHER ERIC HOUSEKNECHT

Bishop William G. Curlin will ordain Ricardo Sanchez to the transitional diaconate on Sunday, April 19, at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

A native of San José, Costa Rica, Ricardo was professed as a member of the Congregacion de Misioneros de San José until his decision to join the Diocese of Charlotte. Ricardo has spent the past year in priesthood formation at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind. He will serve in our diocese as a deacon for a year prior to his ordination to the priesthood in June 1999.


Ricardo Sanchez

Priestly Ordinations In June

On Saturday, June 6 at 10 a.m., Bishop Curlin will ordain Rev. Mr. Dean Cesa, Rev. Mr. Christopher Davis, Rev. Mr. Matthew Leonard, and Rev. Mr. Peter Pham to the priesthood at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte.

Rev. Mr. Cesa's calling to the priesthood was realized while participating in parish life at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte, along with his involvement in Catholic Singles of Charlotte and with various prayer groups and choirs. He has a professional background in computers and engineering. Rev. Mr. Cesa will receive a master's of Divinity from St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pa., in May.

Rev. Mr. Davis is a convert to Catholicism, having been baptized at St. Benedict Church in Greensboro during his college years at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where he studied music. He has a broad range of interests, including extensive studies in Spanish. Rev. Mr. Davis will receive a master's of Divinity from St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md., in May.

Rev. Mr. Leonard's calling came during a 10-year career in the culinary arts. He was a cook in the U.S. Navy for four years, then for six years for the Fraternal Order of Police in Washington, D.C. He earned degrees in theology and philosophy at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Rev. Mr. Leonard will receive a master's of Divinity from St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md., in May.

Rev. Mr. Pham's response to the call of priestly service began as a teenager. In the midst of political turmoil in Vietnam, escape attempts from his native country, and refugee resettlement camps, his priestly calling remained a constant. Rev. Mr. Pham will receive a master's of Divinity from St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Penn., in May.

Thank you St. Jude

For favors received.

— E.W..

Bishop William G. Curlin invites the Diocese of Charlotte to the Transitional Diaconate Ordination of Ricardo Sanchez.

April 19, 1998
11:00 a.m.
St. Patrick's Cathedral
Charlotte, NC

IN BRIEF:

Parish Barbecue/Flea Market/Bake Sale

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church presents its annual barbecue/flea market/bake sale April 25. Flea market spaces are available for $20 each. For more information, call Kris Becker, (704) 545-5666, or Joy Grottle, (704) 545-4592.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Drama

WINSTON-SALEM — Actor and producer Leonard Defilippis presents the one-man drama "Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz," the story of World War II martyr Father Maximilian Kolbe, at St. Leo the Great Church on April 25 at 7 p.m. for audience members ages 10 and up. Admission is $4 for adults, $2 for students. For more information, call (336) 724-0561.

CCHS Presents Oklahoma

CHARLOTTE — The Fine Arts Department of Charlotte Catholic High School presents the musical "Oklahoma" May 1 and May 2 at 7:30 p.m., and May 3 at 4 p.m. in the school gymnasium. General admission tickets are $6. The Athletic Association hosts "dinner theater" May 1 and 2; admission is $14 which includes dinner at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria and a reserve seating ticket to the musical. Call Kathryn Claiborne for tickets, (704) 543-1127.

Dead Sea Scrolls Presentation

CHARLOTTE — James H. Charlesworth, professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, is the 14th annual Loy H. Witherspoon lecturer in religious studies at the University of Chapel Hill-Charlotte April 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lucas Room of the Cone Center. His focus will be on the Dead Sea Scrolls and their relationship to Jesus Christ and early Christianity.

Ministry Founder Visits Greenville

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Mary Ellen Lukas, founder Our Father's Work ministry, leads "An Inspirational Presentation on the Teachings of Jesus Christ" April 16 at Mary Magdalene Church. The gathering begins with the rosary at 6:30 p.m., Mass at 7:30 p.m. and the presentation afterward. For more information and directions, call Grace Norus, (704) 543-1237.

Vocation Discernment Retreat

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. — The Daughters of Charity sponsor a vocation discernment retreat for women May 29-31 at Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island, Ga., near I-95. The cost is $60, and some scholarship assistance is available. For details or to register, contact Sister Carol Durkin or Sister Nancy Murphy at 2737 Gwinette Dr., Macon, Ga. 31204, (912) 741-7522 at home, (912) 746-9803 at work.

12th Annual Spring Fling

Join us for the annual Spring Fling for parishioners aged 50+ at the

Catholic Conference Center in Hickory on Wed., April 29, 1998

10 am - 3:30 pm

Come early for Continental Breakfast 9 - 10am

Activities include music, games, crafts, walking tours, bingo, door prizes, lunch, Mass and so much more...

Registration Fee: $10 Financial Aid is Available

For more information call the Elder Ministry Program at 704-370-3250.

Registration

Name:____________________

Street Address:____________________

City:____________________ Zip Code:__________

Phone:__________________ Parish:__________________

Please enclose the $10 fee per person and mail to:
Spring Fling
Elder Ministry Program ◆ Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street ◆ Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Entertainment

Eamonn Owens stars as the young Francie Brady with Stephen Rea as his father in "The Butcher Boy." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

CNS photo from Geffen Pictures

"Mercury Rising" Makes Little Impression

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Bruce Willis plays his familiar action hero role as he tries to save a 9-year-old boy's life in the unremarkable thriller, "Mercury Rising" (Universal).

The set-up presents Willis as undercover FBI agent Jeffries just off a case in which several misguided teen-age boys were killed in a too-hasty government shoot-out that Jeffries was on the verge of preventing by arranging a peaceful surrender.

Now he's assigned to a case of an apparent husband-wife murder-suicide, but in finding their autistic son, Simon (Miko Hughes) cowering in the closet, Jeffries suspects the child may have been targeted too, and by persons unknown.

And the audience knows he's right because we have seen the boy harmlessly playing with a puzzle book, and inadvertently breaking a top-secret National Security Agency code deliberately placed in the book to test the code's "geek" factor.

Having phoned in the code's correct response, NSA honcho Kudrow (Alec Baldwin) orders the family's immediate wipeout but the hit man missed the child.

And so the chase is on; Jeffries goes on the run with the uncommunicative child and Kudrow uses all the vast high-tech means at his disposal to hunt them down.

Jeffries, meanwhile, must determine what the child knows and find safe harbor, and, lucky for him, although entirely unbelievable in the script, he convinces a total stranger (Kim Dickens) to baby-sit the troubled boy and then let them move right in with her even though she knows Jeffries is a fugitive.

At the same time, Kudrow is covering his tracks, making deadly sure the two code designers who took the initial call from Simon don't throw a wrench in his plans to terminate Simon and his paternalistic protector.

Jeffries survives several solo encounters with the hit man who murdered Simon's parents, but the audience knows better that the final showdown won't occur until the boy, the trusting baby sitter and Kudrow himself are also gathered together to see who has the biggest guns.

Directed by Harold Becker, "Mercury Rising" has a glossy veneer using Chicago as its backdrop, but at its core it's just another formula chase film.

The plotting is fairly elaborate to keep matters interesting, but the script's developments are barely credible. It gets increasingly far-fetched that this murder conspiracy could be kept under wraps as numerous government agents are called upon to join in the hunt.

Overall, the movie makes little impression in the wake of so many similar action films over the last decade; it certainly shouldn't get temperatures rising since audiences have seen it all before.

Due to recurring violence, intermittent profanity and some rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

MOVIES ONLINE

MOVIE REVIEW LINE 1-800-311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Bean" (1997)

Puerile comedy in which British comic Rowan Atkinson plays a bumbling London museum guard entrusted to deliver a priceless painting to a Los Angeles gallery — with predictable results. Directed by Mel Smith, the slapstick antics of Atkinson's nearly wordless character occasionally amuse, but usually fall flat. Brief drunkenness, nude pin-up photo, some toilet humor and a streak of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Fairy Tale: A True Story" (1997)

Romanticized account of the controversy stirred in 1917 England by two little girls whose photographs of what they said were tiny fairies frolicking in their garden aroused the skepticism of Harry Houdini (Harvey Keitel), though were proclaimed genuine by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Peter O'Toole). Director Charles Sturridge spins an enchanting tale of childhood innocence in a sweet family film marred by a few rude words. Serious argumentation over the existence of fairies and fleeting mild language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The House of Yes" (1997)

Darkly comic tale in which an unstable young woman (Parker Posey) becomes unhinged when her brother (Josh Hamilton) who was once her lover returns from college with a fiancee (Tori Spelling). Director Mark Waters' talky story shows its stage-play origins while depicting a thoroughly dysfunctional family, but instead of being madly amusing its humor is often tasteless. Fleeting violence, implied sexual encounters, flippant treatment of incest, occasional profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"McHale's Navy" (1964)

Popular TV comedy series (1962-66) comes to the big screen with a story in which the conniving Cmdr. McHale (Ernest Borgnine) of the PT 73 while stationed on a South Seas island leads his wacky crew in a scheme to win a horse race by generating a smokescreen to hide the track. Directed by Edward J. Montagne, it's a simple mix of bungling characters awash in slapstick situations and resulting confusions. For the undemanding. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"McHale's Navy Joins the Air Force" (1965)

Dippy sequel directed by Edward J. Montagne in which PT 73's Ensign Parker (Tim Conway) masquerades as an Air Force pilot to become a national hero when he spots the hidden Japanese fleet. Broad comedy with silly characters and slapstick situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Shall We Dance?" (1997)

Charming Japanese film in which a restless married businessman (Koji Yakusho) secretly takes ballroom dancing lessons because he's attracted to one of the instructors (Tamiyo Kusakari), but instead of having an affair he benefits from the supportive friendships that develop among the students and teachers. Writer-director Masayuki Suo deftly uses the social nature of ballroom dancing to explore with gentle humor the contradictions of a culture which frowns upon emotional displays by males. Subtitles. Some sexual references. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Slappy and the Stinkers" (1998)

Feeble family comedy about five 7-year-olds known at school as the Stinkers who sneak Slappy the sea lion out of an aquarium to free into the ocean, but instead Slappy is stolen by a villain aiming to sell it to a circus. Directed by Barnet Kellman, the result is a mirthless slapstick comedy of "cute" kids outsmarting dopey adults but the property damage and bodily harm caused by the Stinkers' antics is rarely amusing and anything but cute. Slapstick violence, bathroom humor and crude language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Twilight of the Golds" (1997)

Earnest drama about a Jewish family whose grown son (Brendan Fraser) is gay and whose married daughter (Jennifer Beals) ponders abortion after learning that her fetus carries a gene supposedly linked to homosexuality. Director Ross Marks insightfully explores fractured relationships as family members confront homophobic attitudes, struggle to accept or forgive one another and embrace unconditional love. Serious treatment of an abortion decision, brief male kissing, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

The inside edge of Easter: Healing

By Father Richard Rice, SJ
Catholic News Service

Jesus breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20: 22,23).

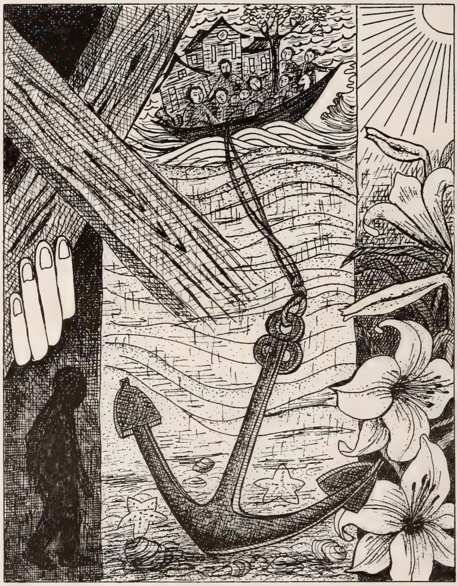
Today people are preoccupied with healing. We are always looking for healthy foods, healing massages and healers of our broken spirits.

Yet in the mind of Jesus, our deepest illnesses are our broken relationships, the wrongs we refuse to acknowledge and the resentments we carry. So the New Testament is anchored in the words, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Jesus knows that the deepest illness in need of healing is our sin and the consequences of our sin, which always involve betrayal and abandonment at some level.

We fear that God will abandon us in response to our abandonment of God, each other and ourselves. We have not been faithful as we said we would be. We have run from under our friends' crosses, we have denied them and ourselves. We have not believed that God could work good through a friend's cancer, a parent's Alzheimer's, a spouse's loss of employment.

Yet, instead of withholding the ultimate gift of breath, God breathes again on us in Jesus: "Receive the Holy Spirit." And the Christian testament begins, a testament of forgiveness that is extended and received; of reconciliation.



CNS illustration by Joan Hyme

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he proclaims that "whoever is in Christ is a new creation: The old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:17,18).

For Paul, reconciliation is not the settlement of a slight squabble, the apology for stepping on another's toes. Reconciliation is being rescued from the edge of divorce; being reunited as we are about to launch atomic weapons.

■ ■ ■

People in 12-step programs know the significance of both the illness of broken relationships and the healing of reconciliation. Well into recovery, one comes to the eighth step and makes a list of all those one has harmed. Next one climbs to the ninth step, which involves making amends to all unless that would do more harm than good.

> **"In the mind of Jesus, our deepest illnesses are our broken relationships.... Forgiveness and reconciliation restore hope. The symbol of hope ... is the anchor.... We throw out an anchor to hold our little boat to the bottom of the body of water. So does hope function in the spiritual life."**

Barbara, for example, knew she was still furious four years after her husband divorced her. He remarried; she was mired in a swamp of resentment.

Finally, she accepted the invitation of friends who pointed out to her that she was risking spiritual, if not physical, cancer. She began to pray for the Lord to take her bitterness, which she could not let go of by herself.

Within days it dawned on her that the divorce was really more about him than about her. He had initiated an affair to try to hold onto a semblance of youth.

Suddenly, it was easy to forgive him. She knew she had risen when she went to the local university one day to begin application for a master's degree in psychiatric nursing, a pursuit she had dropped 20 years earlier when she married.

■ ■ ■

You see, forgiveness and reconciliation restore hope.

The symbol of hope in the Christian tradition is the anchor. This originated in the sixth chapter of the letter to the Hebrews: "We are strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm" (Hebrews 6:18,19).

We throw out an anchor to hold our little boat to the bottom of the body of water. So does hope function in the spiritual life.

Vaclav Havel, Czech Republic president, eloquently writes, "Hope is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainly that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

Even more explicitly Christian is Dag Hammerskjold, who wrote in his journal "Markings" on Easter Sunday: "Forgiveness is the answer to the child's dream of a miracle by which what is broken is made whole again, what is soiled is again made clean. The dream explains why we need to be forgiven, and why we must forgive. In the presence of God, nothing stands between him and us – we are forgiven. But we cannot feel his presence if anything is allowed to stand between ourselves and others."

The resurrection makes reconciliation possible, and this restores hope for us. In showing us how to live and how to die, in going to his death with the words – "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34) – and in being brought through death, Jesus Christ forgives us all and empowers us to extend that forgiveness to each other.

Each time we do that, it is Easter once again.

(Jesuit Father Rice is a spiritual director with Loyola, a spiritual renewal resource in St. Paul, Minn.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The human capacity to weaken the bonds of support, respect or love that people need seems always to be in full view. So healing is needed everywhere: in homes, within communities and between nations.

Why focus on healing – reconciliation – at Easter? Because the resurrection offers hope for whatever is broken in the "real worlds" we inhabit.

But if wounded relationships are to heal, we need to keep clear about certain realities:

–Healing may take time. Healing might not be instant; it won't be magic.

–Healing requires commitment. We need to keep our priorities clear and not give in to discouragement.

–Healing may demand working with another person – or many others – in new ways. That means listening and trusting that a new style of communication is possible.

–Healing requires hope – the hope that we can proceed toward new life not because we are so wonderfully capable, but because the "energy" of the resurrection is powerful for us.

In fact, the catechism says that the resurrection brings a "powerful energy" into our "old time" – an energy that "permeates" things (No. 1169). This means, as I see it, that the resurrection is more than a simple fact of life; it is a powerful force at work on our behalf.

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

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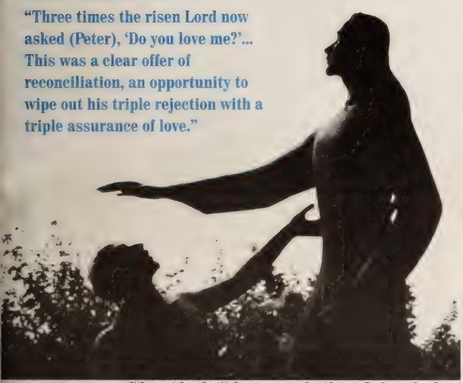
FAITH alive!

Reconciliation: The restorer of peace

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service



"Three times the risen Lord now asked (Peter), 'Do you love me?'... This was a clear offer of reconciliation, an opportunity to wipe out his triple rejection with a triple assurance of love."

CNS photo of "Peter, Feed My Sheep" statue at the Sea of Galilee by The Crosiers/Gene Plaisted

Jesus' disciples had become estranged from him. Peter had denied that he even knew Jesus, and the others simply had run away when he was arrested.

But with their alienation came guilt and tension, enemies of peace. Peace could be restored only through reconciliation.

It is significant that the risen Christ greeted his fearful disciples with the simple but eloquent words, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19,21). It was he who took the initiative in reconciling them to himself and to God.

Alienation had brought tension; reconciliation brought peace, relief, deep happiness.

Not only did Jesus restore the disciples to the warm circle of God's love, he commissioned them to bring this precious gift to everyone by the power of the Spirit. "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:23).

People were free to accept this generous gift or to reject it.

The theme of reconciliation is dramatized in the moving dialogue that takes place with Peter. The favored disciple was in turmoil as a result of his cowardly denial of Jesus. Three times he had openly, shamefully, denied any connection with Jesus. Peter "went out and began to weep bitterly" (Luke 22:62).

His tears now turned to inexpressible joy when Christ gave him the opportunity to proclaim his love. Three times he had denied Jesus. Three times the risen Lord now asked him, "Do you love me?" (John 21:15,16,17).

This was a clear offer of reconciliation, an opportunity to wipe out his triple rejection with a triple assurance of love.

There could be no doubt about the Lord's love; without it he would never have elicited Peter's protestations of love.

This note of reconciliation sounds through all the resurrection accounts.

Notice how Paul concludes the first part of Romans with the summary profession of faith in the risen Christ, "who was handed over for our transgressions and was raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25). And remember as you hear those words that to be "justified" is to be reconciled.

Paul continues with these words: "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

To be "justified" is to be restored to a loving relationship with God and thus, reconciled, to have peace, the peace that only God can give. And it is through the risen Christ that this is given.

Paul says bluntly, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17).

But Christ has been raised and has reconciled us. And we are at peace.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

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FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What action or words played a key role in healing a damaged relationship for you?

"Forgiveness – which is an action, a word and a feeling. I try to accept the other person the way they are and forgive them the actions that hurt me." – Barbara Day, Pittsburgh, Pa.

"'I'm sorry' – those are the words that heal a relationship. People do or say things that later they regret and then they need to come to you and say, 'I'm sorry. Please forgive me.'" – Arthur Dugan, Tucson, Ariz.

"I think the very first time I noticed the process of healing was through a conversation with my pastor, and the words that helped me were: 'You can forgive, but you don't have to forget.' Not forgetting allows you a defense against a similar hurt another time – you can learn from the situation for the future." – Vera Simmons, Patterson, Calif.

An upcoming edition asks: Describe a program in your parish or diocese that promotes Jewish-Christian understanding. If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

How actions pave the way to healing at home

By Andrew and Terri Lyke
Catholic News Service

Sometimes the most difficult people to make up with are the ones we're closest to: family members. Somehow the stakes seem higher, the affront more appalling when the trespasser is among our inner circle of loved ones.

Yet we know that healing and reconciliation with these people are vital to our well-being, emotionally and spiritually.

And often the first step toward reconciliation comes in the form of an action, not words.

Though saying "I'm sorry" helps, sometimes the words don't come. Some families develop other ways to say "I'm sorry."

And while saying "I'm sorry" is good for the relationship, demanding these words as the only valid ways of apologizing closes off family members from many different ways of entering into a healing process.

Sometimes verbally apologizing is too easy and doesn't communicate the sincerity needed to begin the healing process – one best initiated by concrete actions. Arlene Casey of suburban Chicago, a wife of 36 years and mother of two adult sons, says:

"One way to do that is to perform some service Bill can easily do for himself, such as refilling his coffee cup before he gets out of his chair to do it. Or maybe picking up his favorite ice cream, not mine, at the store. Or doing a chore he usually does. Anything that reminds Bill that he is far more important to me than any disagreement.

"I think most of these disagreements come from pride. A little humble service helps to put things back on track."

In Andrew's family such actions tend to center around food. Andrew's father wasn't very good at saying "I'm sorry." So Dad initiated a ritual in lieu of an apology. He'd bring home ice cream.

Dad would buy several pints of assorted flavors and they'd sit and eat ice cream together, Dad and Mom, and all seven children, who could not completely understand what was going on between Mom and Dad, but thoroughly enjoyed the treat.

As teens, Andrew's sister Lila and he one day got into one of their usual sibling spats. However, this one took a very different turn. In her anger, Lila threw a shoe at him and caused a minor injury to his head.

Standing before the bathroom mirror looking at the blood trickling from his head, Andrew and Lila made a silent vow never to do this again. It was the last of such fights.

However, their silent vow demanded something more than just not fighting. They actually began to treat each other with extraordinary kindness.

One evening Lila was preparing dessert for Andrew and herself while the other siblings were present. It was clear that she was being extra nice to Andrew. It was a beginning of a new bond between them, one of taking care of each other that took their relationship to a deeper, more mature level.

In all the examples cited, reconciliation and healing began not from words but from action. Such action is transforming and allows the participants to enter into a new relationship.

Healing – reconciliation – in the family is more than fixing old, broken relationships. It means allowing old, broken relationships to die and recreating new, better relationships. Family members become irrevocably changed, transformed and resurrected in this process, able to begin life together anew.

(The Lykes are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.)

In a Nutshell

- ***In the Bible, the theme of "reconciliation" is heard throughout the accounts of the resurrection.***
- ***People today are preoccupied with healing. But in Jesus' mind, the deepest illnesses are our broken relationships, the wrongs we don't acknowledge and the resentments we carry.***
- ***The resurrection makes reconciliation – healing – possible, and this restores hope for us.***

People In The News

CNS photo from Reuters

Actors portray the passion of Christ in a performance in Imotski, Croatia, April 4, six days ahead of Good Friday. About 150 actors took part in the large-scale production which drew an audience of 5,000 people.

Chicago Chancellor Goes The Distance For Appeal

By HEIDI SCHLUMPF

CHICAGO (CNS) — Father Thomas Paprocki, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Chicago, is putting his best foot forward to help out the archdiocese's Annual Catholic Appeal.

The 45-year-old priest said he planned to go the distance — in fact, over 26 miles in the Boston Marathon April 20 — to raise money for the appeal.

He has asked Catholics and others to pledge donations for each mile he runs.

The Annual Catholic Appeal, formerly called the Cardinal's Appeal, benefits Catholic schools, religious education, lay ministries, ministries for the handicapped and the needy in the archdiocese.

"There are so many ways in which each of us can contribute to the appeal," said Father Paprocki, who has been chancellor for six years. "For me, a marathon pledge drive seemed like the best way to help the cause."

It won't be the first time the Chicago priest will have hit the pavement for charity.

He has run the Chicago Marathon, held in the fall, three times for good causes. In three years, he raised over $46,000 for the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls and for the Chicago Legal Clinic, which he co-founded after graduating from DePaul University's law school.

As he did for those causes, Father Paprocki has asked people to donate $1 per mile, which would come to $26.20 if he completed the 26.2 mile race. Of course, he welcomed any donation.

Father Paprocki, who has lived at Holy Name Cathedral since 1994, is fairly new to marathon running, although he has been a casual jogger for 25 years.

"At Christmas in 1994, I was sitting around one evening with my six brothers talking about resolutions for the new year," Father Paprocki recalled. His youngest brother, Allan, who had already run the Chicago Marathon, encouraged his priest-brother to give it a try.

The priest finished the race in four hours, 22 minutes. "Not bad for the first time," he said.

He chopped 33 minutes off his time in 1996 and shaved another 21 minutes last year, making the cut for eligibility for the Boston race.

Father Paprocki has been training hard for the race, running an average of 20 to 40 miles a week. "I just ran six miles this morning," he told The New World, Chicago archdiocesan newspaper. "On Saturdays, I usually run about 15 miles."

In addition to garnering pledges, Father Paprocki said he hoped to inspire others to seek out creative ways to participate in the appeal or to personalize their contributions, either financially, spiritually or physically.

Last year, a woman who owned a nail salon donated a day's receipts from her business, said Joan Patterson-Turk, internal coordinator for the appeal. "She put a really personal slant on it and brought in some $2,000," she said.

Cardinal O'Connor Urges Rabbi To Help Christian-Jewish Relations

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor called on the new president of the New York Board of Rabbis help Jews and Christians understand their "blood relationship" as "brothers and sisters under one God, our Father." The New York cardinal was the principal speaker at the installation March 30 of Rabbi Marc Schneier as the board's president. Building much of his address from stories of Hasidic Jews and the Holocaust, the cardinal said "too many Christians" still did not understand "our" pain over what happened in that event, called in Hebrew the Shoah.

South Korea's New President Still Has Time For Catholic College

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Between freeing political prisoners and helping his country face its worst economic crisis in decades, South Korea's newly elected president, Kim Dae-Jung, has a full-schedule. Yet he still makes time to attend board meetings at a small Catholic college on the other side of the globe. Since 1993, Kim has been a member of the board of trustees at La Roche College in Pittsburgh.

Dallas Priest Gets Life For Sex Crimes Against Boys

DALLAS (CNS) — Suspended priest Rudolph "Rudy" Kos was sentenced to life imprisonment April 1 for sexual abuse of four former altar boys before he was removed from ministry in the Dallas Diocese in 1992. The sentence rendered by a Dallas County jury was the maximum punishment it could impose. However, Kos, who has no prior criminal record, could be eligible for parole in 15 years. He would then become a registered sex offender under tough new state laws.

Woman Believed To Be First Sister-Doctor Dies

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — A funeral Mass was celebrated March 30 for Medical Mission Sister Helen Lalinsky, who according to her order was the first Catholic sister to be educated as a medical doctor. Sister Lalinsky, 89, died March 26 at age 89. Her funeral was at the Medical Mission Sisters' chapel in Philadelphia, followed by burial in the order's cemetery. For 40 years, Sister Lalinsky worked as a doctor, primarily in Pakistan and India, among the seriously ill and the poor.

Republican Legislators Propose 'Opportunity Agenda' For Poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A group of 29 Republican members of Congress, including a handful of Catholics, have announced a new legislative initiative they say will be "an opportunity agenda for the poor." The proposal was unveiled April 1 at a Capitol Hill press conference. It focuses on community renewal through a charity tax credit, economic incentives in the nation's 100 poorest communities, and publicly funded education vouchers for poor children. Speaking for the group, which is calling itself the Renewal Alliance, Indiana Sen. Dan Coats said the initiative is not a hand-out but an opportunity for the poor.

Father Dulles Urges Defense Of Catholic Orthodoxy

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS) — Catholics loyal to church orthodoxy must be willing to defend it against a pluralistic society that views religion as changeable according to needs, said Jesuit Father Avery Dulles. "Terms such as dogma, hierarchy and orthodoxy, evoke negative reactions," said Father Dulles, who delivered the Msgr. James Barta Distinguished Lecture series in March at Loras College in the Dubuque Archdiocese.

Cardinal, Mayor Urge Food Stamps For Immigrants

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua and Philadelphia Mayor Edward G. Rendell have joined forces in urging the state to restore food stamps to legal immigrants in Pennsylvania. Under the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, legal immigrants were cut off from federally funded food stamps, but states may, if they choose, fund the program on their own.

On Mount Of Olives, Patriarch And Faithful Mark Palm Sunday

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Catholic parishes from all over Israel and the Palestinian Territories responded to the urging of Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem and sent delegations to participate in the traditional Palm Sunday procession on the Mount of Olives. Unlike previous years, on April 5 local Catholics made up a large part of the pilgrims who joined in the procession, which traces the steps of Jesus when he entered Jerusalem from Bethphage. The increase of participation by Palestinians was due partly to the patriarch's personal call, but also because Israeli security promised to allow all Palestinian Christians from the West Bank to enter Jerusalem to pray during Holy Week and Easter.

Pope's Lifelong Jewish Friend Sees Hope In Holocaust Statement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jerzy Kluger, a Polish-born Jew whose lifelong friendship with Pope John Paul II is the subject of a new book, said the new Vatican statement on the Holocaust should help spur Catholic-Jewish dialogue. "This is the beginning of a dialogue that will last, let's hope," Kluger said in an interview April 1 in Washington during a U.S. tour to promote the book, "The Hidden Pope." The book portrays Kluger playing a vital but unofficial role for the pope in the late 1980s and early '90s as a behind-the-scenes mediator in the delicate Vatican-Israeli negotiations over mutual diplomatic recognition.

Witness Testifies For Pro-Life Activist At Racketeering Trial

CHICAGO (CNS) — The racketeering charges against pro-life activist Joe Scheidler are "ridiculous" and "complete harassment," one witness said shortly before testifying on behalf of Scheidler in federal court. The suit, brought by the National Organization for Women and two abortion clinics, accuses the Chicago-based Pro-Life Action League, which Scheidler heads as executive director, of racketeering, extortion and an ongoing campaign of violence against abortion clinics. The witness was Dr. John C. Willke, former president of the National Right to Life Committee and current president of Life Issues Institute.

Diocesan Delegation Of Order Continues To Grow, Has New Members Installed

CHARLOTTE — Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy, were among the congregation that celebrated Palm Sunday Mass with Bishop William G. Curlin April 5 at St. Patrick Cathedral.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem dates back to the first Crusades and the Knights established by Godfrey de Bouillon to guard the Sepulchre of our Lord immediately after their conquest of Jerusalem in 1099. They were approved as an Order in a Bull of Approbation by Pope Paschal II in February 1113.

The Order has as its mission the protection of the Christian presence in the Holy Land by direct support of schools, hospitals and holy shrines. The Order's motto, *Deus Lo Vult*, "God wills it,' inspires the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre to crusade for equality of persons, justice for all, and peace in the Holy Land so that Christians, Jews and Muslims may live side by side in love of God and each other.

Archive Photo

Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre from the Charlotte Diocese are shown with Bishop William G. Curlin after a recent investiture ceremony at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is under the personal protection of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, and is the only Order in the world to be accorded this distinction. The Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy includes the Archdioceses for U.S. Military Services and of Washington, and the Dioceses of Arlington (Va.), Richmond (Va.), Memphis (Tenn.), Nashville (Tenn.), Wheeling-Charleston (W.Va.), Raleigh and Charlotte.

The group's presence in the Charlotte Diocese continues to grow as 14 new members were recently invested into the Order at a ceremony in the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C. Natalie A. Beckert, Rose O. Bell, Anna Loraine Cox, Theresa Marie H. Esposito, and Harriet S. Manley were invested as Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, and James T. Beckert, James H. Bell, Clarence Richard Cox, Alfred L. Esposito, Francis J. Manley, Cleatus J. Tate, and Joseph A. Tronco, Jr. were invested as Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. Father Paul Q. Gary, Rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, and Father Peter J. Jugis, Judicial Vicar, were invested as Clergy Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

Mr. and Mrs. Beckert, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, and Mr. Tronco are members of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. Mr. and Mrs. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Manley, and Mr. Tate are members of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. Mr. and Mrs. Esposito are members of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

Rausch,

from page 5

ants in the first place. Phasing out incinerators and toxic waste dumps would encourage the discovery of alternative means of production and ratchet recycling to a new high.

3. Creation Centered Spirituality. The hubris of modern industry believes that technology can substitute for depleted natural resources. Sitting by the garden, students contemplate the wonder of God's creation, the intricate interdependence of creatures and their environment and humanity's humble role in God's plan.

Pope John Paul II insists: "The ecological crisis is a moral issue." On the World Day of Peace in 1990, he said: "Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join humanity in praising God." (cf Psalms 148)

Perhaps St. Francis, the plants and bluebirds in AMERC's garden are teaching some lessons for Earth Day.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches at the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky. He has a master's degree in economics and has worked in community ministries for more than 20 years.

Video Produced On Papal Trip To Cuba

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — A video documentary on the papal visit to Cuba has been released.

Titled "A Blessing for Cuba: Pope John Paul II's Historic 1998 Journey to Cuba," the video culls live footage from the Odyssey cable channel's coverage of the Jan. 21-25 visit.

Highlights from the pope's four Masses on the island nation are presented with English translation.

Short, informative background reports on the cities visited by Pope John Paul — Havana, Santa Clara, Camaguey and Santiago de Cuba — are included on the 60-minute video.

The video's distributor, Heart of the Nation, has distributed two commemorative videos of the 1987 papal visit to Los Angeles, and provides a Sunday television Mass to the homebound in Los Angeles and Milwaukee.

The video costs $19.95. To order, call (800) 430-0930.

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Catholic, Episcopal Parishes Hold Joint Palm Sunday Service

By GENE STOWE

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — An ecumenical Palm Sunday ceremony in South Bend brought together two long-divided branches of Christianity to open the observance of Holy Week.

About 150 people from St. Patrick's and St. Hedwig's Catholic parishes and the Episcopal Cathedral of St. James prayed, sang and waved palm fronds in a sun-splashed parking lot central to their downtown buildings.

"Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the whole church throughout the world," said Father Charles Lavely, pastor of St. Patrick's, reading an ancient exhortation.

Focusing on the events of Jesus' life, such as his kinglike entry into Jerusalem on the Sunday before he was crucified on Friday, reveals what Christians have in common, said Father Lavely, who organized a similar celebration with St. James last year.

He said Jim Fisko, director of the United Religious Community, has promoted such ecumenical gatherings for years.

"He just keeps organizing things and doing things to get people to come together," Father Lavely said.

Fisko, who is Catholic, said he's seen many other churches adopting meaningful ancient practices, such as Lenten observances, in recent years.

Father Leonard Chrobot, pastor of St. Hedwig's, said he shared palms Sunday morning with a Baptist minister who knocked on his door asking for branches to use at his church.

Sisters of Mercy Announce 18 Grants

CHARLOTTE — The Sisters of Mercy Foundation last month announced grant awards exceeding $846,000 to 18 nonprofit organizations in Mecklenburg, Cleveland, Gaston, Madison, Guilford and Catawba counties in North Carolina and York County in South Carolina.

Supported programs include education, emergency shelter, housing, primary health care services, social services and technology support to organizations.

The Sisters of Mercy Foundation was established in 1995 and operates from a mission to support health care, educational and social service organizations in the Charlotte metropolitan area and the Carolinas. The foundation is particularly interested in promoting systemic change and the quality of life for unserved and underserved populations.

The organizations who have been designated for funding are as follows.

- Carolina Computer Access Center in Charlotte will receive $20,000 to implement the second year of Technology Outreach Time, a program using technology to increase literary acquisition among Title I and Exceptional students who attend the Plaza Road Pre-Kindergarten.
- Children's Attention Home in Rock Hill, S.C., will receive $35,000 to prepare a new building for use as a housing facility. The organization provides shelter and care for children who have been removed from undesirable home situations.
- Cleveland County Health Department in Shelby will receive $25,000 to help fund a full-time physician extender and a billing clerk for the new school-based health center at North Shelby School, a special purpose facility for physically and mentally challenged students in Cleveland County.
- Community Clinic of High Point will receive $5,122 for primary health care services provided to economically disadvantaged women in the High Point community.
- Community Food Rescue in Charlotte will receive $20,000 to expand its Produce Recovery Program by adding staff and purchasing a refrigerated box for a truck to aid in gathering and transporting food to shelters, community centers and low-income neighborhoods.
- Community Link in Charlotte, formerly Traveler's Aid Society, will receive $21,000 over a three-year period. The monies will be used to expand the Healthy Families Support Groups, which are part of the organization's Domestic Violence Program.
- Gaston Community Action in Gastonia will receive $16,000 for its mentoring program for children who have dropped out, been suspended from or who are absent without excuse from school. The organization provides programs that assist families in acquiring skills to enable them to become self-sufficient.
- Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry in Hickory will receive $10,000 to purchase medications and to help pay for related expenses for its pharmacy program. This organization provides crisis assistance by helping with basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter.
- Holy Angels, Inc., in Belmont will receive $290,000 over three years to help fund the Technology Enhancement Project, which will replace and upgrade the current management information system.
- Lions Services, Inc., in Charlotte will receive $25,000 for assistive computer equipment and to provide Braille reference materials. This organization provides employment, rehabilitation and competitive job training opportunities to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.
- Madison County Habitat for Humanity in Mars Hill will receive $39,950 to construct a 1,400 square-foot home for a family of four.
- MedAssist of Mecklenburg in Charlotte will receive $25,000 as start-up funds for its pharmacy assistance program. The organization provides free or low co-pay prescription medications for low-income individuals age 65 and older.
- The Relatives, Inc., in Charlotte will receive $67,000 over three years to help offset the costs of two residential case managers in its Runaway/Crisis Shelter.
- The Salvation Army in Charlotte will receive $50,000 to expand its emergency shelter for women and children.
- The University of North Carolina at Charlotte will receive $93,107 for its Family & Community Nursing Department. The funds will be used to expand the services of the Nursing Center for Health Promotions, which was developed to provide homeless women and children living at the Salvation Army shelter with nursing care, health education and referrals into the mainstream health care system.
- Uptown Day Shelter, Inc., in Charlotte will receive $60,000 over three years to maintain a full-time counseling position. The organization provides shelter and opportunities for homeless men to rebuild their lives by offering services such as assistance with substance abuse, mental health services, education, employment and housing.
- With Friends, Inc., in Belmont will receive $25,000 to support its counseling service. The organization provides emergency residential and counseling services to youth who are homeless, runaway or in crisis.
- Youth Homes, Inc., in Charlotte will receive $19,200 to assist with the cost of a family-centered social work position which will work to reunify Youth Home at-risk foster children and their biological families.

Since announcing in October 1996 that it was ready to begin receiving grant applications, the Sisters of Mercy Foundation has awarded 67 grants exceeding $3.1 million.

For more information concerning the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundations, please call (704) 366-0087.

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For more information contact the Family Life Office at 704-370-3250.

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Pro-Life Spokeswoman, Roe Attorney Debate Abortion

By MARY CLAIRE GART

CHICAGO (CNS) — The question of reproductive rights was debated March 30 by two feminists with decidedly different views about who should make decisions regarding abortion, the consequences of abortion and, indeed, what is involved in an abortion.

One was only 12 years old when the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion came down; the other was the winning attorney in the 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling.

The debate, sponsored by student groups at Loyola University in Chicago, brought together Helen M. Alvare, director of planning and information for the U.S. Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, and Sarah Weddington, who continues to practice law in Austin, Texas.

The debate marked the first time the two women shared the same stage.

Asserting that ''any important case has its roots in a much broader issue,'' Weddington opened with a look back at state laws against contraception that were overturned when the court ruled contraception was part of ``the right to privacy.''

But she focused much of her opening remarks on "the constellation of issues" surrounding women's rights, including the problems of job discrimination, working while pregnant, and getting credit approval without a husband's consent.

"I'm talking about times when pregnant women couldn't teach in schools, when I was discouraged from entering law school," she recalled.

Alvare, on the other hand, focused on the rights of the unborn child. "The consensus is that the unborn child is a human life," she said. "We know this from science. We know there is an internal intelligence that compels (the fetus) forward."

To those who say they are not acting against the child, but for the mother, Alvare said abortion is affecting women psychologically. "We get calls every day from women after abortion. There is an Internet site set up for post-abortive women who need to talk to each other."

Alvare also contended that legalized abortion hinders the women's movement and "authentic feminism," stating that only 23 percent of U.S. women call themselves feminists because of its connection with abortion.

"Killing is against everything human nature embraces," she said.

In her rebuttal, Weddington said the law has never considered the fetus a child. "It has always recognized birth as the beginning — birth is the critical moment."

During a question-and-answer session, Weddington said women often thank her for her efforts to make abortion legal. "One black woman said she'd be a slave again if it weren't for the Supreme Court decision," she recalled.

"Nothing turns your life inside out like having a child," Alvare agreed, but she added that to say it "enslaves you" is an exaggeration. On the contrary, she said, "Nothing puts you so much in touch with beauty and wisdom."

When a questioner asked about unwanted children being brought up "in degradation and poverty," Alvare said it is middle-class women, not the poor, who seek the most abortions. As for poverty, the better solution is not to get rid of the children, but to care for them. "The poor cry out for justice and mercy," she said, "and we keep giving them more abortions."

Asked about the difference between aborting a fetus at eight months or at one month, Weddington said the issue is not about when but about "who gets to make the decision."

"My key point is that it is not a decision for the government or strangers to make but for the individual woman," she said.

Alvare responded that it's "not just who's deciding but what's being decided — who's on the other end of the instrument, whether it's a rifle or a suction cup."

Discussing the future of abortion in the United States, Weddington said that those opposed to abortion are well organized and that it is up to those who support legal abortion to make sure Roe vs. Wade endures.

She called the 1992 election a perilous moment for the movement in support of abortion because the election of George Bush could have changed the makeup of the court. She labeled the current court "3-3-3," three justices in favor of Roe vs. Wade, three against and three in favor of weakening the ruling.

When Alvare asked, "Why can't we vote on this state by state and let the people speak for themselves," her opponent said, "We have never allowed popular votes to determine constitutional rights."

In her closing statement, Weddington said, though the reasons for an abortion may be a gray area, in terms of who makes the decision, it has to be black and white. "I wish we could agree to disagree about this, and let everyone make their own decision."

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Advertising Representative:
The Catholic News & Herald has an opening for a full-time advertising representative. Previous sales experience preferred. Candidate will be responsible for sales, billing and collections. Good benefits package. Please send resume by April 20 to: *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Music Director/Music Teacher:
675-family Catholic parish on coast of North Carolina seeks professional musician to provide music services for all aspects of parish life, as well as serving as music teacher for 150-student K-5 school. Individual must have organ and choral directing skills. Bachelor's degree and practicing Catholic preferred, but will consider person with demonstrated level of experience. Salary based on degree and experience. Send resumes to: Search Committee, St. Egbert Catholic Church, 1706 Evans Street, Morehead City, NC 28557. Application deadline is June 1, 1998.

Youth Minister:
Would you like to serve starting in June, 1998 as a full-time Youth Minister in a young, growing, Catholic Community in central North Carolina? Candidate must be a faith-filled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team oriented person. Qualifications: BA in Theology, 3 years experience in Youth Ministry, knowledge of *Life Teen* desirable. Salary and beneifts commensurate with degree and experience. Send resume and a statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Rev. James W. O'Neill, O.S.F.S., St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.

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Dietzen,

from page 5

their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience — those too may achieve eternal salvation'' (No. 847).

In other words, God's grace is guiding and saving those who sincerely and conscientiously live good lives but who have, for whatever reason, honestly never seen faith in Jesus Christ as a personal religious obligation.

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship with people of other faiths, is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Local Businessman Honored at Abbey

BELMONT — Charlotte businessman Felix S. Sabates was honored by Belmont Abbey College recently as the 1998 recipient of the Grace Award. The award, named for Cummins Atlantic CEO Chuck Grace, honors a businessperson who has contributed to the greater good of society. Mattei Motorsports president Jim Mattei announced a $10,000 gift toward a scholarship in the named of Sabates and his wife, Carolyn. Additional gifts toward the Sabates scholarship will benefit students of Latin heritage. For more information on contributing, call (704) 825-6661.

Proceeds from the award ceremony also raised money for other general scholarships to the Catholic liberal arts college.

Lenten Day of Reflection

ASHEVILLE — St. Eugene Church's Ascending Life seniors group sponsored a Lenten day of reflection March 25 at the convention center in King's Ranch. Father Frank Cancro, pastor, conducted the retreat, and other Asheville parishes were invited to attend. The focus was on two "dares" — daring to be happy and daring to be people of God — and Father Cancro discussed elements necessary to achieve those goals. To be happy, said, people must be open to change, people of trust and people who forgive and forget. People of faith, he added, are people who believe the church is centered on Christ, sacramental, ongoing and comprehensive.

Catholic Home School Support

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, western North Carolina's Catholic home school support group, meets each third Friday for a family potluck dinner in the Laurentine Hall of St. Lawrence Basilica. For more information, call Sheryl Oligny, (704) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (704) 645-6990.

St. Francis of Assisi Book Reading

ASHEVILLE — Susan W. McMichaels, a teacher and independent scholar residing in Fletcher, will read from her new book, "Journey Out of the Garden: St. Francis of Assisi and the Process of Individuation," April 19 at 3 p.m. in Malaprops book store. The book draws on St. Francis' own writing, lives of the saints, legends, art and modern historical scholarship to examine aspects of Francis' psycho-spiritual journey in the context of Jungian psychological individuation. For more information, call Robert Benitez, (704) 251-6811.

Rosary Society Chicken Dinner

CHARLOTTE — The Rosary Society of Our Lady of Consolation Church hosts its annual chicken dinner April 26 from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Baked or fried dinner plates are $6 each. For more information, call (704) 375-4339.

WNBA Star to Visit Parish

CHARLOTTE — WNBA's Charlotte Sting star Andrea Stinson visits St. Thomas Aquinas Church April 17 in the family life center for a presentation and video. She will also lead basketball drills for children. The event begins at 6 p.m. with hot dogs and refreshments on sale. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Raffle prizes, including WNBA basketballs and T-shirts, will be awarded. Members of the parish's athletic ministry will be on hand to register families for the parish's athletic association and to answer questions about the ministry.

Family Rosary Day

CHARLOTTE — The 44th Semi-Annual Family Rosary Day is May 3 at St. Vincent de Paul Church at 3 p.m. and includes rosary recitation, hymns, a homily and a procession. Father John T. Putnam, pastor of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, will be the homilist.

Relationship Seminar

CHARLOTTE — Family therapist and author Phil DeLuca presents an innovative approach to repairing relationships with unresponsive and uncooperative partners at a workshop April 25 from 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St. The cost is $25 per person. Call Gerry Carter to register, (704) 370-3250.

Lady Hibernians Meet

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in America meet April 30 at 7 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church. All Catholic women of Irish ancestry are invited to attend this first meeting. For more information, call Tim Lawson, (704) 522-9728.

Divine Mercy Celebration

CHARLOTTE — The third annual Divine Mercy Mass and Devotion are celebrated at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., April 19 at 2:45 p.m. Father Karl Kaltreider, pastor of St. Mary Church in Shelby, is the main celebrant. Bring your Divine Mercy images to be blessed on the altar. For more information, call Terri DeLuca, (704) 888-6050.

"Gift of Life" Program

CHARLOTTE — The African American Affairs Ministry at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., co-sponsors a "Gift of Life" Program with LifeShare of the Carolinas April 15 at 7 p.m. at the church. Debbie Gibbs, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte and a LifeShare associate, will be the main speaker. The program is intended to heighten awareness of the need for organ and tissue donations, and will explore the Catholic Church's position on the matter. For more information, call Cheryl Sledge, (704) 847-7854.

Spring Cleaning Attic Sale

CHARLOTTE — A spring cleaning attic sale is at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., April 25 from 8 a.m.-noon. Call now to reserve your table for $15 if you need a table or $10 if you have your own. Call Kathy, (704) 455-5507, or Denise, (704) 599-1649, for details.

Knights Host Open House

GASTONIA — The Knights of Columbus St. Gregory's Council 6700 hosts an open house April 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Michael Church parish center, 807 St. Michael's Lane. All Catholic men in Gaston County are invited to attend. The council will hold a First Degree April 19 at 1 p.m. to introduce new members. Call (704) 864-9409.

Estate Planning Seminar

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace Church hosts an estate planning seminar April 23 in the Our Lady of Grace Church multi-purpose room. The focus is on the will as one of the most important documents you will ever sign. For details call Cindy Rice, diocesan director of planned giving, (704) 370-3320.

Adult Education Series

GREENSBORO — Dominican Father Jude Siciliano of the Deporres House in Raleigh leads a discussion on eucharistic images in today's world April 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of St. Paul the Apostle Church. Baby-sitting is available; to R.S.V.P., call Joe Casacchia, (336) 632-0729.

Liturgical Workshop

GREENSBORO — The Franciscan Center hosts the 1998 Liturgical Workshop April 25 at St. Pius X Church from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. for lectors, eucharistic ministers, music ministers, liturgy planners and other involved in liturgical celebrations. Cost is $20, which includes lunch. To register, call the Franciscan Center, (336) 273-2554.

50+ Spring Fling

HICKORY — The 12th Annual Spring Fling for parishioners aged 50 and up is April 29 at the Catholic Conference Center from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and includes breakfast, bingo, music, games, lunch, Mass and fellowship. The cost is $10 per person. To register call your parish seniors' club or the elder ministry program, (704) 370-3250.

Big Band Senior Prom

HIGH POINT — The second annual Senior Prom for High Point area senior citizens is in the Immaculate Heart of Mary School gymnasium April 17 from 5-9 p.m., featuring food, fellowship, big band music, dancing and door prizes. A prom king and queen will be crowned. Admission is free. For reservations or more information call Ed or Sue, (336) 869-8483.

Jesuit House of Prayer Retreat

HOT SPRINGS — "St. Paul & Women" is a May 1-3 retreat for women at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Mercy Sister Margaret Verstege facilitates. Limited space remains. Direct inquiries and reservations to Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, NC 28743, (704) 622-7366.

Living Waters Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Living Trinitarian Faith" is a May 1-3 retreat focusing on the meaning of the Trinity doctrine and its practical consequences. Glenmary Father John McNearney facilitates. Cost is $95. "Everyday Mystics" is a May 11-17 retreat discerning and celebrating mystical moments of peace that are achieved through child-like faith. Franciscan Father Thomas Vigliotta facilitates. Cost is $260.

To register, get more information, or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the Diocesan News Briefs page. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Pastoral Letter Training

BELMONT — Training for Gastonia Vicariate parish implementation of N.C. Catholic Bishops William G. Curlin and F. Joseph Gossman's economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," is May 2 from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Belmont. All interested parishioners, parish leaders, businesspersons and educators are invited. There is no cost, but registration is encouraged by calling (704) 370-3231.

GREENSBORO — Training for Greensboro Vicariate parish implementation of N.C. Catholic Bishops William G. Curlin and F. Joseph Gossman's economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," is April 18 from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. in the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St. All interested parishioners, parish leaders, businesspersons and educators are invited. There is no cost, but registration is required by calling Bridget Johnson, (336) 274-5577.

Joanne K. Frazer, director of the diocesan office of Justice and Peace, will facilitate both workshops.

Charismatic Masses

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated April 19 at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

WINSTON-SALEM — A charismatic Mass is celebrated every third Thursday in the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel.

World And National News Briefs

Cuban-Americans Call For Legalizing Sales Of Necessities To Cuba

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a ripple effect credited to the pope's January visit to Cuba, hundreds of Cuban-Americans descended on Washington March 31 to lobby Congress to legalize sales of food and medical equipment to Cuba. Representatives of more than 60 Cuban interest groups gathered from across the country to ask Congress to lift the ban on sales of food to Cuba and to relax the difficult licensing process for sales of medical supplies. In a Capitol Hill press conference, Sylvia Wilhelm, executive director of the Cuban Committee for Democracy, said she and the more than 200 Cuban-Americans who came from Florida to lobby Congress likely would not have made such a trip if not for Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba.

Missionaries Of Charity Brother Among Three Murdered In India

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — A Missionaries of Charity brother and two others were found murdered in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, apparent victims of a highway robbery. Brother Luke Puttaniyil, 46, along with a truck driver and the driver's assistant, had been missing since March 22 after leaving Calcutta for the Bihar state capital of Patna with a truckload of medicine and clothing for the sick and the poor. Bihar police found three bodies March 24 along a railroad 75 miles southeast of Patna.

Teen Killed On Church Steps During Evening Mass

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Father Larry Dulek hopes the tragic murder of a 15-year-old boy on the steps of St. Anthony Parish during the 7 p.m. Mass March 29 can be a source of resurrection. "We need to always look to the paschal mystery that we will celebrate and see that out of human suffering, there is always some sign of victory, glory," he said in a March 30 phone interview with the Catholic Herald, Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper. Israel Rodriguez, a student at South Division High School, died March 30 from a gunshot wound to the head. The other victim, also 15 and a South Division student, was shot in the left knee during the incident. He was treated and released from St. Luke Hospital.

Dying People Want Pain Relief, Not Suicide, Says Bishop

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS) — To fight against assisted suicide, we must work to stop needless suffering for the sick and dying, said Bishop John R. McGann of Rockville Centre, N.Y., during a symposium on health care ethics. Bishop McGann was the keynote speaker for a March 25-27 symposium celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Bioethics Research Center at Loras College, a Dubuque Catholic college. "In the face of serious illness, it is natural to struggle with grief, anger and self-doubt," said the bishop, "but we must recognize that people who ask for help to commit suicide are almost always really longing for something else; not death but relief from physical pain, depression and the social pain caused by isolation."

Vatican Urged To Condemn Eastern-Rite 'Violence' In Ukraine

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Russian Orthodox Church official has said the Vatican must condemn violence by Eastern-rite Catholics in theUkraine before any meeting can take place between Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II and Pope John Paul II. However, he defended the right of Ukrainian-rite Catholics to reclaim places of worship and condemned the Soviet Union's "historically unjust" prohibition of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in 1946. "Until the Vatican finds a way of influencing the situation in Ukraine, no meeting can take place," said Father Ilarion Alfiev, the secretary of the Moscow Patriarchate's external relations department.

Women Religious Meet In Effort To Save TV Show 'Nothing Sacred'

NEW YORK (CNS) — Women religious gathered with media leaders to discuss how they could save the controversial and recently canceled ABC television series "Nothing Sacred." For what was sometimes a pep rally, prayer meeting and strategy session, the women invited about a dozen media professionals to a breakfast gathering in midtown Manhattan. According to Sister Irene Fugazy, a Sister of Charity and former director of television for the New York Archdiocese, "Nothing Sacred" is a program which "really tells the story of contemporary Catholics, of contemporary priests and nuns."

Federal Judge Backs Schools On Expelled Students

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Two students accused of heavy petting, fondling and kissing in a hallway at a Catholic high school in the Baltimore Archdiocese have once again been barred from attending the school. In a March 23 ruling, U.S. District Judge Frederic N. Smalkin of Baltimore dissolved a lower court order issued by Frederick County Circuit Court Judge Mary Ann Stepler to keep the students enrolled pending the outcome of a suit filed by the students' parents against the school — St. John's Literary Institution at Prospect Hall in Frederick. Smalkin also denied the students' request to remand the case back to Frederick County, a ruling which keeps the case exclusively in federal court.

Killers Say Salvador Military Ordered 1980 Nuns' Deaths

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Seventeen years after four U.S. churchwomen were murdered in El Salvador, the national guardsmen convicted of the crime have said they acted on orders from their military superiors. Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and lay missionary Jean Donovan were kidnapped, raped and shot dead Dec. 2, 1980. Their bodies were found alongside a road the next day. The New York Times reported April 3 that in recent interviews with the New York-Lawyers Committee for Human Rights — which represents the families of the victims — and with the newspaper, the former guardsmen admitted being ordered to kill the women, contradicting previous claims by the U.S. and Salvadoran governments that they acted alone.

Blessed Katharine Drexel's Sainthood Cause Proceeding In Rome

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A reported second miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Katharine Drexel is under review in Rome, according to the Philadelphia priest who is vice postulator of her sainthood cause. Father Alexander J. Palmieri, also chancellor and vicar for religious of the Philadelphia Archdiocese, said this case, like the one already confirmed as a miracle, is a cure of deafness. If one of two independent physicians appointed by the postulator in Rome affirms the case as a miracle, he said, it moves to the five-person medical board of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

CNS photo from Reuters

Father Francesco Coccia (right) watches workers move debris April 3 after an earthquake caused further damage to his church in Gualdo Tadino, Italy. The quake shook Italy's central Umbria and Marche regions in what experts said was a major aftershock to a series of quakes last year.

People Did Not Die In Vain In Jonesboro, Priest Says

JONESBORO, Ark. (CNS) — Father Jack Harris, who ministered to students following a shooting rampage at Westside Middle School that left five dead and 10 wounded, said he believes Jonesboro will be motivated to continue to be a "community of hope" to the nation. "There is always some danger the magnitude of our resolve might weaken as time passes, but we have the motivation that can help us remain a community of hope," Father Harris said. "The motivation is our decision that these five have not died in vain."

N. Ireland Church Officials Express Doubts, Hope Over Agreement

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — A peace settlement scheduled to be signed in mid-April to end Northern Ireland's conflict has sparked mixed reaction among church officials in the province. Some doubt that politicians are capable of hammering out a meaningful agreement that will satisfy the entire population. An April 9 deadline to complete negotiations was set by the chairman of the peace talks, former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell. Msgr. Denis Faul of St. Malachy's College, Dungannon, said historic and irrational fears felt by the Protestant and Catholic communities in Northern Ireland will hinder a genuine peace agreement.

Chiapas Needs Canadian Government Response, Say Church Officials

OTTAWA (CNS) — The southern Mexican state of Chiapas is a land mine ready to explode, and the Canadian government must take action to defuse the situation, say church officials. "While in Chiapas we saw the dramatic consequences of the free trade agreements in the misery and the violent repression of an entire people," said Father Jean-Claude Trottier, provincial superior of the Marists and president of the Canadian Religious Conference, at a news conference on Parliament Hill April 2. Father Trottier, who had just returned to Canada following a weeklong visit to Chiapas as part of a fact-finding delegation, said he witnessed "the drama of the indigenous peoples of that region of Mexico and of the church that has walked with them through their struggles and their agony over the last 30 years."

Former Bethlehem Mayor Dies, Known For Peace Effort

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Greek Orthodox leaders held funeral services March 31 at the Church of the Nativity for Elia Freij, 79, former mayor of Bethlehem. Freij, who served as Bethlehem mayor from 1972 until his resignation last May, died in Amman, Jordan, March 23 after a long bout with heart disease. Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem declined comment on Freij's death, saying only, "May God's mercy be upon him."

Bishop Blesses Oils, Commends Brother Priests At Cathedral Chrism Mass

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Observing a centuries-old Holy Week tradition, Bishop William G. Curlin and 90 brother priests focused on the power of Christ's ministry as they concelebrated the annual Chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral April 7.

During the Mass, the bishop blessed oils used by each parish throughout the year. The liturgy is one of the most solemn in the Catholic Church.

The celebration also included a recommitment to priestly service and called to mind the union between priests and the faithful.

Bishop Curlin said the privilege of working with so many devoted priests brings him much happiness, and he dedicated his homily to extolling priestly service.

"What a precious gift it is to be a priest," Bishop Curlin said to those in attendance. "How awesome it is that we are honored to consecrate bread and wine as we celebrate the presence of Christ each day."

"Today, as we priests again give ourselves to Jesus Christ in loving service to you, I plead with you to pray for all of us each day," he added. "Be there for us with kindness and compassion and love."

Bishop Curlin spoke of Christ's presence in the sacraments and other external signs of grace. He blessed three oils: the oil of catechumens, the oil of the sick and the oil of chrism. The first is used for baptizing adults and infants, the second for anointing in sacrament for the sick. Chrism is an oil of consecration used while conferring the sacraments of initiation, ordaining priests and bishops, and blessing churches and altars.

Photo by Joann Keane
Bishop William G. Curlin stirs balsam into a vessel containing the oil of chrism.

Chrism, a rich symbol fragranced with balsam and also called the "Christ oil," focuses the faithful on Christ. Persons and things consecrated with chrism are uniquely dedicated to the Lord. The oils of catechumens and the sick are signs of grace that provide strength and encouragement.

After the oils are blessed, they are transported in smaller containers to each parish in the diocese for use in the sacramental life of the community.

The bishops' blessing of oils for ministerial use is a Holy Week tradition dating back more than 1,000 years. Until the mid-1950s the practice took place in diocesan cathedrals as part of the Holy Thursday liturgy.

The renewal of commitment to priestly service during the Chrism Mass has developed as part of the liturgy in recent decades. The bishop calls the priests to renew their dedication, model their ministry around Christ and remain resolved in celebrating the mysteries of the faith.

For many, the most reverential moment of the Mass was having such a large number of priests representing the entire church of western North Carolina gather with their bishop around the altar to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

In his homily, Bishop Curlin spoke with great fondness of the encouragement he and his brother priests extend to one another. "We also have to make a journey of faith," he said. "We are human. We do not just impart God's mercy; we also hunger to receive that mercy from the hands of our brother priests."

"We must root ourselves in an intimacy with Christ so profound that even though we experience the weaknesses — and sometimes even the failures — of human life, we rise again and begin anew in God's love."

Baby Abandoned At Missionaries Of Charity Center

By LYNNE WEIL

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A newborn baby, abandoned on the doorstep of the Missionaries of Charity center at the Vatican, attracted national concern in Italy during Holy Week.

The boy, whose age doctors estimated at one to seven days, was left April 7 by the front door of the center for the care of indigents run by the order founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

The building which houses the center and the order's convent is adjacent to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, just outside St. Peter's Square.

The Missionaries of Charity superior general told news media that she found the infant just after dawn. He was wrapped in an old, oversize woolen sweater and left in a paper shopping bag. Attached to the bag was a note with a single word in Italian: Help.

The sisters cleaned the child and brought him to the Vatican-run Bambino Gesu Hospital, where he was placed in a neonatal ward.

When an Italian news service learned of the incident, television crews and newspaper reporters from throughout the country came to the hospital.

Hospital spokesman Carlo Napoli said the boy appeared to be in good health and was adequately fed. He evidently had been born with the assistance of "someone who is well informed," Napoli noted, because his umbilical cord had been cleanly cut and wrapped in sterile gauze.

Since the Missionaries of Charity chose to call him Michele, Napoli said, the hospital does, as well. The spokesman said neither the missionaries nor the hospital had baptized the boy because "we do not know if he is a Christian."

His skin and hair color, as well as the shape of his eyes, led doctors to speculate that the child was of Asian origin, possibly Filipino.

He was to be held at the hospital for several days, then would be turned over to city social services for adoption unless someone claiming to be his birth parent came forward.

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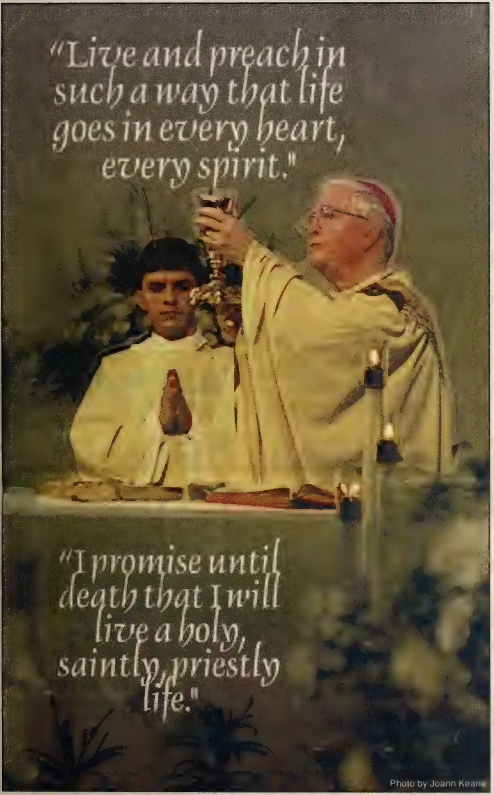
"Live and preach in such a way that life goes in every heart, every spirit."
"I promise until death that I will live a holy, saintly, priestly life."

Photo by Joann Keane

I Ask Only One Thing, Says Bishop: Be A Saint

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Taking a significant step in his faith journey, seminarian Ricardo Sanchez was ordained to the transitional diaconate April 19 at St. Patrick Cathedral.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided over the liturgy at which Sanchez pledged a lifelong commitment to the church. "You bind yourself today to Jesus Christ," Bishop Curlin told Sanchez. "You must say, I give you my life. I promise until death that I will live a holy, saintly, priestly life."

A native of San Jose, Costa Rica, Sanchez had professed as a member of the Congregacion de Misioneros de San Jose, until his decision to join the Diocese of Charlotte last year. He has spent the past year in priesthood formation at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind.

The ordination rite began with the presentation of the candidate by Father Eric Houseknecht, diocesan vocations director. Bishop Curlin spoke to the assembly and to Sanchez about the deacon's duties.

In his homily, the bishop asked the seminarian to center his life on Jesus. "We must root ourselves daily in Christ in prayer, in the Eucharist, in reading the Scriptures, in trying to reflect upon what it is to love God's people as Jesus loved them. Otherwise, being a deacon and priest won't mean a thing," the bishop said.

"Live and preach in such a way that life goes in every heart, every spirit in this church," the bishop added.

During the ceremony, the candidate committed himself to the obligations of his ministry. After the promise of obedience, the church called for prayers through the Litany of the Saints.

By the bishop's laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration, Sanchez was ordained a deacon. The newly ordained was invested with the stole and dalmatic, the outward signs of the office, by Father Ken Whittington, pastor of St. Charles Borremeo Church in Morganton.

The ordination rite concluded as the bishop presented Rev. Mr. Sanchez the Book of the Gospels and offered a sign of peace.

As a deacon, Rev. Mr. Sanchez is instituted a messenger of the Word of God, Bishop Curlin said. "Your message is to preach the salvation, mercy and love of God.

"You bear, my brother, the burden of God's holy people, " the bishop added. "You must take the word of God and live in such a way that you shine with the love of Christ."

The diaconate is the first of three ranks in ordained ministry in the Catholic Church. There are two types of deacons: transitional and permanent. For centuries, what today is known as the transitional diaconate has been the final stage of preparation for men in their studies for the priesthood.

Rev. Mr. Sanchez spent a portion of last spring and summer assisting Father Whittington at St. Charles Borromeo Church, which has a large Hispanic community. Many of its parishioners were in attendance at Sunday's ceremony, along with family members and friends. Rev. Mr. Sanchez will be ordained to the priesthood in June 1999.

Pro-Lifer Found Guilty In Racketeering Trial, Plans Appeal

By BILL BRITT

CHICAGO (CNS) — After a guilty verdict was reached April 20 in his federal racketeering trial in Chicago, Joe Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League, said he will appeal and expects "a solid victory."

In a statement, Scheidler said he had expected the defeat and charged that the case brought against him and his co-defendants "was full of lies and misstatements."

Chicago's Cardinal Francis E. George also lamented the decision and said the archdiocese may get involved in the case.

The lawsuit, filed under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization law, known as RICO, was brought by the National Organization for Women and two abortion providers. Defendants were Scheidler's Chicago-based organization; Scheidler and two other league leaders, Timothy Murphy and Andrew Scholberg; and Operation Rescue National, now based in Dallas.

The civil suit charged that the defendants used violence to prevent women from using abortion clinics.

The jury of four women and two men, which began deliberating April 16, found the defendants liable under the anti-racketeering law and awarded the two clinics more than $86,000. The money represents damages in compensation for security costs each clinic incurred. Under the federal statute, the judge could decide to triple the damage award.

"We expected a defeat during this round," Scheidler said in his statement. "The plaintiffs' case was full of lies and misstatements. It was nearly impossible to sift through it all to discern the truth."

But he was optimistic about his appeal. "We're expecting a solid victory at the appellate level, if not sooner after post-trial motions are filed," Scheidler said.

Cardinal George also issued a statement on the day of the decision.

"The Archdiocese of Chicago will consider joining in the appeal of the decision by filing an amicus curiae (friend-of-the-court) brief," he said.

Scheidler's attorney, Tom Brejcha, said he questioned the constitutionality of the law.

"RICO is terribly flawed," he said. "Combined with use of federal or state extortion statutes against those who would engage in peaceful, nonviolent civil disobedience, RICO tramples the First Amendment."

Cardinal George called the decision unjust. "The decision in this case effectively equates freedom of speech with racketeering," said the cardinal. "The decision very likely will have a chilling effect on freedom of speech and religion for those who oppose the violence of abortion."

Comparing the pro-life fight with that of the African-Americans in the 1960s, the cardinal said: "If the courts had been used to stop the organized sit-ins at lunch counters throughout the South in the '60s

See **Racketeering**, page 2

Educators Challenged To Look To Future

By CAROL ZIMMERMAN

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — The nearly 9,000 Catholic educators who met for four days in Los Angeles for their annual convention were challenged to look to new ways of educating youths to best prepare them for the future.

During general session talks and a full schedule of workshops at the Los Angeles convention center, participants at the National Catholic Educational Association's April 14-17 convention were able to take in an overview of all that they do and what they could do even better.

As the convention kicked off, the NCEA reported that Catholic school enrollment had increased nationwide for the sixth consecutive year.

Enrollment reached 2,648,859 students at Catholic schools in the current school year, said Leonard DeFiore, NCEA president. That number is 3,400 above 1996-97, and more than 81,000 ahead of the levels for 1992-93, the first year enrollments showed an increase.

"Parents want their children to grow into adults with strong moral values," DeFiore said. "That's what Catholic schools deliver and that's why more families are enrolling."

In the convention's opening session, Alan Keyes, a former presidential candidate and U.S. representative to the United Nations, also emphasized the backbone of morality and values of today's Catholic schools. But he added that Catholic education would "lose its strength," if teachers did not "exemplify a zeal" for their faith within the classrooms.

In several workshops, the educators were urged to keep their faith at the foreground of what they do.

In a workshop on talking to teens about sex, presenter William Nolan, head of the religion department at Totino-Grace High School, said that what frightened him most about some Catholic schools today is how they are "trying to be private schools with religion departments" added on, and therefore are losing their essential Catholic identity.

"We must remember that even if we're not Catholic, that the school's Catholic," he said. "As Catholic educators we have the responsibility to pass on Catholic tradition and have students look at it honestly and critically."

Monika Hellwig, executive director of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, took this challenge to an even deeper level. In a workshop geared to religious educators, she told participants they would not have the authority to pass on the faith life they were expecting of their students unless they lived it out themselves.

CNS photo by Mike Nelson, The Tidings

Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan (left), entertainer Ed McMahon and Cardinal Roger Mahony gather with Catholic school children at the National Catholic Educational Association meeting in Los Angeles April 14.

She urged the educators to continue to study their faith and read the Scriptures prayerfully, asking what they mean. She also encouraged them to be "people of prayer and people of intellectual humility who ask what they don't know about."

Catholic school teachers were also challenged to help their students live out their faith in very real ways.

Father Virgilio Elizondo, founder of the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, said Catholic schools can play a key role in healing the many divisions in today's society.

In a keynote address, Father Elizondo urged the NCEA members to think of their schools as "greenhouses" with the potential to produce new understanding and acceptance of people from a variety of cultures.

Scripture

Readings for the week of April 26—May 2, 1998

Sunday
Acts 5:27-32, 40-41
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Monday
Acts 6:8-15
John 6:22-29

Tuesday
Acts 7:51—8:1
John 6:30-35

Wednesday
Acts 8:1-8
John 6:35-40

Thursday
Acts 8:26-40
John 6:44-51

Friday
Genesis 1:26—2:3
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday
Acts 9:31-42
John 6:60-69

Racketeering,
from page 1

there would have been no civil rights movement."

The cardinal said he would continue to pray for the defendants in the case.

The chief architect of the anti-racketeering statute, University of Notre Dame law professor G. Robert Blakey, has said that the case against Scheidler and the others is " a nightmare for anybody who wants to picket." He said the law was passed to be used against organized crime and drug cartels.

Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry had been a defendant in the lawsuit, which was filed in 1986, but in late 1997 he signed a settlement agreement that removed him as a defendant.

Initially, the lawsuit was filed under federal antitrust laws. NOW and the clinics alleged that Scheidler and the Pro-Life Action League conspired with other anti-abortion activists to restrain interstate commerce by their efforts to close abortion clinics.

In 1988, NOW added Operation Rescue, Terry and others as defendants, and also pursued several additional counts under the anti-racketeering law.

The Oratory Religion Camp

The Oratory Religion Camp will hold two separate one week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountatin State Park the weeks of July 12-18, 1998 and July 19-25, 1998.
Boys and girls under 13 who will enter grades 2-7 in September can apply for consideration. The fee in $90.

For more information and application, write to: The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1596. Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application.

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Priests Mark Silver Jubilees

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

From left, Fathers Joseph Vetter, Wilbur Thomas and Tim O'Connor concelebrate a jubilee mass observing their 25th anniversary as priests.

CARY — On April 1, Father Wilbur Thomas of the Charlotte Diocese and Father Tim O'Connor and Father Joseph Vetter of the Raleigh Diocese celebrated their 25th anniversary as priests. A Jubilee Mass held at St. Michael the Archangel Church honored the classmates for their years of priestly service in North Carolina.

"We recognize that 25 years is a (significant span) of someone's life," said Diocese of Raleigh Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, who presided over the silver jubilee celebration. "I express my own personal gratitude to these men. They have made a great impact and I wish for them God's blessing and the support of the people they serve."

Charlotte's Bishop William G. Curlin delivered the homily to the congregation of approximately 1,000 guests and 70 priests who concelebrated the Mass. He thanked the three priests for their dedication and commitment, and encouraged them to continue centering their lives on the Eucharist. "The transparency of the priest's soul should nourish the people," he said.

Acknowledging that it is not an easy task, Bishop Curlin urged the priests to turn to God and repeat the words of the responsorial psalm, "You are, O God, my inheritance; I have all I need."

Bishop Curlin also asked the congregation to pray for and love their priests. "Carry them in your hearts and lift them up every day as they lift you," he said. "You are their family, their brothers and sisters. Give them your mercy and love."

Father Thomas provided the link between the two dioceses. While a seminarian for the Diocese of Raleigh at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, he and the other two jubiliarians were given the opportunity to serve the newly formed Diocese of Charlotte in 1972. As a native of Lexington who attended Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem, Father Thomas decided to minister to the Charlotte Diocese so that he could be closer to family. Father O'Connor and Father Vetter stayed behind. Father O'Connor is presently the rector at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh; Father Vetter has been on a recent sabbatical.

Father Thomas' assignments for the Charlotte Diocese have included Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albermarle; pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte; and associate pastor at both St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem and St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. Father Thomas is currently the vicar of the Hickory vicariate and pastor of St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Hickory, where he has been since the summer of 1987.

Network Hosts AIDSWalk '98

CHARLOTTE — In a continuing effort to serve the needs of people affected by the AIDS pandemic, the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) will host its second annual AIDSWalk on May 3 in Uptown Charlotte.

Proceeds from the mile-and-a-half walk will be utilized by RAIN in its development, training and coordination of care teams, whose members provide direct services to those living with AIDS or the virus that causes it, HIV.

The goal for this year's walk is $50,000. Organizers are hopeful that businesses will underwrite expenses to allow all collected pledges to directly support RAIN services.

The walk begins at 3 p.m. in the courtyard of the TransAmerica Life Companies building, 401 N. Tryon St., continues through Uptown Charlotte and ends in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon St. Registration begins at 1 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

The Regional Interfaith AIDS Network was founded in 1992 to call area congregations of all faith traditions to offering spiritual, emotional and practical support for people with AIDS.

Since its inception, RAIN has served more than 230 men, women and children. There are currently care teams at work in eight counties in the Carolinas.

The network hosted the first AIDSWalk last year, using St. Patrick Cathedral and School as base. About 200 walkers representing congregations, businesses and civic organizations raised more than $31,000.

To assist RAIN by participating as a walker, sponsor or team coordinator, or to receive more information on the network or walk, call (704) 372-7246.

Operation Rice Bowl To Award Mini-Grants

CHARLOTTE — Mini-grants of $500 will be awarded to parishes, schools, vicariates, or other diocesan programs for local initiatives on international issues or projects. The grants, offered through Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl program, will go to projects that reflect the diversity among Catholics; a range of international, immigration or migrant issues; and a range of approaches (such as linking faith and justice, education, advocacy, the media).

The diocesan 1998 donations to the Operation Rice Bowl Lenten program are still being totaled. Seventy-five percent of the diocesan contribution will be forwarded to national Catholic Relief Services to be used to help our brothers and sisters in developing countries worldwide. Twenty-five percent of Operation Rice Bowl funds remain in the Diocese of Charlotte, where the Catholic Relief Services diocesan committee administers the mini-grants program to promote solidarity between our churches and global communities.

The Lenten Operation Rice Bowl program provides an excellent opportunity for educating parishioners as well as collecting funds to help the disadvantaged. The CRS national office provides the resources at no charge for this Lenten program focusing on prayer, fasting, learning and giving.

For more information, contact the Office of Justice and Peace at (704) 370-3325 for more information or additional applications.The postmark deadline is May 16.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

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Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

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For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

For effective preachers of the Gospel of Life:

that each of us might find the courage to feed the world and those whom we love with the truth which will set them free;

We pray to the Lord.

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 26 — 11 a.m.
Mass
Sisters of Mercy Superiors
General Meeting
Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Belmont

4 p.m.
H.E.L.P. meeting
St. Paul the Baptist Church, Charlotte

April 29 - May 6
Knights of Malta Pilgrimage
Lourdes, France

THE CATHOLIC
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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience April 15.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we continue to reflect on baptism, through which we receive the Holy Spirit, become children of God and are incorporated into the church. Baptism is the essential foundation of the communion which unites the disciples of Christ.

Baptism, then, is a fundamental point of departure for ecumenical dialogue. Regarding our brothers and sisters of the other Christian churches and communities, the Second Vatican Council teaches that those who believe in Christ and have received baptism are constituted in a real, though imperfect, communion with the Catholic Church (cf. "Unitatis Redintegratio," 3). As we approach the beginning of the third Christian millennium, we must work all the harder for that unity which Christ desired and for which he prayed on the night before he suffered.

I cordially greet the new deacons of the Pontifical Irish College and the Pontifical Scots College, and the priests from the Institute for Continuing Education at the Pontifical North American College: May your love of Christ and his church be a continual source of strength and joy in your ministry. I extend a special welcome to the "Voices of the World" choir, made up mostly of choirs from Ireland, North and South, from Italy and from Poland. Your presence is an occasion for us to thank God once more for the important steps recently taken in bringing lasting peace to Northern Ireland.

Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Ireland, Scotland, Gibraltar, Sweden and the United States of America, I invoke the love and grace of the risen Savior. Happy Easter!

Polish Church Leaders Say Pope Will Visit Poland in 1999

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Pope John Paul II is to make an eight-city tour of his home country in mid-1999, said Catholic Church leaders.

However, a Polish bishops' conference official cautioned that the timing had not yet been confirmed and that formal Polish church and government invitations had not yet been issued.

Addressing a conference of priests April 16, Archbishop Jozef M. Zycinski of Lublin said Pope John Paul would visit the cities of Warsaw, Gdansk, Krakow and Torun, as well as Bydgoszcz, Lowicz and Siedlce and the national shrine of Jasna Gora.

However, he added that the final shape of the visit, unofficially planned for early June 1999, would depend on the health of the pope, who will be 79 by then.

Speaking on Polish state TV's main April 16 news bulletin, the secretary-general of the Polish bishops' conference, Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek of Sosnowiec, said full details of the papal visit were to be discussed by church leaders at an April 20 meeting and would need confirmation by the Vatican.

Coming Of Age

Amy Welborn

Getting a Perspective on Body Piercings

I'm going to begin with a confession that might frustrate you if you are the parent of a child who has been trying to talk you into permitting some kind of body-piercing procedure.

I had my navel pierced a few months back.

Well, you know, I live in Florida, and we just do things differently down here. It's not that unusual for 37-year-old women to stroll around with ankle tattoos or other unusual decorations.

I had my navel pierced for the same reason I got my ears pierced. When I wear my midriff tops, I think it looks good!

Yes, my own mother did ask me exactly when I was going to grow up after seeing my little purple navel ring at Christmas, and all I could do was shrug.

Sorry, Mom.

A decade ago, having two piercings in one ear was considered the height of avant-garde behavior. How times have changed!

Nowadays, I can stop at a convenience store literally in the middle of Nowhere, Fla., and have a girl with a nose stud take my gas money.

But within a period of one week, I encountered three former students of mine who presently roam the planet with pierced tongues. Now, of all piercings, the tongue business really gives me pause.

It strikes me as terrifically unsanitary and actually pretty gross.

I have no great theories on piercings. Many of them seem no more or less unnatural to me than an older person dying the gray out of her hair, then teasing it and spraying it into helmet-like durability.

If piercing has any negative connotations for me, it's that the increasing popularity of this rather expensive act is a symptom of a society of kids with way too much money and too much time to throw away on silly things.

Now, before any of my teen readers take this column to their parents and say, "See, this old lady got her navel pierced, so should I!'' ask yourself a few questions.

—Why do I want to do this? Is it just to rebel? To defy my parents?

Think about it. What kind of idiotic rationale is that? It's selfish, cruel and incredibly immature. If you're in that stage in life at which you're anxious to be treated like an adult by your parents, then don't do something because you want to irritate them. That's childish.

—Do I want this because it's cool and because it sets me apart as an individual?

Don't you see? Those two statements are inherently contradictory. Saying something is "cool" means that the members of your group or the group you want to be a part of approve of it.

So is it really a courageous act of individualism, or is it actually insecure conformity?

Finally, if you're obsessed with getting a piercing or a tattoo because you see it as some profound act of self-expression, consider how superficial that is.

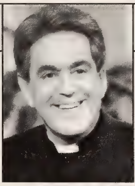
Instead of pinning your identity on a piece of metal, why don't you reflect on who you are inside, what you were put here for and the gifts God gave you that make you really individual?

Consider the possibility that it would be more satisfying and worthwhile to have your individuality recognized by making a mark on the world rather than having a mark put on you.

Amy Welborn is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Being Perfectly Human

If you have ever doubted that you have the potential to make a positive difference with your life, pick up Robert Ellsberg's Christopher Award-winning book, "All Saints" (Crossroad). It's not only about canonized saints but also about those individuals who gave living witness to holiness by allowing themselves to be perfectly, wholly human.

For example, Ellsberg's entry for April 23 is Cesar Chavez. This amazing man wrote a new chapter in the history of American labor by organizing the first successful union of farmworkers in the early 1960s. Chavez grew up in a family of migrant workers amid backbreaking work and crushing poverty. He never finished elementary school. And after he married and started to raise a family he wanted out — but fate intervened in the urgings of a Catholic priest. Chavez began to realize that he must do all he could for his family and fellow migrant workers. He would stand up and speak out for justice.

Ellsberg explains: "Chavez believed it was necessary to impart a sense of dignity and community to the farmworkers. This union would not rely on outside funding but on the basic principles of sacrifice and solidarity." Those who worked for the United Farmworkers committed themselves to voluntary poverty.

The second principle was a commitment to nonviolence, a refusal to respond in kind no matter what the provocation. "Over and over again, when faced with defeat, Chavez drew on the power of his personal commitment and charisma to breathe the new life into the struggle."

Chavez believed and argued that "When you sacrifice, you force others to sacrifice. It's an extremely powerful weapon."

Reading Ellsberg's tribute, I was struck with the idea that Chavez did not just write about sacrifice nor did he simply preach nonviolence — he lived it. And for him it was the most perfectly human thing to do. "When we are really honest with ourselves we must admit that our lives are all that really belong to us. So it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of person we are."

And it is true. Only by giving our lives do we ultimately find ourselves. For Chavez, the truest act of courage, the strongest act of being human was to sacrifice himself for others in a nonviolent struggle for social and economic justice. He believed that to be human was to suffer for others. He would pray, "God help us to be human!"

That gives you a sense of the wisdom and passion of saints. Ellsberg shows us real human beings with faults and limitations. But ultimately, their lives were centered on higher principles — the human capacity for love, for sacrifice and generosity. That is why one individual could transform a local labor struggle into a moral cause that brought hope to the hopeless and aroused the conscience of the nation.

Celebrate your humanity. Appreciate everything you have in common with your sisters and brothers as well as everything that makes you "one of a kind." Welcome the calm that comes from doing the best you can — then leave the rest to God.

It is precisely in this perfectly human way, that you can change the world.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "A Matter of Conscience" write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

When to Offer the Anointing of the Sick

Q. Our parish has a weekly celebration of the sacrament of anointing of the sick. The priest says it is for spiritual and physical healing, and invites everyone. Some people receive the anointing every week.

I was taught this sacrament is for those seriously ill and in danger of death. Is this wrong?

A. As you must know, the sacrament we know as anointing of the sick was formerly called extreme unction, the last anointing.

Popularly referred to as the "last rites," many felt it should be delayed until the final moments of life, so much so that (even in my own pastoral experience) family members didn't want the priest to come, fearing their loved one would know the end is near.

That understanding of the sacrament has changed.

Unfortunately, some people, including priests, differ from the church's teaching in both directions.

—Some still wait until death is almost imminent.

—Others, like the priest you mention, broaden the meaning according to their own inclinations.

What the church believes and instructs is clear in the introduction to the ritual for anointing and care of the sick.

This sacrament (which, incidentally, includes not only anointing but laying on of hands and the prayer of faith offered by the priest) is for those who are dangerously ill due to sickness or old age.

Children as well may receive this sacrament if they have sufficient use of reason to be comforted by it.

Explicit provisions that the anointing may be repeated if the sickness becomes more serious and that a person should be anointed before a serious surgery, are additional indications that we need not be excessively concerned about how "terminal" the sickness is (Introduction 5-12).

Your priest is correct also in pointing out that the sacrament is for serious mental or emotional illnesses as well. The rite makes no distinction between physical and other kinds of ailments.

On the other hand, something important is being ignored when the anointing of the sick becomes a weekly affair. This has no basis in the long Christian understanding of the sacrament and can seriously lessen its spiritual impact on the individual who receives it, and on the community.

Perhaps many Catholics need to remind themselves again that the real sacrament for the dying is not anointing of the sick, but the Eucharist.

When administered at the time of passage from this life, the sacrament is called "Viaticum," something "with us on the way."

Received this way, the Eucharist is a special sign of our participation in the mystery of the death of the Lord and his passage to the Father.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Parish Diary

Father Peter Daly

Confirmation Season

It's confirmation season in most parishes. Bishops are out riding the circuit. Directors of religious education are hyperventilating, getting their young charges ready to be interrogated by the successors of the apostles.

Boys are buying their first real suits. Girls are getting their first formal dresses. Parents and "young adults" are arguing about hairstyles and whether Jr. can wear his new earring (or nose ring) when he goes up to have the bishop lay hands on him.

In our parish confirmation will take place in a big striped tent. For the second year in a row, we have overflowed the walls of our little church. I actually like these open-air confirmations. They have a nice feeling, with the breeze, like the Holy Spirit, blowing where it will.

The tent evokes the sense of an evangelical revival, filled with Pentecostal fervor in the power of the Holy Spirit. You can almost hear the preaching of the apostle Peter to the crowd on the first Pentecost.

Some of our young people are reduced to nail biting when they contemplate the traditional grilling they will receive from the bishop in front of family and friends. I have wondered if we do this in the right order.

Maybe we should confirm first and ask questions later, since the gifts of the Holy Spirit include "wisdom, understanding, counsel and knowledge." Then we could see these spiritual gifts at work immediately.

In recent years it has been a common complaint among parents, directors of religious education and clergy that today's confirmandi are not well prepared. It does seem that they are a little weak on some doctrinal content. Certainly they cannot recite the catechism responses the way kids could 40 years ago.

But this does not mean they are not interested in things religious or are poorly prepared. Their grasp today is more experiential than intellectual. In some ways they have a better hold of the central commandments of the Christian life: love of God and love of neighbor.

In love of God, they see much better than I ever did at their age that prayer is a spontaneous act of love for God.

For example, last year our adolescent theologians attended "Youth 2000," a retreat program for young Catholics. They were so impressed with the nighttime prayer vigil and Eucharistic adoration that they wanted to replicate it in our parish.

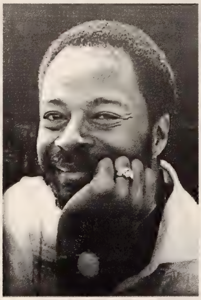
This year they held an all-night lock-in (sleep-over) in the parish center, which included, on their own initiative, a Eucharistic chapel set up in our parish library.

During the night they took turns praying in shifts for the prayer intentions they had collected from the parish over several weeks. It was touching to see them so sleepy-eyed in those huge baggy pants and oversized T-shirts, kneeling and sitting in prayer all night.

In love of neighbor, I think they have a good understanding of the demands of both justice and charity. When I was confirmed back in 1961, we may have memorized the corporal works of mercy, but we never thought that getting ready for confirmation might actually require us to do the corporal works of mercy.

Come hear

Grayson Warren Brown



In Concert

Friday May 8, 7:30 p.m.

Grayson Warren Brown, internationally-known liturgical composer, author and recording artist, will lead a spirit-filled sing-a-long style concert of music from his five collections of liturgical compositions. Raised in inner-city New York, Grayson's background in multicultural parishes has given him unique insight into the power that good liturgy can instill in people of all colors and backgrounds. A free will offering will be taken.

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(Let us know if you would like a veggie lunch.)

Please pass this along to your music ministers and all interested.

Workshop Registration Form

Names of those attending the Grayson Warren Brown workshop:

Parish contact person:

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Phone:

(day) (evening)

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Planning For Those You Love

By JIM KELLEY
Diocesan Development Director

Daily planner notebooks pop up everywhere, from executive offices to classrooms, and you may have even seen the sticker version designed for young children who haven't yet learned to read or write.

A big part of today's world involves planning for the future. These notebooks represent one way of planning, while savings accounts, retirement funds, and different types of insurance coverage are other ways we both plan for and protect our future. Making an estate plan is a way to protect the future or our loved ones.

Express Your Own Wishes

The truth is, as many as 60 percent of adult Americans who die each year fail to leave even simple estate planning arrangements for those who rely on them for financial assistance.

Think about it for just a moment. People who would never make a house payment late often neglect making plans for the ultimate disposition of that same house. Individuals who take pride in collecting coins, stamps, or other items of value may overlook preparations to pass on such treasured property to someone special.

It may come as a surprise to learn that North Carolina law prohibits gifts from your estate to your parish, favorite Catholic agency, Catholic school, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the diocesan Foundation unless you have a valid will, trust, or other arrangements in place. Devoted Catholics who have been faithful lifelong stewards of God's many gifts may inadvertently neglect to provide for the continuation of God's work and that of the church they love.

Taking a little time to organize your thoughts can help you avoid such unfortunate circumstances. One practical starting point can be the "Four P's" of estate planning.

The Four P's

People. What people are you responsible for? Who do you wish to provide for in the future? This list can name a spouse, children, parents, friends, employees, the church, or others you wish to remember.

Property. Now list all of your property. Include houses, cars, cash, securities (including stocks and mutual funds), life insurance, retirement accounts and other assets. Also note your liabilities (for example, a mortgage or other debts) so you can accurately determine your net worth.

Plans. Match your property to the people and organizations you decide to include. Loved ones, of course, must be provided for first.

Other responsible Catholics have turned their estate plans into Christian estate plans by naming their parish, Catholic agency, Catholic school, the diocese, or the diocesan Foundation to benefit from "what's left" after specific gifts go to individual heirs.

Planners. The final list is for your advisors, who may consist of your attorney, accountant, investment professional, and representatives from favorite charities, among others.

The Next Step

Once your lists are complete, it's time to contact your attorney to either formalize plans or update existing plans. Periodic reviews with your attorney can help keep your plans up to date for the sake of those you hold dear.

For additional information concerning your specific circumstances, please contact me, without cost or obligation, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203, (704) 370-3301, or Cindy Rice at (704) 370-3320.

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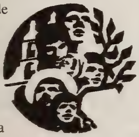
Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Suplemento de The Catholic News and Herald 24 de abril de 1998

Camino a Encuentro 2000



El Comité de Obispos para Asuntos Hispanos se reunió en Dallas el 5 de febrero de 1998 para dialogar acerca del encuentro nacional que se ha planeado para el año 2000. Los miembros del comité recibieron las recomendaciones presentadas por el sub-comité del Encuentro y votaron sobre varias iniciativas. En una carta dirigida a sus hermanos obispos, el monseñor Gerald R. Barnes, presidente del comité para Asuntos Hispanos y el monseñor Gabino Zavala, presidente del sub-comité del Encuentro, informaron a los obispos de los planes y preparativos para el encuentro nacional.

Los obispos Barnes y Zavala dijeron que el nombre oficial del encuentro es "Encuentro 2000". También mencionaron que las personas seleccionadas para servir en el Comité Director Nacional refleja el compromiso del comité de ser un comité de amplia base e inclusivo tanto dentro de la comunidad hispana como de la Iglesia. Encuentro 2000 "brindara a los católicos de Estados Unidos posibilidades para el diálogo, y mejor comprensión y colaboración entre todos ellos mediante un enfoque catequético y evangelizante, que esperamos nos ayude a estar mejor integrados como Iglesia en Estados Unidos", manifestaron.

El presidente del sub-comité es el obispo auxiliar de Los Angeles, monseñor Gabino Zavala. Otros miembros del comité son el obispo auxiliar de Boston, monseñor Emilio Allué, el obispo auxiliar de Miami, monseñor Agustín Román; y la hermana María Elena González, presidenta del Centro Cultural Mexicano Americano de San Antonio.

El sub-comité y el Comité Director Nacional se reunirá en St. Paul's College, en Washington, D.C., el 22 de marzo de 1998, para dialogar acerca del proceso del encuentro a realizarse en todos los niveles de la Iglesia, el evento en sí, los participantes, la logística, y otros asuntos.

(Tomado de ***¡En Marcha!*** *, publicación del Secretariado para Asuntos Hispanos, 3211 4th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017)*

Presos políticos cubanos libertados a pedido del Papa van a Toronto

Foto CNS de Reuters

PRESOS POLITICOS EN LIBERTAD — Los ex-presos políticos cubanos Alberto Ferrándiz (a la izquierda) y Pedro Salvador (a la derecha) abrazan a un amigo en el aeropuerto de Toronto el 7 de abril. Los dos hombres se hallaban entre un grupo de 12 presos políticos puestos en libertad por el gobierno de Cuba a instancias del Papa Juan Pablo II durante su visita de enero a la nación isleña gobernada por los comunistas.

TORONTO (CNS) — Doce presos políticos cubanos puestos en libertad a continuación de la visita del Papa Juan Pablo II en enero a Cuba, llegaron al Aeropuerto Internacional "Pearson", de Toronto.

Ellos llegaron el 6 de abril y dos más tenían fijada su llegada en fecha posterior, como parte del acuerdo del Canadá para aceptar a algunos de los presos políticos.

El gobierno de Cuba anunció a mediados de febrero que había puesto en libertad a 300 presos políticos como respuesta a una solicitud del Papa. A principios de marzo, el Primer Ministro del Canadá, Jean Chretien, anunció que 19 presos políticos habían aceptado ir al Canadá como condición de su liberación.

Entre los 14 a quienes el Canadá ha aceptado, tres recibieron permisos especiales porque no pudieron pasar las verificaciones de seguridad, según dijo un funcionario del gobierno federal que pidió que no se le identificara.

Aunque no se dio razón alguna para adoptar las medidas especiales, el gobierno canadiense confirmó que se había negado a aceptar a otros cinco presos políticos cubanos "debido a la naturaleza de las acciones por las cuales se hallaban en prisión".

La Ley de Inmigración del Canadá no permite el ingreso a ese país a cualquier persona declarada culpable de cualquier delito que conlleve una sentencia máxima de prisión de 10 años o más, si hubiera sido cometido en el Canadá. Sin embargo, la ley incluye una disposición que da al Ministro de Inmigración la autoridad para emitir permisos especiales a dichas personas.

Algunos miembros del grupo de exiliados fueron encarcelados por distribuir "propaganda enemiga", tal como volantes políticos, o por telefonear a las estaciones de radio de Miami con noticias acerca de Cuba.

Durante su visita, el Papa Juan Pablo solicitó clemencia para cierta cantidad de presos políticos cubanos por razones humanitarias.

Cruces en Jerusalen

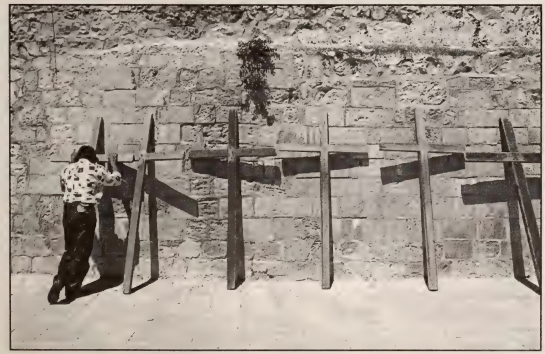


Foto CNS de Reuters

Un peregrino cristiano ora contra una línea de cruces de madera en la pared de la iglesia del Santo Sepulcro, en Jerusalén, el 9 de abril. Miles de peregrinos tomaron parte en los servicios de Semana Santa y Pascua de Resurrección en la Tierra Santa.

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Amigos y amigas en Cristo:

En la vocación cristiana que hemos recibido, Dios nos ha concedido ser "OTRO CRISTO"—un gran don y una gran responsabilidad— para seguir reflejando y dando su amor a todos los hombres y mujeres. Somos administradores del amor de Dios. En manera sencilla y humilde buscamos compartir ese amor con todos, pero especialmente con los más pobres y abandonados de nuestra sociedad.

Nuestra vida, como cristianos, es un continuo CAMINAR. En el camino, todos caemos, pero unos se levantan y siguen su camino, otros prefieren no levantarse. Todos nos detenemos a descansar, unos lo hacen para retomar fuerzas y otros lo aprovechan para descansar toda la vida. Unos corren, otros caminan y otros tantos van a "gatas". Unos se entusiasman, crean, inventan y arriesgan por encontrarle sentido a su camino, otros se conforman con un camino ya hecho y trillado por otros para vivir siempre en la seguridad. Unos llegan a la meta y otros se quedan a medio camino....

¿QUE CAMINO ESTOY TOMANDO YO?

EN EL CAMINO, de todos los hombres y mujeres hay pruebas, obstáculos o tentaciones que son muy buenas para nuestra vida si las sabemos aprovechar. De esto Jesús nos ha puesto la muestra. Sujeto a mil tentaciones o pruebas, de todas Jesús salió vencedor. Ciertamente, él nunca presumió de sus propias capacidades sino confió siempre a la voluntad de su Padre. Como cristianos, seguidores de Cristo, tampoco podemos vanagloriamos de nada. Nuestras debilidades y carencias nos recuerdan que somos "siervos inútiles" de Dios. Nuestras flaquezas son el recordatorio de que Dios elige a los débiles y pequeños para construir el Reino de la Verdad.

¿CUAL ES MI TENTACION MAS FUERTE? ¿QUE MEDIOS UTILIZO PARA NO CAER?

Hermanos y hermanas, en este tiempo pascual, les invito a que se miren a si mismos para ver que camino están tomando. No teman a la Cruz. Toda dificultad, sufrimiento, contratiempo, si lo enfrentamos, nos llevará a una mejor vida, a la nueva vida que es la vida de Cristo Resucitado en nosotros. Que Dios les acompañe en vuestro peregrinar, especialmente en esta época en que celebramos la resurrección del Señor.

Los rituales ayudan en la tristeza, dice un psicólogo

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Al guardar luto por la muerte de un ser querido, "la participación en los rituales ayuda a los sobrevivientes", dijo Ronald K. Barrett, profesor de psicología de una universidad católica y miembro de un grupo de la Teleconferencia Nacional sobre la Aflicción de la Fundación Hospice de los Estados Unidos.

Las acciones de los rituales dan a los afligidos "acceso a una comunidad que los apoye en su tristeza. Eso les ayudaría en su pérdida y su expresión de la aflicción", dijo él.

Barrett, que enseña en la Universidad Loyola Marimount de Los Angeles, se ha especializado en el estudio de las diferencias entre culturas en la muerte y la agonía, y ha hecho investigaciones extensas en las culturas afro-americanas. El es también fundador y director de un proyecto urbano de prevención de las pandillas, los narcóticos y la violencia en Los Angeles.

En una entrevista telefónica con el Catholic News Service, él dijo que "las culturas difieren ampliamente en sus enfoques a la muerte y a la agonía, pero no hay evidencia de ninguna cultura que reaccione con indiferencia".

El agregó que los estudios sobre la pobreza o la ausencia de los rituales indican que "las personas crearán rituales" cuando estén separadas de los rituales tradicionales de sus culturas.

Padre Vicente en radio

El Padre Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M., Director del Apostolado Hispano de La Diócesis de Charlotte, tiene un programa de radio todos los sábados de 12:30 a 1:00 de la tarde donde habla sobre diferentes temas de la religión y la fe. Este programa puede escucharse sintonizando WCXN en la frecuencia 1170 de la banda AM de su receptor.

Al Padre Vicente también se le puede escuchar los sábados después de las noticias de las 3 de la tarde en "Radio Líder" en su segmento "Un minuto con Dios", por la estación WNOW 1030 AM.

Foto CNS de Reuters

EL PAPA BENDICIENDO EL ACEITE CRISMAL – El Papa Juan Pablo II bendice el aceite crismal durante los servicios del Jueves Santo en la Basílica de San Pedro, el pasado 9 de abril. El Papa dirigió a cientos de sacerdotes, obispos y cardenales de Roma en la renovación de las promesas que hicieron en su ordenación.

Sabatés recibe el premio "Grace" de 1998

BELMONT – Félix S. Sabatés, hombre de negocios de Charlotte, recibió el premio "Grace" de 1998 en una ceremonia que en su honor se celebró recientemente en Belmont Abbey College. Este premio, que lleva el nombre de Chuck Grace, presidente de Cummins Atlantic, honra a personas de negocios que han contribuido al mejoramiento de la sociedad. Jim Mattei, presidente de Mattei Motorsports, anunció una donación de $10,000 para becas en nombre de Sabatés y su esposa Carolyn. Donaciones adicionales a los fondos de la beca "Sabatés" beneficiarán a estudiantes de ascendencia hispana. Para más información sobre contribuciones sírvase llamar al (704) 825-6661.

¡Cristo ha resucitado!

Cristo ha resucitado, ha triunfado sobre el mal y la muerte y vive para siempre. Hoy está presente entre nosotros de un modo nuevo. Es necesario vivir totalmente esta vida nueva que Cristo nos ha merecido.

La realidad del Resucitado nos llena de entusiasmo, de paz y de alegría. Su presencia gloriosa en medio de nosotros fundamenta nuestra fe y nos hace resucitar a la paz, a la esperanza, al perdón, al amor y a la alegría. Ser cristiano es creer en la resurrección de Cristo.

El cristiano es luz, alegría y resurrección. Cristiano es la persona que cree, que se deja invadir por la liberación que le viene de Cristo.

Nuestra fe, nuestra esperanza de resucitar depende estrechamente de nuestra capacidad de amar. Nuestra capacidad de redención, nuestra capacidad de resurreción están en la medida de nuestra fuerza de amar.

La imagen que Cristo resucitado puede mostrar a las personas de hoy para convencerlos y convertirlos, es nuestra vida. Por eso nuestra vida debe de ser siempre Pascua.

Es resurrección para los cristianos, cuando buscamos la justicia por encima de nuestros egoísmos, cuando amamos a nuestro prójimo por encima de nuestros intereses y de nuestra propia vida.

Cristo sigue resucitando, cuando nosotros escogemos el último lugar sin atropellar a nadie para conseguir el primer puesto; cuando luchamos sin odio, sin violencia, buscando lo que es mejor para todos. Y, en fin, cuando nos sentimos libres y luchamos por la liberación de las esclavitudes que oprimen a nuestros hermanos y hermanas.

Si así lo hacemos, la resurrección ha comenzado en nuestras vidas.

Impreso con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo

La crisis ecológica

Nota: La opinión expresada por nuestros colaboradores no representan necesariamente la de este periódico.

Por OTONIEL FRANCO

Hay temas que conviene recordar siquiera una vez al año. Tenemos el día de San Valentín, el del Arbol, el de la Madre, el del Padre y unos cuantos más. ¿Por qué no recordar el día de la Tierra el 22 de abril?

El hombre ha venido modificando la faz del planeta desde la remota época cuando pasó de la etapa de recolector de frutos e insectos a la de individuo asentado en comunidades estables, dedicado a labores agrícolas y al cuidado de unos pocos animales que había domesticado. El lento proceso cultural, de más de seis mil años, no produjo mayores trastornos en el ambiente, debido a que la naturaleza tenía tiempo de reparar el desequilibrio ecológico que una reducida población humana causaba con sus actividades. No obstante, algunos antropólogos han llegado a afirmar que el cinturón de desiertos, que va desde China hasta el norte de Africa, estuvo en épocas prehistóricas cubierto de bosques y sabanas de galería que los primitivos pobladores fueron agotando, a lo largo de siglos, por el uso indiscriminado del fuego para acosar y cazar animales propios de la zona, antes que como medio de preparación de la tierra para el cultivo. Hoy sabemos que el uso controlado de los incendios de bosques y sabanas contribuye a su rejuvenecimiento y productividad.

Fue con el advenimiento de la Revolución Industrial y el crecimiento desmesurado de la población, el uso de pesticidas, la polución de aire, tierra y aguas con desechos humanos e industriales, el uso de modernas maquinarias para el cultivo, la explotación de bosques y la minería a cielo abierto, que se produjo un efecto mucho más devastador que los métodos tradicionales de tumba y quema.

Los bosques de la Zona Templada del norte, si exceptuamos los de Canadá y de Rusia, han perdido el 90% de la superficie original. Los de la Zona Tropical, desde Sumatra, Borneo y Africa Ecuatorial hasta los de la Hoya Amazónica han estado en la mira de las compañías internacionales que sólo ven el provecho inmediato de sus accionistas. Parece que quieren decir como el. monarca francés: "Después de mí, el Diluvio". Los bosques tropicales pierden cada año una superficie mayor que la de Bélgica y Holanda combinadas y con ellos desaparecen, sin remedio, y desconocidos para la Ciencia, miles de especies animales y vegetales.

Una de las mayores y más valiosas reservas de la tierra, por su biodiversidad y por servir para regular el sistema fluvial, el Gran Pantanal del Brasil, tiene sus días contados. Compañías madereras, ganaderas y proyectos hidroeléctricos amenazan con destruirlo y con su destrucción vendría una catástrofe incalculable, no sólo para América, sino para el Globo en su totalidad.

Los recursos de la Tierra son limitados y, aun cuando algunos son renovables, los combustibles fósiles desaparecen para siempre, dejando sólo residuos que envenenan la atmósfera, reducen la capa de ozono y agudizan los cambios de clima.

Mientras el hombre no aprenda a vivir en comunión y armonía con las leyes de la naturaleza, al igual que un Aprendiz de Brujo, estará jugando con su propia existencia y con la del resto de los seres vivos.

La Europa del siglo XVI halló en otros continentes un alivio a la pobreza de sus masas. Los actuales habitantes del Planeta Azul no tendremos, al menos a corto plazo, la posibilidad de colonizar económica y masivamente, ni siquiera nuestro satélite, o algún planeta cercano; mucho menos tener la perspectiva de un próximo viaje a las galaxias.

No pocas mentes reflexivas se preguntan si podremos salvarnos de la destrucción total, que hoy a sabiendas estamos provocando, o si estamos en un camino sin regreso debido a nuestra egoísta inclinación al lujo, al placer y a la codicia.

El Sr. Otoniel Franco trabaja como voluntario en la Oficina de Refugiados del Catholic Social Service.

Vídeo de visita papal a Cuba

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Se ha publicado un documental en cinta de vídeo sobre la visita del Papa a Cuba.

Titulado "Una bendición para Cuba, el viaje histórico del Papa Juan Pablo II a Cuba en 1998", la cinta recopila tomas en vivo de la información del canal por cable Odyssey de la visita papal, durante los días 21 y 25 de enero último.

Los puntos culminantes de las cuatro Misas del Papa en la nación isleña se presentan con su traducción al inglés.

En el vídeo de 60 minutos de duración, se incluyen notas breves y antecedentes históricos sobre las ciudades que visitó el Papa Juan Pablo — La Habana, Santa Clara, Camagüey y Santiago de Cuba.

La cinta cuesta $19.95. Para adquirirla, hagan el favor de llamar al 1-800-430-0930.

Foto CNS por Reuters

CIRIO PASCUAL EN CUBA – El Cardenal de la Habana, Jaime Ortega Alamino, enciende el cirio Pascual fuera de la Catedral de La Habana durante la celebración de medianoche de la vigilia de Pascua el 11 de abril. Esta es la primera celebración pública de Pascua en La Habana, desde que Fidel Castro declaró en 1969 que todas las fiestas religiosas tenían que limitarse a celebraciones dentro de las iglesias.

Dirigentes cristianos muestran apoyo a fecha común para Pascua

ROMA (CNS) — Los dirigentes de las iglesias cristianas de todo el mundo han mostrado su apoyo a una propuesta para establecer una fecha uniforme para la celebración de la Pascua de Resurrección.

La iniciativa, que está siendo coordinada por el Consejo Mundial de Iglesias (WCC en inglés), con sede en Ginebra, Suiza, ha resultado en numerosas cartas de aprobación por parte de autoridades eclesiásticas prominentes, dijo el Padre Thomas Fitzgerald, sacerdote ortodoxo y director del Programa para la Unidad y la Renovación del WCC, en una entrevista telefónica el 7 de abril.

Al escribir al WCC en respuesta al plan, el Cardenal Edward I. Cassidy, director del Consejo Pontificio para el Fomento de la Unidad Cristiana, dijo: "La Iglesia Católica está lista para respaldar a las conclusiones de esta consulta, y a trabajar junto con otros cristianos hacia este objetivo muy deseado".

En una práctica que data de cuatro siglos hasta la reforma del calendario por parte del Papa Gregorio XIII, la mayoría de los protestantes y católicos celebran la Pascua de Resurrección en un día, mientras que los ortodoxos observan esa festividad separadamente. En algunos años, las celebraciones coinciden. La Pascua de Resurrección de este año cae el domingo 12 de abril para los protestantes y católicos, y el 19 de abril para los ortodoxos.

El WCC desarrolló una propuesta el año pasado a fin de que se fijara una fecha común para la Pascua de Resurrección, comenzando el 15 de abril del año 2,001 — la próxima vez que las dos festividades de Pascua caerán el mismo día — y que se observaría en todos los años subsiguientes.

Los participantes de la reunión de Aleppo acordaron un cálculo de la fecha de la Pascua basado en una fórmula desarrollada por el Primer Concilio Ecuménico de Nicea en el año 325. Según este sistema, la Pascua de Resurrección caería siempre en el domingo después de la primera luna llena de la primavera.

Baile para recaudar fondos

Se ha organizado un baile para recaudar fondos para la construcción del Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte.

El baile se celebrará en el Founders Hall, NationsBank Corporate Center, el próximo 16 de mayo y será amenizada por la orquesta "Continental Brass", que vendrá directamente de Miami para esta ocasión .

El precio de los boletos es de $25.00 por persona. Para información de como obtener boletos llamar al (704) 335-1281 o al (704) 552-1003.

Foto CNS por Bob Roller

EL DIA DE LAS MADRES — Los niños prodigan atención especial a sus madres para el Día de las Madres, el 10 de mayo. En su carta de 1995 a las mujeres, el Papa Juan Pablo II escribió: "Gracias a ustedes, las mujeres que son madres! Ustedes han albergado a seres humanos dentro de ustedes mismas, en una experiencia singular de gozo y trabajo".

Chiapas necesita respuesta del gobierno canadiense, dicen funcionarios

OTTAWA (CNS) — El estado meridional mexicano de Chiapas es una mina terrestre lista para hacer explosión, y el gobierno canadiense debe adoptar medidas para inutilizar al detonador, dicen los funcionarios eclesiásticos.

"Mientras estuvimos en Chiapas, vimos las consecuencias dramáticas de los tratados de libre comercio en la miseria y la represión violenta de todo un pueblo", dijo el Padre Jean-Claude Trottier, superior provincial de los Maristas y presidente de la Conferencia de Religiosos Canadienses, en una conferencia de prensa en la Colina del Parlamento el 2 de abril.

El Padre Trottier, que acababa de regresar al Canadá después de una visita de una semana de duración a Chiapas, como parte de una delegación de investigación de hechos, dijo que él presenció "el drama de los pueblos indígenas de aquella región de México y de la Iglesia que ha caminado con ellos a través de sus luchas y de su agonía durante los 30 años últimos".

La delegación vio el aumento desproporcionado de tropas en la región de Chiapas, en que hasta 700 soldados rodearon sólo una pequeña aldea cerca de Chiapas, dijo él. Las tensiones de la región se elevaron en diciembre último, a continuación de la masacre de 45 aldeanos, cometida por grupos paramilitares.

Pero el Padre Trottier, cuya organización representa a más de 30,000 sacerdotes y monjas de todo el Canadá, dijo que el mayor descubrimiento que hizo la delegación fue ver el efecto de los cursos de acción económicos y políticos del Canadá y los Estados Unidos en Chiapas.

Los pueblos indígenas del estado "no tienen alimentos debido a los tratados internacionales que rebajan los precios de sus productos", dijo él. "Ellos están oprimidos por un ejército que hace cumplir los cursos de acción de nuestro país".

Aprender inglés como segunda lengua

La iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción invita cordialmente a todas las personas de habla hispana que estén interesadas en aprender inglés como segunda lengua, que asistan a una reunión para discutir el horario de las clases el próximo 14 de mayo a las 7:00 de la noche. Si usted o algún conocido están interesados en aprender inglés, por favor llamen a la Sra. Maralee Battaglia después de las 2:00 de la tarde al 921-1818.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO *St. Joseph*, 326 S. Park St. (910) 629-0221	todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE *St. Lawrence*, 97 Haywood St. (704) 252-6042	todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE *Our Lady of the Americas,* 105 Hayde Rd. (910) 428-3051	los domingos 11:30 am y 2 pm confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE *Sacred Heart,* Main St. & Summit	3er. domingo del mes 6 pm
CHARLOTTE *Centro Católico Hispano* Shenandoah Ave.y The Plaza (704) 335-1281	todos los sábados 7 pm domingos 10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm y 7 pm confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS *Holy Family*, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. (910) 766-8133	todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON *Sagrado Corazón*, Rt. 601 (910) 632-8009	todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY *Immaculate Conception,* 1024 W. Main St. (704) 245-4017	todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA *St. Michael*, 708 St.Michael's Ln. (704) 867 6212	3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO *St. Mary*, 812 Duke St., (910) 272-8650	todos los domingos 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE *Immaculate Conception*, 208 7th. Ave.W.. (704)693-6901	todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT *Cristo Rey,* 1505 East Kivett Dr. (910) 884-0244	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
JEFFERSON *San Francisco de Asis,* Main y Ivy (910) 246-9151	2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS *St. Joseph,* 108 St.Joseph St.	todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE *Holy Cross,* 616 S.Cherry St. (910) 996-5109	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON *St. Dorothy,* 148 St.Dorothy's Lane (704) 735-5575	todos los domingos 12 pm
MONROE *Our Lady of Lourdes,* Deese y Franklin Streets	todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON *St. Charles Borromeo,* 714 W. Union St. (704) 437-3108	todos los domingos 5 pm
MOUNT AIRY *Holy Angels,* 1208 North Main St. (910) 786-8147	todos los domingos 6 pm
NEWTON *St. Joseph,* 720 West 13th. St., (704) 464-9207	todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO *St. John Church,* 275 C.C. Wright School Rd. (910)838-5562	1er., 3er., 5to. domingo del mes 6 pm
REIDSVILLE *Holy Infant,* 1042 Freeway Dr., (910) 342-1448	todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY *Sacred Heart,* 128 N.Fulton St. (704) 633-0591	todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA *St.Francis of Rome,* Hendrix Rd. (910) 372-8846	1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE *St. Phillip the Apostle*, 525 Camden Dr (704) 872-2579	1er. domingo del mes 2 pm
TAYLORSVILLE *Holy Trinity,* 665 W. Main Ave. (704) 632-8009	2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE *Our Lady of the Highways,* 943 Ball Park Rd. (910)475-2732	todos los domingos 12 pm
WINSTON-SALEM *Our Lady of Mercy,* 1919 S. Main St. (704) 722-7001	todos los domingos 1 pm
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Entertainment

Limitations of Science Explored In "City Of Angels"

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — A cardiac surgeon loses her heart to a mysterious man who is actually a celestial being in "City of Angels" (Warner Bros.).

Brad Silberling demonstrates a sure visual hand in depicting modern Los Angeles inhabited by numerous compassionate angels all garbed in black pants and dusters as they watch over Angelenos and escort the dying to their eternal home.

Perched unseen by mortals on highway signs or rooftops, angel pals Seth (Nicolas Cage) and Cassiel (Andre Braugher) compare notes on their assignments. Cassiel is comfortable with his celestial state while more and more Seth yearns to experience human sensation.

This longing intensifies when he witnesses caring Dr. Maggie Rice (Meg Ryan), devastated after losing a cardiac patient during surgery.

Amazingly, Maggie is able to see Seth and he gently assures a skeptical Maggie that her patient has gone on to eternal life. She is intrigued by this self-described messenger of God who appears at odd times with intense love in his eyes, but doesn't pursue her physically.

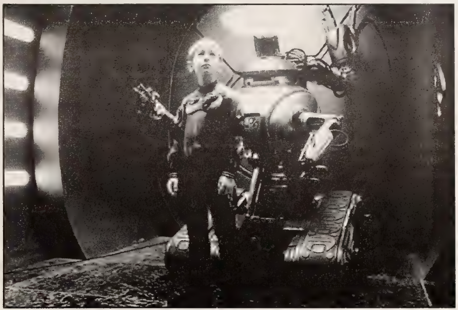
When another of Maggie's patients (Dennis Franz) is also able to see Seth, the lovestruck angel learns from him that a crossover from angelic to human status is possible, since he himself did it years earlier.

Meanwhile, as Maggie slowly comes to accept the man she loves is not of this earth, her surgeon boyfriend (Colm Feore) pops the question.

The real question seems to be one of free will. Both the ex-angel and Cassiel remind Seth that God gave both man and spirits that choice.

And that is where it is less than heavenly. One can only take so much of Cage gazing at Ryan with his droopy, puppy-dog eyes. Silberling does take the time to build their relationship with its special problems of a pragmatic scientist falling in love with a spirit. And it is positively resolved by her taking a leap of faith.

But all this interesting exploration of the limitations of science as opposed to the boundlessness and the mystery of faith moves to an ultimately sappy conclusion — life-affirming by all means, but awfully syrupy at the same time.



CNS photo from New Line Cinema

Actor Jack Johnson plays the young Will Robinson in a scene from "Lost in Space." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Ryan is credible as the physician disturbed that science cannot provide all the answers, but doubting the existence of an afterlife. Cage's reply offers her food for thought: "Just because you don't believe it doesn't mean it's not true."

The philosophical aspects of the film are engagingly presented as the angel longs to experience a lifetime of human love with his beloved. Once his decision is made, the film becomes heavy-handed with Christian symbolism prefiguring the ending.

Due to minor violence, discreet sexual situations and fleeting nudity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Buffalo Soldiers" (1997)

Uneven Western in which a black troop of U.S. cavalry hunts down a band of Apache renegades in 1880 New Mexico, then has to decide whether to take them back or let them escape into Mexico. Directed by Charles Haid, the TV movie's attempt to dress contemporary themes of racial justice in Western cliches proves more wrong-headed than thought-provoking, though it succeeds better in depicting the violent realities of life on the frontier and gets fine performances from a mostly African-American cast headed by Danny Glover. The result is adult fare because of grisly violence, sexual situations and crude language.

"The Ice Storm" (1997)

Somber drama set during Thanksgiving week in 1973 when a suburban housewife (Joan Allen) learns her husband (Kevin Kline) is having an affair with a neighbor (Sigourney Weaver), while the neglected adolescent offspring of both families furtively explore their sexuality until a sudden ice storm causes a sobering tragedy. Directed by Ang Lee, the movie does a marvelous job in re-creating the era and its discontents while following the disordered emotional lives of its characters and the consequences of their parental neglect of family responsibilities. Numerous sexual situations, occasional profanity and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"American Pop" (1981)

Animated feature by Ralph Bakshi presents a history of American popular music through the story of an immigrant family from the turn of the century to the present, with the great-grandson gaining fame as a rock star. Interesting concept but the story lacks dramatic focus and many of the characters are unappealing, if not repulsive. Depiction of some sleazy environments and the use of drugs. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"L.A. Confidential" (1997)

Stylish cop drama set in 1950s Los Angeles where three police detectives (Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe and Guy Pearce), each working on apparently unrelated homicides, gradually come to realize they may all be related to corrupt officials. Directed by Curtis Hanson, the darkly cynical story is densely plotted with murders most foul as the detectives work their way through a miasma of chicanery and deceit. Recurring violence, fleeting nudity, recurring sexual innuendo, some profanity and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Little Mermaid" (1989)

Enchanting Disney animated feature adds a hopeful, happy ending to the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale about a feisty mermaid (voice of Jodi Benson) who falls in love with a human prince. Written and directed by John Musker and Ron Clements, the characters are delightful, the music is exhilarating and the underwater animation is magical. Youngsters will love how its enterprising heroine faces up to typical parental pressures and learns to take responsibility for her own choices. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Mrs. Brown" (1997)

Fact-based historical drama explores the close personal relationship that developed between the reclusive widowed Queen Victoria (Judi Dench) and her gruff groomsman (Billy Connolly) who bullied her out of years of mourning at Scotland's Balmoral Castle and back to her royal duties in London at a time when the monarchy was falling into public disfavor. Director John Madden's period piece is an absorbing character study of a monarch's emotional fragility and the motivations of her loyal servant. Fleeting male nudity and brief violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III —adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG —parental guidance suggested.

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People In The News

Joan Kroc Funds New Peace and Justice Institute

ALCALA PARK, Calif. (CNS) — The University of San Diego is becoming a major force in the cause of world peace, thanks to a $25 million gift from philanthropist Joan Kroc. The donation is the largest individual contribution to higher education in San Diego history. The Catholic university will use the gift to construct the Mohandas K. Gandhi Institute for Peace and Justice on its campus and to develop academic and public programs.

Priest Extends SOA Protest To Prison; Gets Solitary

ESTILL, S.C. (CNS) — A few weeks into his six-month prison term for protesting at the U.S. Army School of the Americas, Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois has been placed in solitary confinement for refusing to work while imprisoned. In an open letter released April 13, Father Bourgeois said he had decided to refuse to work while at the federal prison in Estill until "the U.S. Army calls for the prosecution of those SOA graduates responsible for all the suffering and death in Latin America."

Cardinal Criticizes 'Culture Of Divorce' In Pastoral Letter

BOSTON (CNS) — The pervasiveness of the "culture of divorce" makes it even more important for the Catholic Church to stand firm on the lifelong commitment that is marriage, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston said in a new pastoral letter. "The disheartening fact is that many persons no longer believe that it is possible to construct a civilization of love, and so they fall into a practical despair that constantly urges them to seek compromises and accommodations instead of relying on the help of the Lord," the cardinal wrote. "Like the culture of death that threatens the good of human life, the widespread acceptance of the culture of divorce aggressively undermines love as a principle and power of communion, and threatens the right of married persons to pursue happiness with one another," he added.

Bishop Urges Caution After Accounts Of Priest With Stigmata

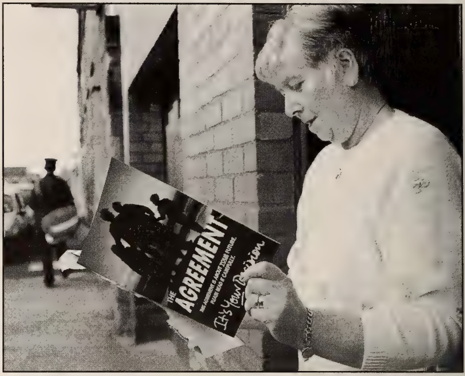
ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (CNS) — Bishop Donald J. Reece of St. John's-Basseterre, Antigua, has urged caution about judging the holiness of a Canadian priest of his diocese who reportedly has the stigmata. Parishioners who touched Father Gerard Critch at Mass "were thrown to the floor by an invisible force," and some were healed of illnesses. The 40-year-old priest from the Canadian province of Newfoundland is also said to have briefly levitated during a Mass. Doctors could not treat Father Critch's excruciating pain from the stigmata — the marks of Christ's crucifixion wounds on the hands, feet and side — and he was flown to a New York medical facility on the private jet of American banker R. Allen Stanford.

Cardinal To Skip Baseball Season Because Of Good Friday Games

NEW YORK (CNS) — The playing of major league baseball games on Good Friday has drawn a protest from Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York. "I love the Yankees, I love the Mets. I love baseball," he wrote in his April 16 column in the New York archdiocesan weekly, Catholic New York. "This was to be the summer that even if the creek rose, I was going to get to some games. Not this year." The cardinal said he would not attend any games "because all over the country, it seems, major league teams played on Good Friday."

Vatican Official: Conditions Not Right For Papal Mid-East Visit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's minister for foreign affairs raised doubts about the prospects for a papal visit to the Middle East soon, considering the state of the peace process there. Speaking April 16 to an Italian radio reporter, Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran said "for the moment" the conditions were not right, but "in two years, we shall see what happens." Pope John Paul II repeatedly has said he wanted to visit the Holy Land in connection with church celebrations of the year 2000. Archbishop Tauran said "the great dilemma of the Holy Father" was that a pastoral visit to the Holy Land "must be a symbol of peace and an encounter between the people."



CNS photo from Reuters

PEACE AGREEMENT — A woman reads her copy of the Northern Ireland peace agreement after it was delivered by a postman in Newtownards April 17. Citizens will vote on the agreement May 22.

Citizen Powell Recruiting New 'Army' To Aid Children In Need

LISLE, Ill. (CNS) — Five years after his retirement as chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, private citizen Colin Powell is looking for more than a few good men and women to join a new battle. Addressing more than 800 people April 15 at Benedictine University in Lisle, Powell said, "I want you all to become a part of my army." The retired four-star general's "army" is called America's Promise — The Alliance for Youth, a nonprofit organization that encourages mentoring and tutorial outreach by businesses and volunteers. The enemies he is targeting are the neglect, hopelessness and apathy that prey on U.S. children in need.

Two Rwandan Priests Receive Death Penalty For 1994 Killings

KIBUYE, Rwanda (CNS) — Two Rwandan priests were condemned to death for having participated in a 1994 campaign of ethnic violence. Judges in Kibuye deliberated for a week in the trial of Father Edouard Nturiye, 49, and Father Emmanuel Kayiranga, 36, before handing down their sentences April 17 for crimes against humanity. They were found guilty of killing about 2,000 Tutsis who sought refuge at Nyange Church in Kivumu, about 50 miles west of the Rwandan capital of Kigali.

Mercy Sister Mary Michael O'Grady Dies At 89

Mercy Sister Mary Michael O'Grady

BELMONT — Sister Mary Michael O'Grady died April 7 at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. She was 89 years old and in her 74th year as a Sister of Mercy.

The Rite of Gathering was held on Easter, April 12, in the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated April 13 in the chapel, and burial followed at the Belmont Abbey cemetery.

Sister Mary Michael was born Oct. 2, 1908, in Westport, County Mayo, Ireland. Her birth name was Margaret Ann O'Grady, and she took the name Sister Mary Michael upon entering the order of the Sisters of Mercy on Oct. 17, 1923.

She completed her undergraduate work at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and at Mount Mercy College in Pittsburgh, Pa. She earned a master's degree in letters from the University of Pittsburgh.

In addition to Sister Mary Michael's many professional memberships, she served as director of the Junior Classical League, moderator for the Library Club of America, advisor to the Foreign Student program at Sacred Heart Junior College in Belmont, and director of the Language Laboratory and Children's Literature Laboratory, both sponsored by Sacred Heart College.

Sister Mary Michael taught in the elementary schools of the Diocese of Raleigh and served as an instructor and later as an assistant and associate professor of English and Spanish at Sacred Heart Junior College. During her tenure at Sacred Heart Academy and College, Sister Mary Michael was the college sponsor of the Library Club of America Book Center and of the Gaston Classical League. She also taught in the Upward Bound program at Johnson C. Smith University and tutored foreign students in math, reading and social studies.

In the mid-1970s, Sister Mary Michael volunteered to use her teaching abilities to serve in Appalachia as principal and teacher at St. William's School in London, Ky. In the late '70s and early '80s, she taught math, reading and history in Mercy Hospital's Continuing Education Program to low-income hospital workers, preparing them for classes at Central Piedmont Community College which provided high school credit classes.

Sister Mary Michael is the daughter of James and Bridget O'Grady. She is survived by several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and numerous cousins.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 100 Mercy Dr., Belmont, N.C. 28012.

Employment Opportunities

Music Director/Music Teacher:
675-family Catholic parish on coast of North Carolina seeks professional musician to provide music services for all aspects of parish life, as well as serving as music teacher for 150-student K-5 school. Individual must have organ and choral directing skills. Bachelor's degree and practicing Catholic preferred, but will consider person with demonstrated level of experience. Salary based on degree and experience. Send resumes to: Search Committee, St. Egbert Catholic Church, 1706 Evans Street, Morehead City, NC 28557. Application deadline is June 1, 1998.

Youth Minister:
Would you like to serve starting in June, 1998 as a full-time Youth Minister in a young, growing, Catholic Community in central North Carolina? Candidate must be a faith-filled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team oriented person. Qualifications: BA in Theology, 3 years experience in Youth Ministry, knowledge of *Life Teen* desirable. Salary and beneifts commensurate with degree and experience. Send resume and a statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Rev. James W. O'Neill, O.S.F.S., St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Youth Director:
St. Michael Catholic Church of Cary, NC seeks a high energy, positive Roman Catholic person for FT employment beginning 7-1-98 at a culturally diverse parish of over 3,000 families. (700+ high school youth.) Responsible for building an innovative youth program. Developing an environment that will allow youth to be fully human and fully alive is key. Must have the ability to create programs that inspire, empower, and involve youth. Looking for fresh ideas, proven ability to organize, motivate, and inspire volunteer staff ot carry out activities. Experience in the following area might prove helpful: Parks and Recreation, Camp Director, Youth Ministry etc. For information write: St. Michael Catholic Church-Youth Director, Attn: Norma Powers, 804 High House Rd., Cary NC, 27513.

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation:
A full-time, new ministry in a growing parish of 800 families in western North Carolina. Responsible for the administration and nurture of pre-elementary faith formation programs as well as adult education. The position also serves as a staff consultant for OCIA, the nursery and Children's Word programs, and other educational outreaches of the parish. Applicant should be degreed in Religious Education or related field. Some experience is beneficial. Applicant must be committed to working with staff and members in a collaborative way. Salary is negotiable. Diocesan benefit package is generous. Position available July 15, 1998. Send resume to FF Search, St. Eugene Church, P.O. Box 8160, Asheville, NC 28814.

Director of Faith Formation — Full-time, Benefits:
Our growing faith community of over 650 families is seeking an enthusiastic and knowledgeable individual to lead our faith formation program. The position is responsible for initiating, designing and implementing a structured religious formation program for the children of the parish. Successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic, have a degree in Religious Education or related field, have strong interpersonal and organizational skills and have successful work experience in a leadership role. Send resume to: Search Committee, St. Mary Mother of the Church, 1008 Vandora Springs Rd., Garner, NC 27259.

Assistant Principal:
Our Lady of Grace School, a K-8 Catholic school in Greensboro, NC, is accepting applications for an Assistant Principal for the 1998-99 school year. Applicants must possess the following qualifications: practicing catholic, a current teaching/administration license for the state of NC, have a master's degree in education and at least five years teaching experience. Please send resume and salary expectations to: Roberta Hutchcraft, Principal, Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403. The deadline for applications is Friday, May 15, 1998.

Administrative Assistant:
Providence Ventures, LLC, a Charlotte-based marketer of Catholic books, videos and gifts is currently seeking a full-time administrative assistant. Responsibilites include handling incoming telephone inquiries, outgoing promotional mailings and lights secretarial duties. Strong communications skills are highly desirable for this position, as well as proficiency in Microsoft Office 97. Please submit resume to: James V. Hetzel, Providence Ventures, LLC, 229 N. Church St., Ste. 400, Charlotte, NC 28202. Phone: (704) 358-9970. Fax: (704) 358-1360.

Order Entry Specialist:
Providence Ventures, LLC, a Charlotte-based marketer of Catholic books, videos and gifts is currently seeking a full-time order entry specialist. Responsibilites include order entry and handling customer service inquiries from field sales representatives. Strong communications skills are required for this position, as well as proficiency in Microsoft Office 97 (and/or data entry software) is highly desirable. Please submit resume to: James V. Hetzel, Providence Ventures, LLC, 229 N. Church St., Ste. 400, Charlotte, NC 28202. Phone: (704) 358-9970. Fax: (704) 358-1360.

Teachers:
St. Thomas Aquinas Parent's Morning Out/Preschool is currently taking applications for two teachers for our Monday/Wednesday two year old program for the 1998-99 school year. This is a paid position for 10 hours a week for 37 weeks. If interested, please call Lori Schoeneman at 549-0199, ext. 1, Monday-Thursday between 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Holy Spirit Conference
Preparing for the New Millennium
Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh

Friday, May 15 - Sunday, May 17, 1998
Greensboro College • 815 W. Market St.

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Parish ____________________
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Children over 12 attending ____________

There is a non-refundable registration fee of $5 per person over age 18.

Please send the above registration form and your check of $5 per person to: Conference, Deacon Tim Rohan, Our Lady of Grace, 2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27403

$50 per person for room and bath. Children under 12 are free.

For further information, please call Bette Steinkamp at (336) 476-9717 or Hannah Hammer at (336) 273-9205.

Fund Raisers Benefit Room At The Inn

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary of Knights of Columbus Piedmont Council #939 present a check to Albert Hodges, executive director of Room at the Inn, following a recent fund raiser. Pictured from left are Saraya Taylor, Betty D'Amelio, Maryann Grabasky, former Knights of Columbus State Deputy Jim Neely, Hodges, and Janice Maxham, auxiliary president.

GREENSBORO — Proceeds from recent fund raisers have been donated to the newest addition of Room at the Inn, a ministry based in Charlotte and Greensboro for single, pregnant mothers.

In two individual efforts, Our Lady of Grace School and the Ladies Auxiliary of Knights of Columbus Piedmont Council #939 raised more than $4,300 for the Catholic organization.

Over a three-week period, students of Our Lady of Grace School collected $1,709.64 — mostly in pennies. Baby bottles were placed in each classroom as reminders of whom the money would benefit. Roberta Hutchcraft, principal; Jarrett Saia, student council president; and Mike Dillon, student council vice-president, presented a check and a framed poem to Cindy Milam of Room at the Inn during a school assembly.

Members of Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary presented proceeds in excess of $2,600 to Albert Hodges, Room at the Inn executive director, following the group's recent dinner-dance and raffle for a trip to Holden Beach. The raffle tickets were sold over a week's time.

A nonprofit, independent Catholic ministry, Room at the Inn has two locations in western North Carolina. A Charlotte home was opened in 1994, and an eight-bedroom mansion was purchased in Greensboro last year. The organization offers single expectant mothers with or without previous children a comprehensive program that includes housing, food clothing and counseling for up to a year following the birth of their children.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Fashion Show

BELMONT — "A Fiesta for Josephina" is the theme of the 1998 American Girls Fashion Show in Curtin Hall on the Sisters of Mercy Sacred Heart Campus May 15 at 7:30 p.m., May 16 at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7 p.m., and May 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $18, and admission includes the fashion show, door prizes, a gift bag and Mexican fiesta treats. Proceeds will benefit Holy Angels, which provides residential, developmental, social and other services and programs to children and adults with mental retardation and other disabilities. To purchase tickets, call (704) 825-0417.

Pastoral Letter Training

BELMONT — Training for Gastonia Vicariate parish implementation of N.C. Catholic Bishops William G. Curlin and F. Joseph Gossman's economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," is May 2 from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Belmont. All interested parishioners, parish leaders, businesspersons and educators are invited. There is no cost, but registration is encouraged by calling (704) 370-3231.

Natural Family Planning Course

CHARLOTTE — The Couple to Couple League begins a four-part course on natural family planning May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. For more information and to register, call Alex or Maria Muñoz at (704) 849-0891, or Richard or Carmen Cashman at (704) 552-1334.

English Class Information

CHARLOTTE — An informational session on a planned "English as a second language" class for immigrants is at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., May 14 at 7 p.m. If someone you know would like to learn English, call Maralee Battaglia, (704) 921-1818, after 2 p.m.

Charity Date Auction

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte hosts its annual Charity Date Auction at St. Gabriel Church April 27 at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Catholic Social Services. For details, call Ken at (704) 532-8206.

Family Rosary Day

CHARLOTTE — The 44th Semi-Annual Family Rosary Day is May 3 at St. Vincent de Paul Church at 3 p.m. and includes rosary recitation, hymns, a homily and a procession. Father John T. Putnam, pastor of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, will be the homilist.

CCHS Presents "Oklahoma"

CHARLOTTE — The Fine Arts Department of Charlotte Catholic High School presents the musical "Oklahoma" May 1 and May 2 at 7:30 p.m., and May 3 at 4 p.m. in the school gymnasium. General admission tickets are $6. The Athletic Association hosts "dinner theater" May 1 and 2; admission is $14, which includes dinner at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria and a reserve seating ticket to the musical. Call Kathryn Claiborne for tickets, (704) 543-1127.

Rosary Society Chicken Dinner

CHARLOTTE — The Rosary Society of Our Lady of Consolation Church hosts its annual chicken dinner April 26 from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Baked or fried dinner plates are $6 each. For more information, call (704) 375-4339.

Lady Hibernians Meet

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in America meets April 30 at 7 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church. All Catholic women of Irish ancestry are invited to attend this first meeting. For more information, call Tim Lawson, (704) 522-9728.

Kentucky Derby Spring Gala

CRAMERTON — The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina 1998 Spring Gala is May 2 from 4-9 p.m. at the Cramerton Mountain Country Club. This year's gala features a Kentucky Derby theme with live coverage of the event on a large-screen television. Raffle tickets will be sold from 4-5:15 p.m. Also included are buffet dining, live music, and live and silent auctions. Tickets are $75 each. Proceeds benefit four ministries of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina. Call (704) 829-5260 for tickets and more information.

Knights Host Degrees

GASTONIA — Knights of Columbus St. Gregory Council 6700 hosts a Second Degree, honoring Knights founder Father Michael J. McGivney, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the parish center at St. Michael Church. A Third Degree is May 2 at 12 p.m. in honor of Richard Grebner, past state deputy. Call (704) 864-9409 for more information.

Pentecost Conference

GREENSBORO — "Pentecost in North Carolina: Springtime for Christians," a statewide conference celebrating the year of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the millennium, is May 15-17 in Odell Auditorium at Greensboro College. Speakers include Father Patsy Iaquinta, chairman of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and Franciscan Father Paul Williams, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Greenville, S.C. Music will be performed by Hearts of Fire and Keith, and child care will be provided. For more information and to register, call Bette Steinkamp, (336) 476-9717, or Joyce Brown, (704) 547-1836.

50+ Spring Fling

HICKORY — The 12th Annual Spring Fling for parishioners ages 50 and up is April 29 at the Catholic Conference Center from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and includes breakfast, bingo, music, games, lunch, Mass and fellowship. The cost is $10 per person. To register call your parish seniors club or the elder ministry program, (704) 370-3250.

Jesuit House of Prayer Retreat

HOT SPRINGS — "St. Paul & Women" is a May 1-3 retreat for women at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Mercy Sister Margaret Verstege facilitates. Limited space remains. Direct inquiries and reservations to Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, NC 28743, (704) 622-7366.

Living Waters Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Everyday Mystics" is a May 11-17 retreat discerning and celebrating mystical moments of peace that are achieved through child-like faith. Franciscan Father Thomas Vigliotta facilitates. Cost is $260. "The Hills are Alive" is a May 22-28 nature retreat focusing on the experience of God's love in a springtime mountain setting. Dominican Father Martin Iott facilitates with Dominican Sister Jeannette Stang. Cost is $260.

For more information, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Faith-Sharing for Returning Catholics

MONROE — Landings, a program for Catholics returning to the church, offers participants a chance to gather with a small group of lay people to talk about the faith in gentle conversation. Call Barbara Dalley, (704) 289-6606, or Dot King, (704) 289-3438, for more information.

Group Rosary

NEWTON — The rosary is prayed every first Sunday in the chapel of St. Joseph Parish following the 10 a.m. Mass.

Scouts Gather for Camporee

RUTHERFORDTON — The annual Catholic Boy Scout Camporee took place the weekend of March 28 at Camp Bud Schiele in Rutherford County, with 220 Scouts, Cub scouts and their leaders participating. The winners of the craft competition were: First Place — Troop 174 Dragons, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte; Second Place — Troop 958 Cobras, St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem; Third Place — Troop 182 Eagles, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Morganton.

Attic Treasure Sale

TRYON — The St. John the Baptist Church Ladies Altar Guild Attic Treasure Sale is May 2. Items will be collected soon. For details, call (704) 859-9574.

BMHS Hosts Fund Raiser

WINSTON-SALEM — The Bishop McGuinness High School Home School Association presents its annual dinner and auction fund raiser May 2 in the school gymnasium. The event features a silent and live auction, fine dining and live music. Tickets are $50 per person. Raffle tickets for a $2,500 cash prize are $1 each or $5 for 6. New this year is a raffle for a 1998 Honda CR-V sports utility vehicle or $15,000 cash. A limited number of 350 are available for $100 each. All proceeds will benefit the school. For more information or to buy tickets, call (336) 725-4247.

Student Wins Oratorical Contest

WINSTON-SALEM — Jessica Carda, a senior at Bishop McGuinness High School, recently won the North Carolina Right to Life Committee Oratorical Competition held in Greensboro. As winner, she will represent the state in the National Right to Life Committee Oratorical Contest in Orlando, Fla., in June. At BMHS, Carda is a member of the student council and swim team, and shares in the writing of a weekly column for the High Point Enterprise newspaper.

Day of Reflection

WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Monica's Guild of St. Benedict the Moor Church presents "Uplifting Women through Faith — Youth Involvement in the Parish Community, A Day of Reflection" May 2 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Guest speakers are Mercy Sister Laretta Rivera-Williams and Keith A. Caver, retired military officer, lay minister, motivational speaker and leadership consultant. No fees wills be charged, but you must register by April 27. Call Catherine Gomez, (336) 723-1318, weekdays between 6-9 p.m. for more information.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the Diocesan News Briefs page. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is in the chapel area of St. Joan of Arc Church every first Saturday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Call the church office, (704) 252-3151, for more information.

BREVARD — Sacred Heart Church hosts eucharistic adoration each first Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass. The parish also hosts First Saturday devotions with adoration. Call (704) 883-9572 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church hosts eucharistic adoration each first Friday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass and lasting until midnight. Call (704) 549-1607 for more information.

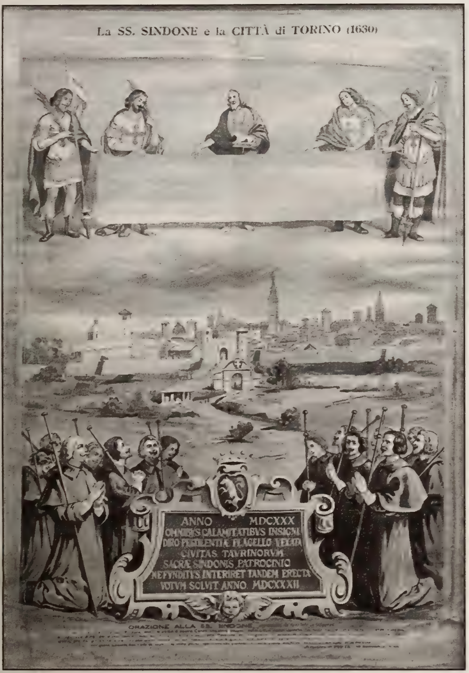
DENVER — Nocturnal adoration is the first Friday of each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 7 p.m. each first Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and Mass. Call Jim Kennedy, (704) 732-2673, for more information.

HICKORY — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the first Friday through the first Saturday of each month at St. Aloysius Church. For information, call Jean Marie Hirsch, (704) 495-4339, or Sonja Bjerg, (704) 328-5074.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church hosts eucharistic adoration beginning at 9:30 a.m. every first Friday and ending at 9 a.m. Saturday. Call (910) 294-4696 for details.

NEWTON — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Joseph Church every first Friday of the month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasting until 8 p.m. For more information, call (704) 464-9207 for more information.

World And National News Briefs


La SS. SINDONE e la CITTÀ di TORINO (1630)
ANNO MDCXXX
OMNIBVS CALAMITATIBVS INSIGNI
DIRO PESTILENTIÆ FLAGELLO VEXATA
CIVITAS TAVRINORVM
SACRÆ SINDONIS PATROCINIO
NEFVNDITVS INTERIRET TANDEM ERECTA
VOTVM SOLVIT ANNO MDCXXXII
ORAZIONE ALLA SS. SINDONE

CNS photo from KNA

The story of the Shroud of Turin, believed by many to be the burial cloth of Christ, is depicted in this mural. The shroud will go on public display April 18-June 14 at the cathedral of Turin in Italy.

Group Says Welfare Changes Mean More Hunger, Less Health Care

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Lost welfare benefits under new regulations seem to be translating into families with too little to eat and unmet health care needs, according to a survey being conducted by Network, a Catholic social justice lobbying group. Working with a sociologist at Drexel University in Pennsylvania, Network and four other national religious organizations are conducting an ongoing survey of social service agencies in 10 states, said Network's national coordinator, Mercy Sister Kathy Thornton, at an April 7 press conference. Sister Thornton said initial data from 900 people receiving assistance from participating organizations found that 25 percent had been discontinued from welfare assistance. Another 45 percent never received welfare. Just 30 percent are currently receiving some type of welfare aid.

Ritual Helps In Grieving, Psychologist Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In grieving a loved one's death "participation in ritual helps the survivors," said Ronald K. Barrett, a psychology professor at a Catholic university and a panelist for the Hospice Foundation of America's National Bereavement Teleconference. Ritual actions give the bereaved "access to a community to support them in grieving. That would help them in their loss and expression of grief," he said. Barrett, who teaches at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, has specialized in the study of cross-cultural differences in death and dying and has done extensive research in African-American cultures.

American College Of Louvain Doing Self-Study

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The American College of Louvain, located at the world's oldest Catholic university in Leuven, Belgium, has begun a self-study aimed at a new development plan. Results are to be reported to the U.S. bishops in November. The college, founded in 1857, is one of two U.S. national seminaries abroad. The other is the North American College in Rome, established in 1859. The first phase of the self-study, carried out last fall, was a survey of the heads of all U.S. dioceses concerning their vision of the American College of Louvain and its role in the formation of priests to serve in the U.S. church. The survey, which brought a response of almost 70 percent, surfaced information that could have a wider bearing on U.S. seminary programs in general.

Pope Says Jesus' Resurrection Demands Efforts For Peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Jesus' death and resurrection restored human dignity, gives meaning to human suffering and demands concrete efforts to bring peace to the world, Pope John Paul II said during Holy Week and Easter services. The pope, who turns 78 in May, cut nothing from his traditional liturgical schedule, even walking in a driving rain around Rome's torch-lit Colosseum April 10 for the nighttime Way of the Cross service. He appeared to have difficulty keeping his balance while standing during a Good Friday liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica and again during the Easter morning Mass in St. Peter's, but his message did not waver. The Easter "proclamation of peace is for all those who are undergoing a Calvary seemingly without end, thwarted in their aspiration for respect for their dignity and human rights, for justice, for employment, for fairer living conditions," he said April 12 during his address "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world).

Massachusetts Churches Urge Curb On Kids' Sunday Sports

BOSTON (CNS) — The Massachusetts Council of Churches, which represents 15 Protestant denominations, has called on public officials and public events planners to "avoid imposing impediments to religious worship" such as the scheduling of youth sports games on Sundays. "This issue causes considerable conflict within families when children are placed in the position of having to choose between church or recreational activities," said the Rev. Diane Kessler, the council's executive director. Rev. Kessler, a United Church of Christ minister, made the comments in an announcement issued by the council about the effort. The Pilot, newspaper of the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, agreed in an editorial.

Black Theology Conference Draws Diverse, Ecumenical Crowd

CHICAGO (CNS) — Too often, a conference on black theology is really a conference on black Protestant theology. Catholics are notable only by their absence. Not so at a recent gathering of preeminent theologians at the University of Chicago. Not only did the audience contain as many white faces as black, the lineup of speakers also was an ecumenical smorgasbord of men and women. Headlining the April 2-5 conference was James Cone, whose groundbreaking book "Black Theology and Black Power" defined the discipline in 1969, as well as authors Cornel West of Harvard and Stephen Carter of Yale. But also among the nine speakers were two well-known Catholic theologians: Father David Tracy of the University of Chicago and Rosemary Radford Ruether of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston.

Pilot Hopes Small, Private Aircraft Could Take Aid To Cuba

BOCA RATON, Fla. (CNS) — The president of the Boca Raton Pilots Association says the time may be right to start flying privately owned, single-engine aircraft on humanitarian missions to Cuba. "We can make some small contribution in the humanitarian sense and close the gap in a sense between Cuba and the U.S.," said Dave Freudenberg, a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Boca Raton. "With our change in U.S. policy (regarding direct flights to Cuba) and since I knew Catholic Charities was open to more contact with Cuba, I called my parish and asked how we could be of help, knowing that the pilots had already expressed an interest in going to Cuba," he told The Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Palm Beach Diocese.

Vietnamese Catholics Want Holy Priests, Laity Tell Seminarians

BAC NINH, Vietnam (CNS) — While parish priests might bring many skills to their work, lay people want them to be holy most of all, participants at a seminar told seminarians of Bac Ninh Diocese in northern Vietnam. "Between a talented and a holy priest, I would choose the latter because what we expect most from a priest is his holiness," said a lay participant at the late-March seminar on lay people's expectations of the spiritual leadership of future priests. The seminar was held in Bac Ninh, about 20 miles northeast of Hanoi, reported UCA News; an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "It is good to rebuild churches, improve education and create jobs for lay people. However, it is not enough for a priest to do just that, because we lay people can also do the same," the layman explained.

Salvadoran Archbishop Decries High Number Of Holy Week Deaths

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — A Salvadoran archbishop decried the high numbers of deaths caused by crime and traffic accidents during this year's Holy Week. Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle of San Salvador said April 12 that the high figures were due to "the irresponsibility of some people who cause innocent victims." In one case, a woman was killed and another 14 people injured when an impatient driver charged his vehicle into a Holy Thursday religious procession April 9 in the town of Suchitoto, El Salvador, police said.

Violence Still Reigns On Television, Study Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The amount and kind of violence shown on television has not changed over the past three years, according to the third and final annual National Television Violence Study. While well-intentioned programmers and producers may have tried to "limit or alter the nature of violent portrayals," the study said, "they were not cumulatively sufficient to significantly alter the television environment overall."

Boom, What Boom?

Appalachian Poverty Remains Entrenched

By PATRICIA ZAPOR

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (CNS) — Much of the United States may be economically booming, but in the hard-core poverty pockets of Appalachia, it can be hard to tell.

That becomes apparent to student volunteers from around the country who descend on the region each spring to try to battle poverty by shoring up rundown houses and helping children practice their reading.

They come from universities like Notre Dame in Indiana, East Stroudsburg in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, Marquette in Milwaukee and Salem State in Massachusetts — from Catholic colleges and Catholic campus ministry programs at public universities.

They're among the thousands of volunteers who spend a week or more in Appalachia each spring break working through organizations like Habitat for Humanity and the Christian Appalachian Project.

In some ways, the students are part of a long tradition of Catholic efforts in a region where only a tiny fraction of the population is Catholic.

In 1974, the poverty of Appalachia inspired the region's Catholic bishops to write a pastoral letter about the effects of a shifting economy, strip mining, exploitation of labor and other issues.

Twenty years later, 25 Appalachian area bishops issued a new call to support the "web of life" in the region.

CNS photo by Patricia Zapor

Julie Duba and Kevin Leonard of the University of Notre Dame install a sheet of drywall insulation on the ceiling of Karen Morton's home in Campbell's Creek, W.Va., in March. The students were participating in an alternative spring break project.

The 1995 statement stressed the abandonment of the people there by the post-industrial economy and pervasive damage to the environment by clear-cutting, strip mining and dumping of garbage and toxic materials.

The socioeconomic crisis in Appalachia is a "conflict between a culture of death and a culture of life," that constitutes a "profoundly moral crisis," the bishops said.

The region, which stretches from New York to Mississippi along the spine of the Appalachian Mountains, has long been defined by extremes of wealth and poverty. There are mansions bought by the coal and steel fortunes of families with names like Morgan and Rockefeller and rented tar-paper shacks hanging precariously on remote hillsides — with outhouses out back.

In the mid-1960s, President Lyndon Johnson focused attention on the disparities of Appalachia when he outlined his "Great Society" programs that would become known as welfare, Medicare, food stamps and Medicaid.

Television news crews and documentary film makers swarmed into Appalachia to show the rest of America just who Johnson meant when he declared "War on Poverty."

Today, parts of Appalachia appear to be doing quite well: urban areas including Charleston and Atlanta are thriving; statewide unemployment rates have shrunk; high technology industries and tourism are infusing money into some places; a new West Virginia crafts center on Interstate 83 that sells pricey handicrafts does a strong business.

But Richard Couto of the University of Richmond in Virginia said other sections of Appalachia are seeing almost none of that improvement.

One lesson of the years since Johnson declared "War on Poverty," has been that improvements in the economy are really location specific, Couto said.

"The places where there is a concentration of low-income groups are a lot like barrios," he said, explaining that like inner-city pockets of poverty, parts of Appalachia remain crippled by the lack of employment opportunities, despite the thriving economies around them.

For instance, the West Virginia Kids Count Data Book notes some economic improvements, such as a decline in unemployment from 9.4 percent in 1980 to 7.9 percent in 1995.

But in the same period, the number of jobs in high-paying industries declined by 18.9 percent, while the number of jobs in low-paying industries increased by 43.2 percent.

Jeff Allen, director of the Charleston District Outreach Ministry in West Virginia, said 90 percent of his clients are elderly, but some are disabled or simply stretched too thin financially to keep up with basics like repairing a nonfunctioning water line.

College students and community volunteers who come in and fix things under Allen's planning have made the difference between barely keeping a roof over her head and guaranteeing that it doesn't fall down.

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Teens Celebrate Cultural Diversity At Youth Conference

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CLOVER, S.C. — "I never really gave cultural heritage much thought until today," said Brian Heaton. The Irish-German-English senior from Bishop McGuinness High School responded to a workshop on cultural diversity in much the same way as other teens in attendance. Cultural diversity was but one workshop conducted during the 21st Annual Diocesan Youth Conference April 24-26 at Camp Thunderbird.

"A lot of times, when you look at someone, you can't tell where they are from," said 16-year old Ricardo Martinez of St. Barnabas Church. "This (workshop) gave us the opportunity to learn more about each other. It is important to try to understand everyone's cultures and traditions.

"My family moved to the United States four years ago, and the first two years here, I was in a shell," added Martinez, describing life as a Cuban immigrant. Slowly, the St. Barnabas parishioner adjusted to life in a new country and made friends at school and in church. Now, he is an active 11th-grader who takes pride in sharing his heritage and learning about others.

"We're all one body in Christ and part of the church," said workshop leader Andrea Logan, youth minister at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem. "We've got to love all people for who they are every day, not just on Sunday." Student responses demonstrated a cultural diversity that many of the teenagers did not realize existed in western North Carolina.

Logan, an African-American who is also part Cherokee Indian, added every culture makes up God's family.

Members of the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) — the advisory board of teens for diocesan youth activities — chose "Were our hearts not burning within us?" as this year's conference theme. Taken from Luke 24:12-35, the theme focuses on the "Road to Emmaus" passage, where Cleopas and another disciple of Jesus did not recognize immediately that the risen Christ was with them on their journey.

"Jesus walks with each of us on the roads we travel daily. Yet how often does 'something prevent us from recognizing him?,'" DYC members said in their 1998 mission statement. "Like Cleopas and the others, we are invited to find him in the breaking of bread and by overcoming our prejudices and opening our hearts."

As special people of Christ, the 420 teens taking part in the conference were offered opportunities for exchange with one another, prayerful expressions, and workshops designed to deepen their faith.

Photo by Patrick Henry
Andrea Logan, youth minister at Our Lady of Mercy Church, demonstrates a Cherokee dance during a workshop entitled "Cultural Explosion." More than 400 teens attended the 21st annual Diocesan Youth Conference last weekend.

Workshop presenters focused on various subjects, including the Trinity; Appartions; Saints Alive!; Jesus Behind Bars; Myths; Heaven Hell, & In Between; The Right Choice; and What Would Jesus Do?

The largest annual diocesan event, the youth conference is unique because it is totally run by teens, said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry.

Kerry Waldrep, a parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima parish in Winston-Salem, was presented the Bishop Begley Award.

See **Youth Conference,** page 13

Bishop Who Led Quest For Truth Found Murdered

CNS photo from Reuters
Guatemala City Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera is shown April 24 during presentation of a human rights report on Guatemala's civil war. The bishop was brutally murdered April 26 in Guatemala City.

By PAUL JEFFREY

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — The bishop who led Guatemala's Catholic Church in a quest for the truth of what happened during this country's civil war was murdered April 26.

Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City was killed by an unknown assailant at about 10 p.m. as he returned to his home at St. Sebastian Parish in downtown Guatemala City.

The 75-year-old archbishop was alone. His killer reportedly struck the bishop twice in the head with a chunk of cement, disfiguring his face. Church officials said the killer left the scene of the killing, changed his bloodied clothes, and returned to a site near the crime 10 minutes later.

The bishop's body was found around 11 p.m. by the parish vicar, Father Mario Orantes, whose suspicion was aroused when he saw that the house lights were still on at that hour.

Bishop Gerardi's body was laid in the metropolitan cathedral for public viewing until his funeral April 29. The bishop was to be buried in the crypt under the cathedral.

Bishop Gerardi coordinated the activities of the Human Rights Office of the Archdiocese of Guatemala, as well as the church's Project for the Recovery of Historic Memory. On April 24, the project made public its 1,400-page final report, assigning blame for the rampant violence that characterized Guatemala during its 36-year civil war.

Ronald Ochaeta, director of the Archdiocesan Human Rights Office, said he had "no idea about a motive" for Bishop Gerardi's killing.

"We can't conclude yet that it came as a result of the historic memory project, but public opinion could be saying that," Ochaeta said, acknowledging that the style of the killing was similar to the assassination of political activists during the war.

Ochaeta said his office had received calls of support from throughout the world. He said the Guatemalan bishops were to meet April 27, and that the bishops would "decide how the church is going to respond. This is too grave a case for the human rights office to handle alone."

Many Guatemalans, accustomed to political assassination as a way of life, believed the timing of the killing — two days after release of the rights report, "Guatemala: Never Again" — was more than a coincidence.

"It seems like some people haven't changed their way of thinking or acting," said Carmen Pena, a lawyer for the Conference of Guatemalan Religious. "Death still follows those who denounce violence and speak the truth."

Alfonso Portillo, runner-up in 1996 presidential elections, said: "Logic says this was not common crime. I hope I'm wrong about this, but it's obvious that some sectors are not very happy about the truth."

Ochaeta said Bishop Gerardi's killing "strengthens our work in the human rights office. His spirit of conciliation will continue to inspire our work, inspire us to work for peace. The martyred blood of the bishop is an incentive for us to continue our work."

Bishop Gerardi was born in Guatemala Dec. 27, 1922. He was ordained a priest in 1946 and first served in the Diocese of Vera Paz, from 1967-74. There he laid the groundwork for the Indigenous Pastorate.

He was transferred to the Diocese of Santa Cruz del Quiche, where he helped shepherd the Guatemalan church through the worst attacks on religious during the war.

He escaped an assassination attempt in 1980, and in June of that year closed his diocese to protect priests and religious who were in danger. At least 20 priests and hundreds of religious were killed during the violence.

After government authorities denied him re-entry to the country in 1982, Bishop Gerardi lived in exile for two years, before returning to Guatemala City as archbishop in 1984.

Mercy Sister Receives National Counseling Award

INDIANAPOLIS — Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke of Belmont was honored March 31 by The American Counseling Association (ACA) and named recipient of The Gilbert and Kathleen Wrenn Award for Humanitarian and Caring Person at the association's 1998 national awards reception. Because of the scope of the criteria and requirements for this award, the ACA governing board designated that the individual honored be named the ACA Counselor of the Year.

The Counselor of the Year honor is determined by concrete illustration of both social action and personal caring. Nominees must express concern for social injustice or sordid societal situations through time, effort, money, exemplary behavior and true concern for change to improve the lives of those who are starving, abused, imprisoned, discriminated against or powerless.

"Her time has been spent feeding the poor, comforting the sorrowing, healing the sick, counseling the drug addict, providing for the AIDS patient, supporting the elderly, encouraging the downhearted and reaching out to our youth," said Judith Miranti, a professor of counselor education and dean of graduate studies at Our Lady of Holy Cross College, New Orleans, La., in her letter nominating Sister Mary Thomas.

Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke

Miranti added that Sister Mary Thomas "has influenced the profession of counseling through her leadership in professional organizations at the local, state, national and international level," including service as president of the Association for Religious and Values Issues in Counseling; president of Chi Sigma Iota, an international honor society for counselors; and president of North Carolina Association for Counselor Educators and Supervisors (ACES).

Another nominator, Dr. Bob Barret, a fellow professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, called Sister Mary Thomas "a champion to suffering people and organizations."

"Her energy seems as inexhaustible as her commitment to those around her. She is the kind of human being who reflects the values of the Wrenn Caring Person Award," Barret said.

Sister Mary Thomas was noted for her commitment to social action through such programs and efforts as To Life, a grief counseling and support agency she helped establish; the American Cancer Society, which she has served by establishing a volunteer counseling service among other ways; and The Metrolina AIDS Project, for which she has served as board president.

Sister Mary Thomas, who is a professor and coordinator of counselor education in the Department of Counseling, Special Education and Child Development at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, received her bachelor's degree from Belmont Abbey College, her master's degree from Georgetown University and her doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She is the recipient of many other honors and awards, including the Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Education at UNC-Charlotte; the Humanitarian Award, presented by the National Conference of Christians and Jews; the Leadership Award, presented by Metrolina AIDS Project; Woman of the Year Award in Charlotte, presented by WBT Radio, Charlotte; and the Col. Francis J. Beatty Award, presented by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sister Mary Thomas has also written and collaborated on many publications, including "Ethics & Values in Counseling" (1992) and "Counseling: The Spiritual Dimension" (1995).

Bishops To Gather For Ecumenical Dialogue In May

HICKORY — The annual Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue hosted by the Roman Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran, Episcopal and United Methodist bishops serving western North Carolina will be held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory May 12-13.

The 1998 conference will focus on the theme "Is Your Parish a Grace Place?". It will examine the elements of parish life that make the local congregation a place of wellness fostering healthier relationships both in the parish and in homes.

Leading the program will be the Rev. David Ludwig, chair of the psychology department at Lenior-Rhyne College in Hickory and an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The Rev. Ludwig is a licensed clinical psychologist, author of books and articles on family life, a member of the board of the Lutheran Family Association and chair of the Faith and Life Commission. He is an experienced director of seminars, workshops and retreats in the United States, Canada and Australia.

"The topic of this year's conference is a natural sequence to last year's theme," said Father George Kloster, ecumenical officer for the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia. "In 1997 we examined the wellness needs of clergy and the importance of recognizing the stress that is a part of pastoral ministry today. We talked about how a parish can minister to its pastoral staff.

"This year we are extending the theme to the congregation itself and the dimensions of a healthy parish environment that contribute to the spiritual, mental and physical well-being of the parish community."

The dialogue is designed not only for ordained clergy but also for parish staff members and parish lay leaders. The conference fee is $70, which includes overnight accommodations and three meals. There is a sliding scale for those attending the lectures only.

Send registrations to the Rev. Gilmer Miller, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 1406 Harper Ave. NW, Lenoir, NC 28645. For more information, call the Rev. Miller at (828) 758-1261.

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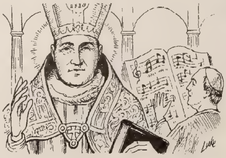

Benedict was born in Rome and was active in the church from his youth. He was elected pope in 683 and served a short reign of two years. Known to be charitable and energetic, Benedict kept busy improving and restoring many Roman churches. He encouraged the disposed patriarch of Antioch to abandon his heretical views, but was unsuccessful. Benedict's feast is May 8.

Saints & Scripture

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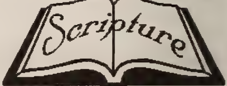

Readings for the week of May 3-9, 1998

Sunday
Acts 13:14, 43-52
Revelation 7:9, 14-17
John 10:27-30

Monday
Acts 11:1-18
John 10:1-10

Tuesday
Acts 11:19-26
John 10:22-30

Wednesday
Acts 12:24—13:5
John 12:44-50

Thursday
Acts 13:13-25
John 13:16-20

Friday
Acts 13:26-33
John 14:1-6

Saturday
Acts 13:44-52
John 14:7-14

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School Looks To Future With Acquisition

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The capital campaign that will finance the addition of 2.5 acres to Charlotte Catholic High School's campus is barely a month old, but organizers believe its success will help continue fostering faith through education for years to come.

The campaign goal is $405,000, which will repay costs associated with the Charlotte diocese's purchase of the property last January. The site is the only remaining undeveloped piece of land adjacent to the existing school campus.

"This (campaign) is very important for us because it gives us an opportunity to look at our present and future needs, and to see how to best utilize the land," said Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, Charlotte Catholic principal.

Sister Paulette said the school currently faces the difficulties of housing academic, sports and extracurricular programs in the midst of constant student body growth.

Possible uses of the addition include academic and athletic facilities.

Diocesan and Charlotte Catholic development officials are now appealing to families and friends of the school and the Catholic community to meet the goal by late May. The campaign officially began April 2.

Campaign committee members are currently soliciting pledges from Charlotte Catholic supporters. The 16-member committee is headed by Mike Mulvaney, chairman, with organizational assistance provided by Debbie Huffman, directors of development for Mecklenburg Area Catholic Catholic Schools, and Jennifer Sheely, director of development for Charlotte Catholic High School.

By 1994-95, the school's previous site — now the campus of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School — had become inadequate in its service to the growing student population. Following a successful building campaign, a new state-of-the-art facility in south Charlotte opened its doors to 671 students in the fall of 1995.

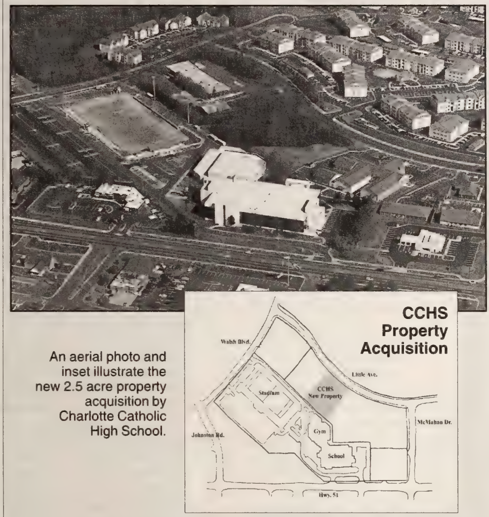
Summer projects since then have focused on readying the facility to accommodate its capacity for 1,110 students.

A projected 850 students will attend the high school during the 1998-99 school year, an increase of more than 25 percent since 1995.

"This land purchase is a stepping stone to much bigger things for the future," Sister Paulette said. "Charlotte Catholic is counting on the support of those who understand the importance of Catholic education and providing opportunities for young people. That's what Charlotte Catholic is about."

Charlotte Catholic High School is one of three Catholic high schools in North Carolina, and one of two in the Diocese of Charlotte. It is part of Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools, a regional system established in the fall of 1992 that now comprises the high school, middle school and five elementary schools.

To offer support in Charlotte Catholic High School's new property campaign, call Debbie Huffman, MACS director of development, (704) 370-3303.



An aerial photo and inset illustrate the new 2.5 acre property acquisition by Charlotte Catholic High School.

Vatican, PLO Members Meet To Discuss Joint Working Commission

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican and Palestinian authorities met at the Vatican April 27 to formally establish a "bilateral working commission" to discuss issues of common concern.

A Vatican announcement said the commission will meet periodically and "will have the task of studying and defining together matters of mutual interest, including bilateral agreements, with a view to strengthening and developing further the official cooperation" begun in 1994.

The commission was established by the Vatican and by the Palestine Liberation Organization "in its capacity as the representative of the Palestinian people and working in the name of and for the benefit of the Palestinian National Authority."

The Vatican announced in mid-January that it had agreed with the PLO on the importance of establishing a working group to formalize agreements on the rights and responsibilities of the Catholic Church in the territories now under the control of the Palestinian National Authority.

"The commission's fundamental goal will be to seek a juridical status of the Catholic Church in the Palestinian territories, taking into consideration the various aspects of service which the church carries out — spiritual, educational and social," the Vatican said Jan. 15.

The PLO representative to the Vatican, Afif Safieh, said at the time that the commission would focus on "the status, privileges and immunities" of holy sites and Catholic institutions in the West Bank and Gaza, and also in East Jerusalem, whose annexation by Israel has not been internationally recognized.

The Vatican had a similar working group with Israeli government officials, leading to bilateral agreements several years later.

The Vatican said the April 27 meeting was led by Msgr. Celestino Migliore, undersecretary for relations with states at the Vatican Secretariat of State, and by Emile Jarjoui, leader of the Palestinian delegation.

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1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

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to express your opposition
to this procedure.

Write to:

The Honorable __________
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable __________
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

See Postcard story, page 12

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 29 - May 6
Knights of Malta
Pilgrimage
Lourdes,
France

THE CATHOLIC
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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience April 22.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we reflect today on the second coming of Christ at the end of time. While Christians look forward to it in hope and work for its realization, that final event has already begun with the historical coming of Christ. Through Christ's passion, death and resurrection, humanity has entered into a new relationship with God, characterized by the offer of salvation. Christian eschatology is to be understood as a historical process already begun and moving toward its fullness.

Since Jesus said nothing about when the end would come, attempted predictions are baseless and misleading. He only assures us that the end will not take place before his saving work reaches a universal dimension through the preaching of the Gospel.

The Son of Man is the divine judge with a human heart who desires to give life to everyone. Only impenitent attachment to evil can prevent him from bestowing this gift. Our hope is therefore firmly placed in Christ, the center of the universe, who draws all peoples to himself to grant them the abundance of grace and eternal life.

I extend a warm welcome to the board of directors of the Major Superiors of Women Religious of the United States, and through you I greet all the members of your communities. I welcome the students from the universities of Tromso and Oslo, and the Ansgar group from Goteborg. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Canada, the United States, the Philippines, Taiwan and Japan, I cordially invoke an abundance of divine blessings.

Pope Condemns Murder Of Bishop Gerardi, Offers Condolences

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II condemned the murder of Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City as an "abominable crime that has cost the life of a true servant of peace."

He offered "heartfelt condolences" to Guatemala and said he had been deeply moved by news of the bishop's slaying.

"I denounce in the strongest way this act of violence, which represents an attack against peaceful coexistence and offends the sentiments of this beloved nation," the pontiff said in a telegram.

He described Bishop Gerardi, who was murdered April 26, as a man who never tired of working for harmony among all sectors of the population and who "generously dedicated his life and episcopal mission to the pacification (of Guatemala) and the defense of human rights."

The pope said he hoped the murder would demonstrate the uselessness of violence and help convince people to adopt dialogue. He said dialogue was the only way to settle differences and assure the victory of peace and justice over "any obstacle or provocation."

The pope added that he hoped the killing would not interfere with the application of peace accords in Guatemala.

"In these sad circumstances, I fervently pray to the Lord that he may concede eternal glory to this zealous pastor and faithful son of the church," he said.

Bishop Gerardi was killed by an unknown assailant at about 10 p.m. as he returned to his home at St. Sebastian Parish in downtown Guatemala City.

Jubilee 2000: Year Of Forgiveness

Joanne Kennedy Frazer

International Forgive the Debt Campaign

In the spirit of the Book of Leviticus (25:8-12), Pope John Paul II is proposing the Jubilee Year 2000 as an appropriate time to reduce substantially, or cancel outright, the international debt which literally threatens the future of many nations.

The crushing burden of foreign debt is forcing the poorest governments to spend more to repay creditors than they do for basic services for their people, such as food, water, health care and education. This means that the debt crisis wears a human face, and the Catholic call to be in solidarity with all peoples means we can no longer view the international debt crisis only in terms of financial data.

Oxfam reports that millions of people are affected:

- In Mozambique, debt servicing for 1996 was double the allocation for health and education; yet 25% of children die before age 5 as a result of infectious disease; 66% of the population is illiterate.
- In Zambia, for every $1 spent on health, $4 is spent on debt servicing, yet infant mortality rates are rising because of the declining provision of health care, clean water and sanitation.
- In Ethiopia, debt repayments equal four times the public budget for health care, yet over 100,000 children annually from easily preventable and treatable diarrhea.
- In Nicaragua, debt repayments exceed the total social sector budget, yet 75% live below the poverty line, 25% of children under five suffer nutritional deficiency, and 35% of the population is illiterate.
- In Bolivia, debt repayment in 1997 was triple the budget allocated for rural poverty reduction, yet 90% of the highland population lives in poverty, and 84% have no access to safe water.

What is the international debt? It is $250 billion borrowed by the governments of developing countries from three groups of creditors: the industrialized countries (such as Great Britain and the U.S.); multilateral institutions (such as the Intermonetary Fund and the World Bank); and commercial banks (such as Citibank).

Why is it a problem? For the most highly indebted countries, interest payments on their debt consumes on average 40% of GNP, and in some cases more than 100%. Because these countries are so highly indebted, further development becomes impossible. With debt repayments representing more than double their spending on health and primary education, sub-Saharan African governments are unable to improve their living standards, educational opportunities or environmental quality.

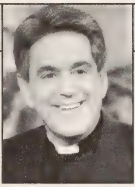
What is being done? Millions of people and hundreds of organizations are now calling for debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries. Caritas Internationales, a coalition of international Catholic relief agencies, is calling for the cancellation of unpayable debt by the year 2000. The United States Catholic Conference is working on a legislative proposal for debt reduction which should be introduced into the U.S. Congress soon.

What can individuals and parishes do? Reflect on the origins of the Christian Jubilee in Leviticus 25, Isaiah 61 and Luke 4. Call the Office of Justice and Peace for a parish packet on debt relief. Join the Voices for Justice Legislative network to stay abreast of legislative efforts.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer is diocesan director of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



For What We Have Done And What We Have Failed To Do

Every year about this time Jews observe a Day of Remembrance for the martyrs and heroes of the Holocaust. Places of entertainment close in Israel and public ceremonies welcome school children who are taught about the Holocaust. In 1998, even more than usual, Christians, too, have much to consider.

In March, after 11 years of preparation, the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews released its 14-page report, "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah." As part of the Catholic response to the Holocaust, this "call to penitence" represents Pope John Paul II's "fervent hope ... to heal the wounds of past misunderstandings and injustices."

While expressing remorse for the cowardice of some Christians during the Holocaust, the document prompted a mixed reaction from both Jews and Christians. Central to the criticism is a clause on Pope Pius XII. There has long been controversy over how much he did — or did not do — to save Jewish lives.

Rabbi Marvin Hier was quoted in Time, asking: "There is no denying that Pope Pius XII did wonderful work to rescue the Jews of Rome in late '43 and '44, but where was he when he could have made a difference in saving the lives of six million Jews?"

Where was he? Supporters say Pius worked quietly and constantly to protect Jews and Catholics. Critics argue that he never clearly condemned the Nazi evil that sentenced the Jewish people to near extermination. Supporters or critics, religious leaders or laypeople, Jews or Christians, we all need truth.

If Jews are to reach their children about the Holocaust, they need the whole story. If the Third Millennium of Christianity is to experience healing based on reconciliation with God and neighbor, the Vatican's appeal for forgiveness for sins of injustice, must start with courage. This same courage was needed in this world sixty years ago — and in every age even now when religious and racial hatred rears its ugly head.

Since Vatican II there has been a revolution in the attitude of the Catholic Church toward the Jewish roots of Christianity and toward its repudiation of anti-Semitism. Indeed, since Pope John XXIII there has been a resurgence of fraternal dialogue. But because the Jewish-Catholic relationship is dynamic and changing, it is important to look at the most recent Vatican statement from a "process" view — that is, to see it as one more act in a sequence of actions designed to strengthen mutual respect.

Today Catholics stand a little closer to their "elder brothers" by asserting that the very magnitude of the crimes of the Holocaust raises many questions still in need of answers: "Historians, sociologists, political philosophers, psychologists and theologians are all trying to learn more about the reality of the Shoah. . . . Much scholarly study still needs to be done." While many Vatican documents have been made available, the opening of wartime archives to independent scholars would do much to serve the cause of truth. There is every reason to hope that full disclosure will be forthcoming. Pope John Paul II, like all of us, understands that disclosure is risky but absolutely necessary when seeking forgiveness and healing.

At this stage, however, there is much to be said for the conscience of a church ready and willing to pray "for a shared mutual respect, as befits those who adore the one Creator and Lord and have a common father in faith, Abraham."

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Mass Offerings

Q. We live in a small town with no resident pastor since last summer. I planned to leave $1,000 in my will for Masses.

With no priest, however, I'm considering changing that part, and helping in some other way, perhaps to do good for a priest in need.

Having Masses said for oneself or another is still correct, isn't it? What is a good amount to leave for Masses? And what does it mean when the priest announces that a Mass is being offered for a particular person?

I don't want to seem like I am trying to buy my way into heaven. But I could use some help on the way. Any insights you have will be appreciated.

A. Your questions are good ones. I'm not about to suggest how much money to leave for Masses, but a few thoughts might help you decide what to do.

For centuries, more than 1,000 years in fact, Catholics in some parts of the world have followed the custom of Mass offerings for the church's ministers and other needs of the Christian community.

This custom obviously continues here in the United States.

At the same time, however, the church has carried on an almost continuous struggle to avoid any appearance of commercialism about the Mass, and misunderstandings about the meaning of such offerings. They do not "buy" a Mass.

One common problem has been language which is at least open to misunderstanding. The example you give is a good one.

We believe that the eucharistic sacrifice is a representation, a re-offering, of the one perfect sacrifice of our Lord.

Every Mass has the same reach, therefore, the same universal saving intention, as the first offering by Jesus on Calvary.

As our Eucharistic Prayers and other parts of the Mass make clear, each offering of this sacrifice of salvation effectively embraces not only the whole church, but the whole human family, living and dead.

This is the context in which the church makes it lawful for a priest to accept an offering to apply the Mass according to a definite intention (Canon 945).

As one canon law expert put it, Mass offerings can be understood as "gifts to the church or its ministers on behalf of some intention, much as a donation or bequest is made to any charitable institution in the name of some person" (Code of Canon Law: A Text and Commentary, page 668).

Thus, a statement such as, "This Mass is being offered for ...," or including the name in the Eucharistic Prayer, is at least inappropriate.

If an announcement of a particular intention is desired, a theologically and liturgically proper one could be, "We are remembering John Doe especially at this Mass."

Perhaps these considerations help. Whatever you do, you can be confident your requests and offerings will be honored, either in your parish or elsewhere. Priests are under serious obligation to be sure that happens.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Variety Is The Essence Of Life

Last night we had eight guests in our home, people we had never met before, but who share a common concern. That concern is the evident poor race relations in the south suburban metropolitan area of Chicago in which we all live. The purpose of our gathering was to simply break bread and share our stories — stories that distinguish and connect us, stories that shape our identities.

Sponsored and organized by the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at Governors State University, some 500 people took part in such "diversity dinners" hosted in area homes that night. In our group of four blacks and six whites, we began by introducing ourselves, and telling why we chose to be part of this conversation.

Asking the perennial question, "Why can't we live together," there seemed a sense of hopelessness in our failure to rise above racist attitudes in our community. Those attitudes come from a racist paradigm that is as American as apple pie: the purity of "whiteness." Any deviation from this "standard" in our communities is perceived as a negative. Though we may value racial diversity, too much of it is not desirable. People of color are seen as "spice" that makes us more "flavorful." However, too much spice spoils the meal.

To challenge this racist paradigm, we must begin to look at racial diversity very differently. People of color are rather an entree essential to the meal, not a spice. It means letting go of the purity paradigm and opening ourselves to being different because of each others' differences.

This demands a kind of hospitality that is grounded in the fundamental belief that we are all created equal and equally valued in God's eyes. It is trying to see our community and the people in it through the eyes of God.

As we shared our stories, it became apparent that we who are open to talking about racism are but a small part of the solution. The attitudes, even in our own families, seemed so overarching. Then our 16-year-old daughter, Andréa, joined our conversation. Her personal dedication to challenging racism in her interactions with others inspired us and gave us hope. It dawned on us that our hope is in our youth whose world is much more racially diverse, and who are less bound to limiting paradigms that blind us to our true worth as children of God.

Our hope is in a world in which our children and grandchildren will see clearly that "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of [us] are one in Christ Jesus. And if [we] belong to Christ, then [we] are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:28-29)

We help bring about such a world by teaching our children that when it comes to race relations in our community, variety is not the spice of life, it is the essence. Bon appétit!

Andrew & Terri Lyke are CNS columnists.

Holy Week Event

Walk For Justice & Peace

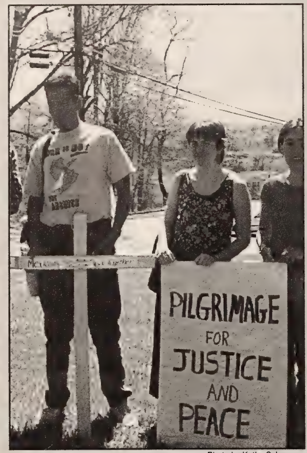


Photo by Kathy Schmugge

In a show of solidarity, 60 participants marched from Hickory to Raleigh in support of the people of Central, South, and North America. Francisco Risso, Hickory event coordinator at left, listens with others on individual reasons for participation in the walk.

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Miltoria Bey, far left, traveled from Chicago in support of the poultry workers in Valdese. She is the project coordinator for Poultry Worker's Justice and a member of the National Interfaith Committee for Worker's Justice.

Holy Week Pilgrimage Focuses On Justice For Poultry Workers, Hispanics

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

MORGANTON — During the week that Christians throughout the world contemplate the Paschal mystery, the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice set out to unite the sufferings of Christ with the suffering of His people.

On Palm Sunday, Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, and members of other denominations joined hands to walk from Morganton to Raleigh to give hope and to pray for those who endure injustice, persecution and poverty.

"Look for God in your own pain and your own suffering. This is where God will come to you. If you suffer with God, you will rise with God," said Father Ken Whittington, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, during the Hispanic Mass on Palm Sunday attended by the participants of the pilgrimage to Raleigh. "We are going to walk this week, calling attention to the sufferings of Christ and the suffering of the people of this state and throughout the world," Father Whittington said to the visitors and the hundreds of Guatemalans who normally attend this Sunday service.

After the Mass, the 60 participants of the walk from Morganton to Hickory shared their personal intentions for this year's journey, a tradition begun at the initiation of the Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace's "Way of the Cross" eight years ago. The event, sponsored by the Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America, was led by organizer Gail Phares.

"I have been actively involved in peace and justice issues in Central America since the 1980s. I just got back from Mexico where I assist on both sides of the border," said Tom Clark, a Quaker from Greensboro who joined the prayerful effort because of his firsthand experience with the poor from these countries.

There were representatives from various parts of the state and even some out-of-state visitors like Miltoria Bey, a member of the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, who traveled from Chicago. "I am here representing the poultry workers. In Morganton, they are finally getting the support they need," said Bey, project coordinator for Poultry Workers' Justice. Eight Appalachian State University students who had spent some time in Central America also joined in prayerful support for Hispanics.

On Good Friday, the group recited a modified version of the "Way of the Cross" at the North Carolina state Capital. "We had each station represent one of 14 issues we were focusing on this year," said Phares, who added the major concerns in this walk were justice for poultry workers and creating a more welcoming environment for Hispanics in the churches and communities.

While still in Hickory, those who walked shared their spiritual concerns and political positions with St. Aloysius' youth group during the students' scheduled faith formation class. Francisco Risso coordinated the Hickory involvement and gave a brief presentation for the youth after the meal. After graduating from Lenior-Rhyne College, he became active in the Carolina Interfaith Task Force while working in Raleigh.

"We must show our solidarity with the people of Central, South and North America. We need to be willing to help those in need who come to this country and still suffer the plague of poverty," said Risso, who sees the annual walk as a spiritual and political journey.

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Entertainment

CNS photo from Morgan Creek Productions

Scott Bakula stars as manager Gus Cantrell and Eric Bruskotter is catcher Rube Baker in "Major League: Back to the Minors." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Object of My Affection" Is Painfully Charmless

By HENRY HERX

NEW YORK (CNS) — A pregnant social worker falls in love with a homosexual teacher who only wants to be her friend in the phony romantic comedy, "The Object of My Affection" (Twentieth Century Fox).

Nina (Jennifer Aniston) counsels troubled youngsters at a Brooklyn community center and her boyfriend Vince (John Pankow) is a lawyer.

George (Paul Rudd) teaches first grade at a posh private school in Manhattan and is living with literary critic Robert (Tim Daly).

Crushed when Robert ditches him for another young man, George by happenstance moves into the spare room in Nina's apartment.

He's such a nice guy, Nina begins falling for him while continuing her sexual relationship with boorish Vince.

When Nina becomes pregnant, she ditches Vince and turns to soul mate George to help her raise her child.

George happily agrees, then disappoints her by falling for Paul (Amo Gulinello), the young protege of aging British drama critic Rodney (Nigel Hawthorne).

Vince causes some nasty confrontations, Nina and Rodney console one another for their lost loves and the movie suddenly ends sunnily with everybody, including Vince, being friends.

Paraphrasing the usual disclaimer, any similarity between this movie and real life is purely coincidental.

Scriptwriter Wendy Wasserstein has concocted a plot without any moral compass and a set of characters whose motivations have no rationale beyond that of plot devices.

The script views love as something which has nothing to do with marriage and sex as a trivial expression of affection.

Directed by Nicholas Hytner, the actors go through their paces without any recognizable emotional complexity, except for Hawthorne's pained cheerfulness. Though played for humor, the situations are too contrived and manipulative to be amusing.

Clueless about the real values of love, sexuality and family, the result is painfully charmless.

Because of its benign attitude toward sex outside of marriage, numerous sexual situations, rough language and profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

MOVIES ONLINE

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Anastasia" (1956)

Absorbing drama from Marcelle Maurette's play set in 1928 Paris, where a woman suffering from amnesia (Ingrid Bergman) is tutored by a White Russian general (Yul Brynner) to pass as the czar's youngest daughter who somehow escaped the 1918 Bolshevik massacre of the royal family. Director Anatole Litvak portrays the emigre scene with enough conviction to sustain interest in the growing mystery of the woman's true identity, but most memorable are the scenes between the spunky yet vulnerable Bergman and Helen Hayes as the regal dowager empress whose compassion leads to an emotionally satisfying conclusion. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Anastasia" (1997)

Appealing animated musical about the czar's youngest daughter (voice of Meg Ryan) who survives the Bolshevik Revolution to grow up in an orphanage with only faint memories of her family, then meets a handsome con man (voice of John Cusack) who takes her to Paris where her one surviving relative lives. Directors Don Bluth and Gary Goldman turn history into a fairy tale with the enchantment of lush animation and spirited musical numbers. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Dersu Uzala" (1978)

Russian production about the friendship that grows between a turn-of-the-century explorer in Siberia and his guide, an aging Tungus hunter whose name gives the film its title. Japanese director Akira Kurosawa concentrates on evoking the vast remoteness of the Siberian wilderness, a world the Russian finds forbidding but one in which the hunter is perfectly at home. Subtitles. Finely acted, beautifully photographed, it is an admiring portrait of a man living in harmony with nature and with his fellow hunters. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Doctor Zhivago" (1965)

Boris Pasternak's novel has been turned into a romantic epic of the Russian Revolution and its effects upon various individuals (Julie Christie, Omar Sharif and Alec Guinness) struggling to survive in difficult times. Adapted by Robert Bolt and directed by David Lean, the revolution serves as a rich backdrop for a bittersweet love story reflecting the disruption of lives and values caused by the turmoil of the time. Restrained treatment of violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Nicholas and Alexandra" (1971)

British epic of Imperial Russia sparkles with lavish pageantry and larger-than-life characters but misses the historical context explaining why this couple were the last of the Romanov dynasty. Directed by Franklin J. Schaffner, the focus is on the domestic lives of Tsar Nicholas (Michael Jayston) and Tsarina Alexandra (Janet Suzman) with occasional fragmentary scenes indicating the revolutionary events that were to sweep away the entire epoch. Grand-scale romance set against a turbulent but fuzzy background, with only Rasputin's rampant sexuality to give children pause, though all will wince at his brutal murder. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" (1971)

British screen version of Russian novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn's account, based on his own experience, of what daily life meant to a prisoner of a forced labor camp in the Soviet penal system. Directed by Casper Wrede, Tom Courtney excels in the title role, conveying the feeling of a prisoner trying to survive each day by keeping alive the hope of freedom. A powerful indictment of Soviet oppression, it is filled with gloomy images of human suffering and hardship but it also details the little victories which lessened the pain of injustice. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"A Slave of Love" (1978)

Movie company in the Crimea grinds out melodramatic romances seemingly oblivious to the Bolshevik revolution sweeping across 1917 Russia. In the end, the company's empty-headed but beautiful star (Elena Solovei) joins her cameraman in smuggling out film of czarist atrocities in the area. Gorgeously photographed and engagingly acted, director Nikita Mikhalkov's nostalgic tribute to the silent movies and their age of innocence is an enjoyable experience in spite of perfunctory Soviet propaganda. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

To clone or *not to* clone human beings

By Father Robert L. Kinast
Catholic News Service

She is the most famous sheep in history. Almost everyone has seen her picture and knows her name: Dolly.

As the first adult mammal ever cloned, Dolly has taken cloning to a new level and raised unprecedented questions in the process.

First of all, what is cloning?

It is a scientific procedure that nonsexually reproduces one organism from another. The key to cloning is the extraction and implanting of cells. In Dolly's case a mammary gland cell from one ewe was implanted in another ewe's egg.

Although each cell contains all of an organism's genetic information, it had not been possible to utilize adult cells in cloning that already were specified, for example, as skin cells or organ cells. But the scientists in Scotland who cloned Dolly overcame that problem.

This immediately raised a second question: Can humans be cloned?

In one sense the question is premature. Everyone admits that if human cloning is possible at all, it won't happen for a long time. This is actually a blessing because it gives everyone time to think through the issues involved.

One issue is scientific. Is human cloning a proper subject for scientists to investigate?

—To a skeptic this is a moot question because scientists will continue to study human cloning no matter what.

—To a pragmatist it is a question of allocating limited resources for something which may never work.

—To theorists the question is whether scientists ever will acquire the knowledge to clone a human being.

Many religious believers see cloning as an invasion of God's domain in order to seek knowledge that humans don't need and shouldn't possess. To these people, human cloning is the latest example of sinful human pride and will only add to human misery.

To other believers the pursuit of all knowledge is a good and necessary undertaking. By exploring and understanding God's creation more fully, we are able to draw closer to God.

The real question in this case is what society will do with the information science acquires about human cloning. That leads to a second set of issues: the moral questions.

■ ■ ■

Assuming that scientists could clone a human being, should they? The initial reaction to this question has been almost universally negative. The reasons take two forms: It is intrinsically wrong to clone human beings, and there are immoral consequences.

> **"In the photo seen around the world Dolly appears to be staring at the viewer, confused by everything that happened to her. Human beings cannot afford the same reaction to human cloning. It is time to consider the implication."**

To clone a human being bypasses the human, sexual union and directly violates God's intention in creating males and females. A person is, you might say, manufactured, a laboratory product.

In addition, males would not have to be involved as fathers at all. The nucleus of a woman's cell implanted in a woman's egg would be sufficient to clone a human.

One question about cloning concerns the destructive effect it would have on human individuality or distinctiveness. Wouldn't the cloned person be a reproduction of an existing person?

CNS photo from Reuters

It is too early to tell whether the sameness would extend even to personality development and life choices, but it surely would minimize each person's individuality.

The second set of moral issues relates to the consequences of human cloning. Of great moral concern here are questions such as these: Who has the power to use cloning? How will they use it? What will the long-term effects be?

The ability to clone a human being brings with it the power to determine completely another person's genetic makeup and to do so without his or her consent. Should anyone have such power? And, if so, who is qualified to use it? Parents? Doctors? Scientists? Public officials?

Human cloning also creates the likelihood of producing human clones for the purpose of harvesting cells or genetic material to use in further research or for the benefit of those who control (or can pay for) the cloning process. One doesn't have to be an alarmist to see the evil in this scenario.

■ ■ ■

At present no one knows the long-term effects of cloning. There may be abnormal developments, mutations and other physiological mishaps that no one is prepared to handle.

These unknown, unforeseen consequences lead to a third set of issues with cloning that touches on human life's meaning.

A human being is a complex creature who weaves together the many experiences of life in forming a distinct self. Genetic makeup is a very important part of this process. But will someone who has been predetermined by others to have the same genetic makeup as another person be able to form an adequate sense of self or develop a distinct personality?

And to what extent will a cloned person feel the self-determination which underlies human freedom, creativity, responsibility and moral character?

In the photo seen around the world Dolly appears to be staring at the viewer, confused by everything that happened to her. Human beings cannot afford the same reaction to human cloning. It is time to consider the implications.

(Father Kinast is the director of the Center for Theological Reflection, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.)

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FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What kinds of questions do teachers in Catholic high schools hear from young people about the relation of faith and science?

"I've never had anyone approach me with the question of how what we study in physics raised questions about their faith, and I've even taught science in a seminary. One time ... a student, ... after studying physics, said things were too complex to be random and that it confirmed his faith in God." — Larry Russell, St. Louis, Mo.

"In the younger high school students, I think the questions we hear are how and why a theory of evolution might fit into their idea of how God created the universe, but by the time they are seniors they've internalized their concept of faith and have fewer of those kinds of questions." — Sister Veronica Beato, ASCJ, St. Louis, Mo.

"One question is on a personal level: How can you be a scientist and believe in God too? The second question often revolves around how does the church view evolution because often there is an assumption that the church has trouble with the concept of evolution." — James Warren, Los Angeles, Calif.

An upcoming edition asks: Those who mourn will be comforted, it is written. How did you or your parish "comfort" one who mourned? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sometimes science fiction doesn't seem like fiction anymore. We're given lots of opportunities these days to feel that we've joined the cast of "Back to the Future."

After the cloned sheep Dolly made the news, talk quickly turned everywhere to the possibility — likelihood? — of human cloning. The topic seemed like grist for Hollywood's mill — subject material for entertaining films. But I couldn't help wondering: How long will it be until ...?

I'm not being humble when I say that one of me is surely enough. I doubt my family would know what to do with three or four cloned versions of me. Do they want to meet me coming and going?!

Dolly was cloned just when my youngest child was learning all about the genetic code in school. I felt it was a mighty-mature project for ninth grade, but essential. For in this back-to-the-future age, I doubt it will work simply to leave scientific knowledge to others.

More and more, I think, we're going to need to understand the science of something like cloning — how it works — so that we can contribute to public discussions about whether human cloning should be done at all.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

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Beyond the technological imperative

By Father Kenneth R. Himes, OFM
Catholic News Service

To raise a question about the relationship of religious belief and science is a modern way of posing a longstanding question: What is the relationship of faith and reason?

Catholic tradition supports the compatibility of faith and science. This is because of the Catholic conviction that God ultimately is the source of all truth.

At different stages of history there have been disputes over what counts as true knowledge and what methods can reliably be employed in obtaining knowledge of the world.

Yet, despite such controversies and the occasional moral alarm sounded over some specific aspect of a scientific finding or experiment, the church maintains there is good reason to support the disciplines of science.

Pope John Paul II has spoken to scientists on a number of occasions and has hosted conferences on scientific topics. He also has been a strong supporter of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

Polls have shown that, as a group, Catholics express higher confidence in science than do Protestants. Evangelical Protestants, in particular, are often suspicious of science and its implications for faith. But Catholics are taught that the findings of science do not threaten belief in God's existence or God's plan for creation.

There is renewed interest among religious scholars these days in returning to serious conversation with science. Also, more and more scientists seem to feel the same way about a dialogue with religion.

I think it is noteworthy that a fair number of books were published in the past decade under the general heading of "religion and science." And "Theology and the Natural Sciences" is one of the ongoing interest groups which meets regularly at the annual convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America.

> **"We must avoid what has been called 'the technological imperative': the idea that if we can do something we should do it."**

Again, a recent issue of the New York Review of Books contained a large ad announcing a conference on "Science and the Spiritual Quest."

It is true that some scientific findings lead theologians to reconsider how God acts in the world and how we might interpret various biblical passages. But science does not really pose a challenge to Catholic belief in God or the conviction that God created the universe for the sake of love and is still at work to bring creation to its proper end.

So, when we who are Catholics find ourselves thinking about the relationship of religious commitment and science, it is often due to moral concerns rather than doctrinal tensions.

That seems to be the case with the unexpected news that a British scientist had cloned a sheep. Even more startling was the bizarre announcement by an American that he would clone a human.

Now, the benefits and contributions modern science has made to human welfare are hard to overestimate. Our lives are safer, healthier, more enjoyable and enriching due to the vast array of scientific insights we have experienced.

Nonetheless, we must avoid what has been called "the technological imperative": the idea that if we can do something we should do it.

Catholics are not unique in asserting that humans have a capacity for evil, intentional or unintentional, which can demand that we refrain from certain things — even if we can do them.

Does that caution apply to cloning human beings? Today, most, possibly all, Catholic moral theologians would say, yes. But theological criticism of cloning is not based on a belief that science is inimical to faith; instead, it is because some scientific advances are more harmful than beneficial to human beings.

(Father Himes is a Franciscan priest and professor of moral theology at Washington Theological Union.)

Put yourself in Job's shoes

By Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
Catholic News Service

To understand God, Creator of the universe, we would have to be God. We would have to be the Creator. That is the lesson of the biblical Book of Job.

Job had great faith. He also had wonderful powers of observation and reasoning. And he was an extraordinary poet. Today, we would call him a Renaissance man.

Job understood that God, creation and evil belong to the realm of mystery. But Job did not grasp the enormity of the mystery before him.

After hearing Job probe the mystery as far as he could go with his friends, God spoke to him:

"Who is this that obscures divine plans with words of ignorance?

"Gird up your loins now, like a man;

"I will question you, and you tell me the answers!

"Where were you when I founded the earth?

"Tell me, if you have understanding" (Job 38:2-4).

God was showing that Job was not God.

God remains a great mystery, as does creation. To probe these mysteries in faith, we turn to the Bible.

Should we believe what the Bible says, or should we believe science? A lot of people ask that. Often their question focuses on the first chapter of Genesis.

Did God create the world in seven days? Today, we know that the universe has been around for millions of years! And how about evolution? Can a good Christian believe in evolution? The Bible says God created the first human beings!

> **"We today are much like Job. We understand awesome things with the help of science, but we are not God."**

We respond that faith in the Bible and science are not contradictory. We can believe in God's word in the Bible, and we can hold on to scientific discoveries.

But, in explaining such a position, some people tend to reduce the Bible to a quasi-scientific book. For example, they might represent each of creation's seven days as an era, thus attempting to show that the Bible does not contradict science.

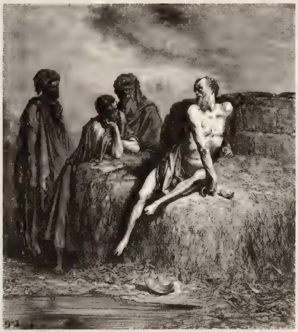
The Bible and science, however, are not on the same level. Both account for the world's origins, but in very different ways.

Biblical faith tells about the mystery behind scientific explanations.

The Bible's inspired human authors believed in God, a living, uncreated God, revealed in the life of their ancestors. That God is the source of everything we see, explore or study, even with scientific methods.

Science approaches the world from the point of view of reason, using controlled observation and experimentation.

For people of faith, science gives a glimpse of how God created the world. When I read about DNA, for example, I praise God for the wonders of the life God created.



CNS photo of Paul Gustave Dore sketch

We today are much like Job. We understand awesome things with the help of science, but we are not God.

(Father LaVerdiere, a Blessed Sacrament priest, is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)

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FAITH alive!

In a Nutshell

- ***Assuming scientists could clone a human being, should they? Initial reactions to the question have been almost universally negative.***
- ***What will society do with information science may acquire about the possibility of human cloning?***
- ***Often we turn attention to faith and science because of moral concerns, not because faith and science are inherently incompatible.***

People In The News

Pope To Stop In St. Louis After Jan. 22-25 Mexico Trip

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Archbishop Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis announced April 23 that the Vatican has confirmed that Pope John Paul II will visit St. Louis following a planned Jan. 22-25 trip to Mexico. "It is a great joy for me to announce that the Holy See has confirmed this morning that His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, will be able to come to St. Louis next January, after his visit to Mexico," the archbishop said in prepared remarks. Vatican officials confirmed two days earlier that the pope would go to Mexico to issue a document on the 1997 Synod of Bishops for America, and said that St. Louis was still being considered as a stop on the same trip.

Priest Travels To Guatemala 'Out Of Love' For U.S. Parishioners

MARYDEL, Md. (CNS) — Most Catholic pastors will go a long way to help their parishioners, but few would go as far as Marydel pastor Father Christopher LaBarge did. Father LaBarge's flock at Immaculate Conception Parish includes 1,500 Guatemalans living in a trailer park about a mile from the church in this small, rural town on the Maryland-Delaware border. To enhance his relationship with these parishioners, Father LaBarge trekked to their homeland "out of love" for them, he said, to study their culture and language. During his three-month sabbatical in Guatemala, Father LaBarge lived at the rectory of the cathedral in a Mayan village, known colloquially as Xela. For the first nine weeks of his stay, the priest studied Spanish six hours a day, five days a week.

Cardinal Urges Council To Reject 'Life Partners' Bills

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua went before the Philadelphia City Council April 22 to urge rejection of five bills that he said would give unmarried homosexual or heterosexual "life partners" the same rights as married couples. "I am testifying in person so that the members of council, as well as the public, will hear the Catholic Church's true positions on marriage, the traditional family, homosexuality and the proposed life partners' legislation," he said. The bills before the council would allow city employees to designate anyone as their pension beneficiary; exempt "life partners" from the realty transfer tax; require businesses and the city government to offer the same benefits to "life partners" as are offered to employees and their spouses; and allow homosexual or heterosexual couples to register with the city as "domestic partners."

Stone-Throwing Mob Traps Cardinal, Faithful In Bosnian Church

DERVENTA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (CNS) — A mob of stone-throwing Bosnian Serbs trapped the archbishop of Sarajevo and dozens of the faithful in a church for more than seven hours and tried to set fire to the building. The April 23 incident ended without injuries when police and NATO-led peacekeeping forces escorted the hostages away from the area in armored cars, NATO spokesmen and various media reported. Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo had traveled that morning to Derventa, about 100 miles to the north, in Serb-controlled territory. He had intended to lead more than 600 Bosnian Croat refugees, who had arrived in about 20 buses from Croatia, in a Mass at the partially destroyed St. George Church on that saint's feast day. It was to be the first time a Mass was held there since the start of the 1992-95 war. Instead, an estimated 1,000 local Serbs blocked most of the buses with felled trees. A crowd then surrounded the church and tried to set it alight.

Judge Says Killers Of U.S. Churchwomen Could Be Released

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Five ex-national guardsmen convicted of murdering three U.S. nuns and a lay worker could be released from prison "at any moment" under El Salvador's new penal code, said a judge. The new penal code, which came into force in late April, allows early parole for prisoners who have served half their sentences and have proven good conduct. The former guardsmen are currently serving 30-year sentences after their 1984 convictions for the 1980 rape and murder of Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and lay missionary Jean Donovan.

Seminary Enrollments Down; Diaconate, Lay Ministry Up

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic seminary enrollments went down slightly this year, but the numbers in diaconate and lay ministry formation programs rose, said the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. The biggest increase was in lay ministry formation, where reported enrollment rose 15 percent, from 20,281 in the 1996-97 school year to 23,333 in the current year. CARA estimated total enrollment in permanent diaconate programs at about 2,600. For the first time since the 1993-94 school year, enrollments were up in both high school and college seminaries, but losses in theology — the post-college years closest to ordination — outstripped the gains at the lower levels. CARA, an independent Catholic research agency based at Georgetown University in Washington, reported and analyzed the new enrollment data in "Catholic Ministry Formation Enrollments, 1997-1998: Statistical Overview."

Death Penalty Foe Sees 'Mandate' In Pacem In Terris Award

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — Sister Helen Prejean accepted the 1998 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award in Davenport as "a mandate to keep on working, to keep on talking against the death penalty." A Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille who is best known as the author of "Dead Man Walking," Sister Prejean said she wanted to be a positive force for changing the way people think about capital punishment and for working to keep the death penalty out of Iowa. "I'm like a prism and I want to let the light come through me to the people behind me," she said April 14. People need to understand that if a criminal does not get put to death, it does not mean he will go free, she added. Iowa is one of only 12 states that does not have a death penalty. Legislation to reinstate it was successfully blocked again this year.

CNS photo by Scott Farris, Wyoming Catholic Register

Gilbert Ortiz and his wife, Emma, of Cheyenne, Wyo., display letters from Mother Teresa and her successor Sister Nirmala. He wrote Mother Teresa 17 years ago. The nun responded quickly, but her letter was misplaced and Ortiz did not receive it until last month.

Mother Teresa Letter Arrives 17 Years Late — But Just In Time

By SCOTT FARRIS

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (CNS) — A letter from the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta to a Cheyenne man arrived 17 years late and just at the right time — on the very day he learned he had serious health problems.

Gilbert Ortiz, a retired barber, had written to Mother Teresa in 1981 to make a small donation and ask for prayers for others in need. Mother Teresa wrote back almost immediately, but Ortiz never received the reply.

One day this March, the 70-year-old Ortiz had just returned home from the doctor's office, where he had been told he had failing kidneys and an inch-long aneurysm on his aorta.

As he and his wife, Emma, entered their home in silence, contemplating the impact of the news, "I was feeling bad," Ortiz said. "I was down, man, really down."

Then Emma went to the mailbox and found an unexpected letter — two letters, in fact.

One, dated Nov. 28, 1981, was from Mother Teresa. The second was from Mother Teresa's successor as superior of the Missionaries of Charity, Sister Nirmala Joshi, who told Ortiz that Mother Teresa's response to his letter somehow had been found among some other papers delivered to the order's house in New York in February.

"Although the content of the letter may not be important or relevant to you now, nearly 17 years later," Sister Nirmala wrote Ortiz, "we thought that you might like to have the letter since it bears Mother's signature."

For Ortiz, the letter was more than a collector's item. Where moments before he had felt despair, he was now filled with joy and peace.

"When I read that letter I hit the roof. Maybe I hit heaven," Ortiz said, adding that the effect has not yet worn off. "I'm only 5-foot-5," he said, "but I feel like I'm 8 feet tall."

What made the letter so special is that Mother Teresa, who died Sept. 5 last year, seemed to anticipate that her letter would not arrive until Ortiz needed it most.

"Pain, sorrow, suffering is but the kiss of Jesus," Mother Teresa wrote. "A sign that you have come so close to him that he can kiss you. May God give you all the courage to accept your cross with resignation and love in union with the passion of Jesus. God bless you."

Ortiz said the personal reply and blessing from Mother Teresa have given him an extraordinary inner peace.

While his health is failing, "now I don't care what happens to me," he said. "If Christ wants to take me, I'm ready to go. Now I know I've got somebody praying for me. Now when I get to heaven, I have somebody I have to meet and it's Mother Teresa."

At Ortiz's church, St. Joseph's in Cheyenne, the pastor, Father Michael Carr, read Mother Teresa's letter to the congregation on Easter Sunday, April 12.

Father Carr, a Cheyenne native who received haircuts from Ortiz as a boy, said he felt Ortiz's story was the perfect Easter story, "an Easter story full of hope."

Although he admits he is curious to find out what future medical checkups will show about Ortiz's health, the priest said Ortiz already has had one miracle and it is the best one — the gift of peace.

"It's not for me to pronounce miracles," Father Carr said, "but this is more than a coincidence. What else could it be? The timing could not have been more precise."

Employment Opportunities

Music Director — Music Teacher:
675-family Catholic parish on coast of North Carolina seeks professional musician to provide music services for all aspects of parish life, as well as serving as music teacher for 150-student K-5 school. Individual must have organ and choral directing skills. Bachelor's degree and practicing Catholic preferred, but will consider person with demonstrated level of experience. Salary based on degree and experience. Send resumes to: Search Committee, St. Egbert Catholic Church, 1706 Evans Street, Morehead City, NC 28557. Application deadline is June 1, 1998.

Youth Minister:
Would you like to serve starting in June, 1998 as a full-time Youth Minister in a young, growing, Catholic Community in central North Carolina? Candidate must be a faith-filled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team oriented person. Qualifications: BA in Theology, 3 years experience in Youth Ministry, knowledge of *Life Teen* desirable. Salary and beneifts commensurate with degree and experience. Send resume and a statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Rev. James W. O'Neill, O.S.F.S., St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Youth Director:
St. Michael Catholic Church of Cary, NC seeks a high energy, positive Roman Catholic person for FT employment beginning 7-1-98 at a culturally diverse parish of over 3,000 families. (700+ high school youth.) Responsible for building an innovative youth program. Developing an environment that will allow youth to be fully human and fully alive is key. Must have the ability to create programs that inspire, empower, and involve youth. Looking for fresh ideas, proven ability to organize, motivate, and inspire volunteer staff ot carry out activities. Experience in the following area might prove helpful: Parks and Recreation, Camp Director, Youth Ministry etc. For information write: St. Michael Catholic Church-Youth Director, Attn: Norma Powers, 804 High House Rd., Cary NC, 27513.

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation:
A full-time, new ministry in a growing parish of 800 families in western North Carolina. Responsible for the administration and nurture of pre-elementary faith formation programs as well as adult education. The position also serves as a staff consultant for OCIA, the nursery and Children's Word programs, and other educational outreaches of the parish. Applicant should be degreed in Religious Education or related field. Some experience is beneficial. Applicant must be committed to working with staff and members in a collaborative way. Salary is negotiable. Diocesan benefit package is generous. Position available July 15, 1998. Send resume to FF Search, St. Eugene Church, P.O. Box 8160, Asheville, NC 28814.

Director of Faith Formation — Full-time, Benefits:
Our growing faith community of over 650 families is seeking an enthusiastic and knowledgeable individual to lead our faith formation program. The position is responsible for initiating, designing and implementing a structured religious formation program for the children of the parish. Successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic, have a degree in Religious Education or related field, have strong interpersonal and organizational skills and have successful work experience in a leadership role. Send resume to: Search Committee, St. Mary Mother of the Church, 1008 Vandora Springs Rd., Garner, NC 27259.

Assistant Principal:
Our Lady of Grace School, a K-8 Catholic school in Greensboro, NC, is accepting applications for an Assistant Principal for the 1998-99 school year. Applicants must possess the following qualifications: practicing catholic, a current teaching/administration license for the state of NC, have a master's degree in education and at least five years teaching experience. Please send resume and salary expectations to: Roberta Hutchcraft, Principal, Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403. The deadline for applications is Friday, May 15, 1998.

Administrative Assistant:
Providence Ventures, LLC, a Charlotte-based marketer of Catholic books, videos and gifts is currently seeking a full-time administrative assistant. Responsibilites include handling incoming telephone inquiries, outgoing promotional mailings and lights secretarial duties. Strong communications skills are highly desirable for this position, as well as proficiency in Microsoft Office 97. Please submit resume to: James V. Hetzel, Providence Ventures, LLC, 229 N. Church St., Ste. 400, Charlotte, NC 28202. Phone: (704) 358-9970. Fax: (704) 358-1360.

Order Entry Specialist:
Providence Ventures, LLC, a Charlotte-based marketer of Catholic books, videos and gifts is currently seeking a full-time order entry specialist. Responsibilites include order entry and handling customer service inquiries from field sales representatives. Strong communications skills are required for this position, as well as proficiency in Microsoft Office 97 (and/or data entry software) is highly desirable. Please submit resume to: James V. Hetzel, Providence Ventures, LLC, 229 N. Church St., Ste. 400, Charlotte, NC 28202. Phone: (704) 358-9970. Fax: (704) 358-1360.

Teachers:
St. Thomas Aquinas Parent's Morning Out/Preschool is currently taking applications for two teachers for our Monday/Wednesday two year old program for the 1998-99 school year. This is a paid position for 10 hours a week for 37 weeks. If interested, please call Lori Schoeneman at 549-0199, ext. 1, Monday-Thursday between 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Organist — Pianist:
St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28115. Two choir rehearsals and masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard, Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Principal — St. Francis Catholic School (Diocese of Charleston):
Successful candidates should have a master's degree, three to five years administrative experience, at least three years of successful teaching experience, have strong leadership skills with expertise in curriculum development and instruction. Salary will be based on experience and qualifications. Position available June 19, 1998. Please send letter of application and resume to : Fr. Michael McCafferty, Pastor, St. Francis by the Sea, 45 Beach City Rd., Hilton Head Is., SC 29926 E-mail: stfrancs@hargray.com Fax: (803) 689-5502

Secretary — Receptionist:
An immediate position is open for an experienced secretary/receptionist for the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services. High school diploma with PC desktop, word processing experience is needed. Individual must be multi-task oriented, flexible and have the ability to work well with people of diverse backgronds. Please contact Geri King, Director at (704) 370-3224, or send resume to: Geri King, Director, Charlotte Regional Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

New School Opportunities:
St. Catherine of Siena Parish School, Wake Forest, NC is accepting applications for the following positions: Managing Secretary (must have strong organizational, interpersonal, and clerical skills with experience in conflict resolution and light accounting), Kindergarten Teacher (NC or reciprocal certificate with 3-5 years of teaching experience), Kindergarten Aid and Pre-K Program Developer/Teacher (3-4 year old, strong planning skills with experience). All applicants must be practicing Roman Catholics, teaching honestly the wisdom of the Church in faith and morals. Saint Catherine Parish School offers an attractive salary and benefit package. Persons interested in helping build a K-8 Catholic School future for the children of the growing Wake Forest area should submit their resume and references to: Mr. Bill Abel, School Planning Committee, Saint Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church, 520 West Holding Avenue, Wake Forest, NC 27587. Applications deadline is May 15, 1998.

Elementary Principal:
Asheville Catholic School, located in the mountains of western North Carolina, seeks a principal for its Pre-K — 8 program. Desire a creative, highly motivated principal for our 250 students who is a strong leader, solid administrator with skills to assist both faculty and curricular development and the building of the faith community. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with at least a Master's Degree in educational administration. Prior administration experience desirable. Salary is negotiable. Diocese offers a generous benefits package. Send resume or letter of inquiry to Principal Search, P.O. Box 8160, Asheville, NC 28814. Position August 1.

Charismatic Conference To Focus On Preparing For Millennium

GREENSBORO — The Catholic Renewal teams of the Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh are co-hosting a conference, "Pentecost in North Carolina: Springtime for Christians" May 15-17 in Odell Auditorium at Greensboro College. The statewide renewal will celebrate the year of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the millennium.

"As we approach the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we have been challenged by Pope John Paul II to make significant preparation for this unique celebration of God's love," says Hannah Hammer, a member of the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Renewal Service team.

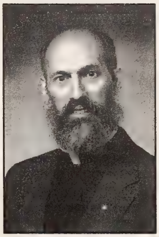
"Many parishes have formed a millennium preparation committee and are struggling with this important responsibility right now," she adds. "This conference is an excellent opportunity for them, or anyone else, to gather ideas, direction and insights needed to assist them in their work."

The conference's opening speaker will be Father Patsy Iaquinta, chairman of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Father Iaquinta will discuss "The Holy Spirit in my life and the life of the Church."

Father Iaquinta calls charismatic renewal a way of life. "It is what Jesus is about in the life of the church — active, alive, vibrant," he says.

"This is an exciting time to walk with the Lord," he adds, "but his disciples have been saying that for centuries."

Franciscan Father Paul Williams, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Greenville, S.C., will be the keynote speaker. Father Williams was appointed pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in 1987. Three years later, Bishop David B. Thompson also appointed Father Williams to the position of vicar for African-American Catholics. He is also chaplain at Furman University.



Father Patsy Iaquinta

Chairman, The National Service Commitee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

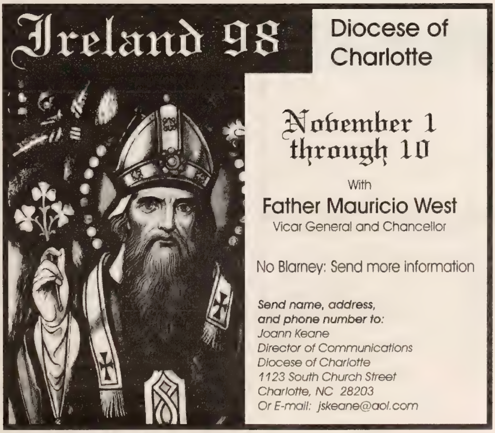
Father Paul Williams

Pastor, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Greenville, S.C.

Conference registration will be held on May 15 from 4:30—6:30 p.m. Father Iaquinta will celebrate Mass on May 16 at 9 a.m. Reconciliation will also be offered. The closing liturgy will be held on May 17 at 11 a.m.

Music will be performed by Hearts of Fire and Keith, and child care will be provided.

Cost to attend the conference is $5. Accomodiations are also available for both nights for $50. Children under 12 are free. For more information and to register, call Bette Steinkamp (336) 476-9717, or Joyce Brown, (704) 547-1836.



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Millions Of Postcards Sent In Opposing Partial-Birth Abortion

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. senators received millions of postcards against the partial-birth abortion procedure as part of this year's pro-life postcard campaign, according to a follow-up report sent to dioceses in April.

The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, which sponsors the annual postcard campaign along with the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said more than 14 million postcards were ordered by dioceses or other Catholic organizations wishing to participate in this year's campaign.

The postcards asked senators to support an override of President Clinton's second veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. Although there are sufficient votes in the House of Representatives to override the veto, three more votes are needed in the Senate to achieve a two-thirds majority.

Postcards went both to senators who already oppose the partial-birth procedure and those who have voted to uphold the president's veto. The official dates for distribution of the postcards in Catholic churches was Jan. 24-25, but some dioceses chose other dates.

In the follow-up report, Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo., said the postcards "represent more than just mail" and "show that the vast majority of Americans understand the value of life and disaster of abortion." He cited two reasons for their importance.

"First, there are some who only go by 'head counts,'" Ashcroft said. "But second, there are also members who, when they see a campaign like this, are provoked to look at the facts. And when you look at the facts of partial-birth abortion, you simply cannot condone the procedure."

Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., said the postcard campaign "has not gone unnoticed" in the Senate. "The number of postcards that have flooded the Senate has demonstrated the overwhelming public sentiment that this horrible procedure must be banned once and for all."

Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., said his office has been "overwhelmed with postcards, faxes and calls against this terrible procedure."

"I am encouraged to see that our national support is growing," Coats added. "We are close, but not quite there. More postcards, more calls, and more personal meetings with my congressional colleagues is the way to get this peacefully settled."

Michael Taylor, executive director of the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, estimated that more than three-quarters of the 181 Latin-rite Catholic dioceses in the United States participated in the postcard campaign, with other dioceses supporting the cause in different ways.

Taylor said his organization "still continues to fill postcard orders and will do so until the votes occur or our stock is depleted."

CNS photo by Al Stephenson

Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo., displays some of the millions of pro-life postcards received by U.S. senators this year. The cards asked for an override of President Clinton's second veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Override votes have not been scheduled in either house of Congress, but are expected before the end of 1998.

The legislation vetoed by Clinton would have banned a procedure used in late-term abortions in which the unborn child is partially delivered, feet first, before surgical scissors are stabbed into the base of the infant's head. The child's brain is then removed by suction, allowing for easier delivery of the collapsed head.

In its report, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment encouraged Catholics who had sent postcards to follow them up with a letter, fax or e-mail to their representatives in Congress. "Just sending a short handwritten note has a strong impact," it said.

The organization also is offering for sale a 12-minute video called "You Can Stop Partial-Birth Abortion." Available in English or Spanish, it presents basic information about the debate over the procedure and provides pointers on how to write an effective letter to Congress.

The video can be ordered from National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, 1511 K St. N.W., Suite 335, Washington, DC 20005. Fax: (202) 347-1383. Phone: (202) 393-0703. Cost is $7.50 for a single copy, $6.00 each for 10-99 copies, and $5.50 each for 100 or more copies. Handling charges are additional, and those who order will be billed. Please do not prepay.

Dickson Foundation Pledges $150,000 To Belmont Abbey College

BELMONT — The Dickson Foundation of Charlotte, N.C., has pledged $150,000 to Belmont Abbey College in support of the college's Millennium Campaign.

The gift, to be made over five years, will increase the endowment of Belmont Abbey's Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture. In particular, the gift is to promote the development of ethical values within the professional community.

The Bradley Institute, named for former college President Father John P. Bradley, brings together business professionals, clergy and others interested in ethical, theological and philosophical topics to examine their effects on society.

"This generous gift will bring added stability to the Bradley Institute and allow us to provide enhanced programming," said Lawton Blandford, executive director of the institute. "We are looking forward to continuing our relationship with the Dickson Foundation and to providing a meaningful forum for discussion of today's important issues."

Dr. Rajive Tiwari Wins Faculty Award At Belmont Abbey

BELMONT — Dr. Rajive Tiwari, assistant professor of physics at Belmont Abbey College, is the recipient of the Adrian Faculty Excellence Award for the 1997-98 academic year. He was chosen from among faculty members nominated for this honor by students and colleagues. Dr. Tiwari, who joined the Abbey faculty in 1994, earned his master's degree and doctorate from Rutgers University.

The Adrian Award was established by Marilyn Adrian and the late Herbert M. Adrian Jr. to recognize and reward outstanding performance by faculty members at the college. Among the criteria for the award are a notable skill in imparting understanding of course material, a pronounced beneficial influence on students, and success in inspiring students to achieve their potential.

"In a faculty where so many colleagues are worthy candidates for an award recognizing excellence in teaching, it is a distinct honor to be selected for this special recognition," said the abbey's academic dean, Benedictine Father Placid Solari.

Tiwari received his award at the college's academic banquet on April 22.

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The Oratory Religion Camp
The Oratory Religion Camp will hold two separate one week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountatin State Park the weeks of July 12-18, 1998 and July 19-25, 1998.
Boys and girls under 13 who will enter grades 2-7 in September can apply for consideration. The fee in $90.
For more information and application, write to: The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1596. Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application.

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Church-Affiliated Scholar Approves Anti-Impotence Pill

***Editor's Note:** Story contains some graphic language.*

By LYNNE WEIL

ROME (CNS) — A church-affiliated bioethics scholar spoke of his approval of a new anti-impotence pill months before it went on sale in the United States.

Antonio Spagnolo, who teaches at the Catholic University of Rome, said in the Italian journal Medicine and Morals in late 1997 that clinical trials conducted on the pill now known as Viagra had produced "encouraging results."

Viagra, introduced into the U.S. market in early April by the Pfizer pharmaceutical company, was to reach Italy and other countries later in the year.

Although some women have taken the drug, as well as healthy men interested in improving their sexual stamina, Viagra's principal users have been men with problems achieving or maintaining erections.

Spagnolo wrote that taking the drug was better from an ethical standpoint than a number of other impotence therapies.

The ethicist wrote that an injection, for example, leaves a man feeling that "he is not the protagonist, and the woman does not feel herself to be the cause of the erection, and therefore feels 'used.'"

He said the same was true of prostheses and surgical implants.

The impotence pill, on the other hand, is "a facilitator of the erection response, which presupposes sexual stimulation, respecting the emotional and affective intimacy of the couple, as well as the naturalness of the preliminaries and affective gestures," Spagnolo wrote.

Noting that the pill itself did not raise any ethical questions, Spagnolo said further studies of its effects, including potential side-effects, were still needed in order to make laboratory research complete.

Pfizer spokesmen said they had received "Vatican approval" for Viagra, but Spagnolo told Catholic News Service April 27 that he knew of no such official endorsement.

"Perhaps because our magazine is a church-based publication and because members of the Roman Curia are on its oversight committee, there was some confusion," he said. "But I would be surprised if there were any direct Vatican involvement."

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Youth Conference, from page 1

The award is made to a person who demonstrates the leadership and compassion of retired Bishop Michael J. Begley, the first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Brian Heaton was also recognized for his dedication to youth ministry. The Our Lady of Mercy parishioner received the Eagle and Cross award, an honor presented by the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers. The award is given for outstanding service to church, school and community.

Cathie Stout, retiring youth minister at St. Barnabas Church, received the "For God and For Youth" award. The national honor is bestowed on adults who have dedicated themselves to God and His Church in the area of youth ministry.

"In her eight years of service, Cathie developed a vicariate of youth minsters second-to-none," Kotlowski said. "She helped form an ecumenical youth ministers group in our region, and was responsible for S.P.L.U.N.G.E. (an inner-city service experience) coming to our diocese. She has been a tremendous blessing to youth ministry."

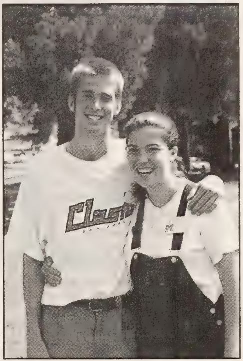

Photo by Patrick Henry

Brian Heaton was the winner of the "Eagle and Cross" award. Kerry Waldrep was presented the Bishop Michael J. Begley award.

Asian Bishops Asked To Help Church Respond To Growth Of Buddhism

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official asked Asian bishops to educate their European and North American counterparts about Buddhism so they can respond to the growth of the Asian religion in the West.

"Some Asian religions are spreading more and more in the First World. Buddhism is the primary example," said German Archbishop Paul J. Cordes, president of the pontifical council responsible for Catholic charitable work.

Addressing the Synod of Bishops for Asia April 24, Archbishop Cordes said that while dialogue with Buddhists is necessary and good, the Catholic Church does no one a favor by pretending that Buddhism and Christianity are completely compatible.

"When the adoption of a non-Christian thought is incompatible with the 'credo' (creed) of the church, it becomes a denial of Catholic belief," he said.

"The person with whom we dialogue, in fact, has the right to know and acknowledge also the difference of opinions," the archbishop said. "A deafening silence would be a sign of disrespect."

Archbishop Cordes said the growth of Buddhism in the West is seen in the success of films such as "The Little Buddha" and, more recently, "Kundun"; the growth of Buddhist retreat centers in the United States; the high-profile Buddhism of soccer star Roberto Baggio "in Catholic Italy"; and a recent survey which said half a million Germans "feel a link to Buddhism."

"This growth of Buddhism in the Western world, without doubt, highlights the weakness of Western Christianity — for example, the rationalistic approach in the passing on of the faith and the lack of experience in the pastoral world," he said.

Asian bishops, he said, can help their Western brothers meet the pastoral challenge of the growing influence of Buddhism by pointing out to them Buddhist tenets that are not in line with Catholic belief.

The heavy emphasis on building harmony in the world, he said, "tends to avoid the question of truth or to relegate it to second place."

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Diocesan News Briefs

Concert & Workshop

ASHEVILLE — Liturgical composer, author and recording artist Grayson Warren Brown performs in concert at St. Eugene Church May 8 at 7:30 p.m. A free-will offering will be collected. On May 9 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Brown leads a workshop on the topics "Can My Church Really Sing?" and "The Role of the Choir and Music in the Liturgy." The workshop cost is $25, which includes lunch. Please see our ad elsewhere in this edition for a registration form, or call Chuck Taft at (828) 254-5193 for more information.

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence provide free tours of the historic church following every weekend Mass. Masses are at 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 9 and 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday. Spanish Mass is 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Fashion Show

BELMONT — "A Fiesta for Josephina" is the theme of the 1998 American Girls Fashion Show in Curtin Hall on the Sisters of Mercy Sacred Heart Campus May 15 at 7:30 p.m., May 16 at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7 p.m., and May 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $18, and admission includes the fashion show, door prizes, a gift bag and Mexican fiesta treats. Proceeds will benefit Holy Angels, which provides residential, developmental, social and other services and programs to children and adults with mental retardation and other disabilities. To purchase tickets, call (704) 825-0417.

50+ Club

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets May 13 at 10:30 a.m. for a covered dish luncheon to honor five couples in the group celebrating their 50th anniversaries. For further information, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.

Respite Training

CHARLOTTE — A respite training workshop for those involved in the disABILITY with H.O.P.E. ministry, those wanting more information about starting such a ministry at their parishes, and those caring for loved ones who are elderly, ill or with disabilities is May 11 and 12 from 7-9:30 p.m. in Room 102 of the St. Matthew Church parish center. A $5 fee for materials can be shared at the workshop. Reserved accessible parking is available with registration by May 8. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677, ext. 43, or Kathy Tetu at (704) 846-3219.

Natural Family Planning Course

CHARLOTTE — The Couple to Couple League begins a four-part course on natural family planning May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. For more information and to register, call Alex or Maria Muñoz at (704) 849-0891, or Richard or Carmen Cashman at (704) 552-1334.

English Class Information

CHARLOTTE — An informational session on a planned "English as a second language" class for immigrants is at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., May 14 at 7 p.m. If someone you know would like to learn English, call Maralee Battaglia, (704) 921-1818, after 2 p.m.

In this Lenten photo, Marian Father Waldek Ziolowski, far right, shares his Polish heritage with members of the eighth-grade class at Our Lady of Grace School by crafting a Palm Sunday ornament of pussy willow, grass, dried flowers and ribbon. Father Ziolowski is a parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

Norwegian Adventure

CHARLOTTE — Msgr. Richard Allen, pastor of St. Ann Church, leads a five-day Norwegian adventure July 16-25. Cost is $2,847.10 per person, which includes air, five-day cruise, land, taxes and meals. Travelers will depart from Charlotte. Space is limited. For information and a brochure, call Jean Ponischil at (704) 375-2366 or write to 1614 Dilworth Rd. E., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Bishops' Dialogue

HICKORY — The annual Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue, hosted by western North Carolina's Roman Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran, Episcopal and United Methodist bishops, is May 12-13 at the Catholic Conference Center for ordained clergy, parish staff members and parish lay leaders. Lectures will examine the elements of parish life that make congregations places fostering healthier relationships in the parish and in homes. Cost is $70, which includes accommodations and three meals; a sliding scale exists for lectures only. Send registrations to the Rev. Gilmer Miller, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 1406 Harper Ave., Lenoir, NC 28645.

Pentecost Conference

GREENSBORO — "Pentecost in North Carolina: Springtime for Christians," a statewide conference celebrating the year of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the millennium, is May 15-17 in Odell Auditorium at Greensboro College. Speakers include Father Patsy Iaquinta, chairman of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and Franciscan Father Paul Williams, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Greenville, S.C. Music will be performed by Hearts of Fire and Keith, and child care will be provided. For more information and to register, call Bette Steinkamp, (336) 476-9717, or Joyce Brown, (704) 547-1836.

Adult Education Series

GREENSBORO — Franciscan Father Greg Gebbia of the Franciscan Center in Greensboro leads "Beyond Shamrocks and Other Understandings of God," an adult education discussion on a Christian understanding of God, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. Baby-sitting is available by calling Joe Casacchia, (336) 632-0729, to R.S.V.P.

Living Waters Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Everyday Mystics" is a May 11-17 retreat discerning and celebrating mystical moments of peace that are achieved through child-like faith. Franciscan Father Thomas Vigliotta facilitates. Cost is $260. "The Hills are Alive" is a May 22-28 nature retreat focusing on the experience of God's love in a springtime mountain setting. Dominican Father Martin Iott facilitates with Dominican Sister Jeannette Stang. Cost is $260.

To register, get more information, or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Estate Planning Seminar

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church hosts an estate planning seminar May 14 in the multi-purpose room at 7:30 p.m. Focus will be on a properly drawn will as one of the most important documents you will ever sign.

Vacation Raffle

SYLVA — St. Mary Church is conducting a raffle for an all-inclusive, week-long vacation at a Sandals resort. Tickets are $5 each or six for $25, and are on sale until May 30. The drawing will be held May 31. For tickets or more information, call or write to St. Mary Church at (828) 586-9499, 22 Bartlett St., Sylva, NC 28779.

Around The Diocese

Perpetual Adoration

BELMONT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Belmont Abbey Chapel, located behind the abbey church and monastery. For more information, call (704) 827-6734.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at St. Gabriel Church. Contact Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for more information.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Joe or Mary Lanham, (910) 454-4551.

School News

CHARLOTTE — Elizabeth John, a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School, is among the 400 high school seniors chosen as recipients of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows scholarships. Each recipient will receive a $20,000 scholarship loan from the state, payable in $5,000 increments. The full loan is forgiven after the Fellow has completed four years of teaching in North Carolina public schools. John is the daughter of Richard and Barbara John of Charlotte. They are parishioners of St. Gabriel Church.

WINSTON-SALEM — Fifty-four students and teachers at Bishop McGuinness High School spent their Easter vacation in London and Paris. In London, students complemented their classroom studies by visiting Stonehenge and Westminster Abbey, attending a theater production at the Criterion Theater in Picadilly Circus, and taking a walking tour of the city's east end. A smaller group traveled to Paris on Easter, visiting Notre Dame Cathedral, walking along the banks of the Seine River and ending their day at the Arc de Triomphe.

Secular Franciscans Meet

ASHEVILLE — The Order of Secular Franciscans meets to share in commitment to the apostolic life of the Gospel the second Saturday of each month at the Basilica of St. Lawrence's St. Justin Center. For information call Helen Turek, (704) 684-1533.

HICKORY — The Fraternity of Brother Francis meets the second Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m. Inquirers are welcome. Call Bill Brockhoff at (704) 464-5113 or Herman Thoni at (704) 294-0347 to confirm the date and location of the next meeting.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo from Reuters

Toxic sludge surrounds a Marian shrine in Aznalcollar, Spain, April 26. A massive spill of toxic material, blamed on a local mining company, flowed into the nearby Guadiamar River, threatening a national park and seven villages.

Catholic War Vets Urge Clinton To Oppose Partial-Birth Abortion

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — The head of the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America has asked President Clinton to oppose partial-birth abortion. In an April 15 letter to Clinton, Joseph DiPasquale, the Catholic War Veterans' national commander, urged Clinton to sign a bill banning the procedure. "Mr. President, we cannot believe that you would want the cruelty of partial-birth abortion or infanticide to be practiced in the United States," DiPasquale said. DiPasquale said the Catholic War Veterans unanimously agree that partial-birth abortion is "an instrument of destruction for both mother and child." Meeting earlier in April, the group affirmed its support for a nationwide ban.

Asian Catholics Do Not Want Western Catholicism, Says Cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic faith will not be intelligible or attractive to the peoples of Asia if it continues to be a carbon copy of the Catholic Church in the West, said Taiwan Cardinal Paul Shan Kuo-hsi. Outlining the topics for the Synod of Bishops for Asia, Cardinal Shan said, the church's mission of love and service must begin with "a genuine regard and respect for all the peoples of Asia, their religions and cultures." The cardinal, bishop of Kaohsiung and the papally appointed recording secretary of the Asian synod, opened the synod's working sessions April 20. "The mission of Jesus Christ is to give the fullness of life to all peoples," he said. But most Asians will not appreciate the message unless they see how it fits into their already deep cultural and religious values.

Salvadoran Jesuits To Take 1989 Murders Case To OAS Commission

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Salvadoran soldiers' murder of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her teenage daughter will be taken before the Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States, said Jesuit leaders. "We wish the case to be concluded ... and the only way in which it can be is for the state (El Salvador) to recognize its responsibility," said Father Jose Maria Tojeira, rector of Jesuit-run Central American University. More than eight years after the murder of the university's most prestigious leaders by an elite army unit trying to pass as leftist guerrillas, the university's authorities are making a fresh attempt to reactivate the case.

Immigrants Food Stamps Caught In Funding Tussle

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Supporters of immigrants' rights hope to convince Congress to restore food stamps for children, elderly and disabled immigrants and refugees in an agriculture appropriations bill. A coalition of religious, cultural and social service organizations hopes to persuade Senate leaders to advance a bill that would restore $818 million worth of food stamp benefits to certain categories of immigrants that were eliminated in the 1996 welfare restructuring. While a House-Senate conference panel agreed to fund the restoration of benefits for 250,000 legal immigrants, Senate leaders have blocked the agriculture bill to which the measure is attached. "By placing a hold on this bill and targeting the money to pork-barrel highway projects, Senators (Trent) Lott and (Phil) Gramm are saying they value pavement over people," said Karen K. Narasaki, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium at an April 20 press conference.

U.N. Report, Execution Turn World's Eye To U.S. Death Penalty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Virginia executed Angel Francisco Breard of Paraguay April 14, more Paraguayans than Virginians probably cared. For that matter, almost any time there's an execution in the United States it may well be that more people abroad are distressed about it than Americans. In an April 3 report, a United Nations special investigator on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions recommended that the United States stop all executions until it can assure the death penalty is administered fairly and impartially. The report addressed the escalating use of the death penalty, the effects of race and economic status on who receives death sentences, political influences on judges and prosecutors, fairness of jury selection and international law prohibiting execution of those convicted of crimes committed while juveniles.

Church Leaders Say Living Will Proposals Promote Euthanasia

LONDON (CNS) — British church leaders and pro-lifers say British government proposals to allow living wills would be a major step toward the legalization of euthanasia. The government minister in charge of the proposals said there is no move to sanction euthanasia and that the government's position against euthanasia is "well known and unqualified." At the end of March, the government concluded a three-month consultation process on the legal status of mentally incapacitated adults. Among the proposals was giving a firmer legal basis to living wills, or advanced medical directives, in which people spell out how they wish to be treated should they become incapacitated. Senior church leaders in Britain and Ireland have urged the British government to modify the proposals.

Turn Cardinal Permits Lifting Of Excommunication For Abortion

TURIN, Italy (CNS) — In connection with the public display of the Shroud of Turin, the city's cardinal has given all priests in his archdiocese permission to lift the automatic excommunication incurred by women who have had an abortion. Women who tell a Turin priest in the confessional that they have had an abortion can be given absolution "without the obligation of further recourse," said Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini of Turin. The cardinal announced that he was broadening priests' ability to lift the excommunication — normally reserved to the bishop and to a few priests appointed by him — as part of a series of spiritual provisions in effect April 18-June 14 while the shroud is on display.

Interfaith Cable Network At Crossroads On 10th Birthday

NEW YORK (CNS) — Odyssey, the interfaith cable network based in New York, finds itself at a crossroads as it observes its 10th anniversary, key leaders reported at a meeting April 20. The religious communities involved in the network, including a number of Catholic groups, have not been able to come up with funds to produce enough programs of good quality, they said. If Odyssey is to continue to compete for acceptance by cable operators and advertisers, it must find new resources, participants in a meeting of "stakeholders" at a New York hotel were told. So talks are under way that may lead to bringing another partner into the operation.

Catholic Children's Hospital Inaugurated In Moscow

MOSCOW (CNS) — A new Catholic hospital for children in Moscow is a call for solidarity, hope and ecumenical cooperation, Pope John Paul II said. Building the Blagozenter Pediatric Hospital was a project coordinated by retired Cardinal Fiorenzo Angelini and funded by the Knights of Malta in Germany and by Catholics in the Diocese of Augsburg, Germany. Inaugurated April 22, it will be run by the Apostolic Administration for European Russia. The hospital "is not meant to be an instrument of proselytism, but of sincere, fraternal love aimed at a concrete demonstration that all people — believers and non-believers, Orthodox and Catholics — are searching for truth and unity," Cardinal Angelini said at the inauguration.

Confiscated Church Bells Subject Of High-Level Talks

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (CNS) — A Philippine bishop has assured his counterpart in Wyoming that if one or both of the "Bells of Balangiga" confiscated by U.S. troops nearly 100 years ago are returned, those bells will ultimately be installed in the Catholic church from which they came. Bishop Joseph H. Hart of Cheyenne welcomed the news, saying it removed one more potential obstacle to the return of the bells. Discussion of the fate of the bells reached the highest levels recently, when President Clinton and Philippine President Fidel Ramos talked about them during an April 10 meeting in Washington. The Philippine government has requested that the bells be returned to the Philippines this year in honor of the 100th anniversary of independence from Spain. But some veterans' groups have objected to the return.

Irish Pact's Call For Prisoner Release Draws Mixed Reaction

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Some of the men killed, others planted bombs or housed weapons, but all of them ended up in jail serving prison sentences for their own brand of political patriotism in Northern Ireland. Yet under the peace settlement reached April 10, prisoners who belong to paramilitary groups that sign the Northern Ireland peace agreement will be released within two years. In Northern Ireland, the settlement received a broad but cautious welcome, but the inclusion of early release of some 400 prisoners has become an emotional issue.

Archbishop Report On Progress On Common Ground Initiative

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb said April 15 that he hopes discussions resulting from the Catholic Common Ground Initiative will continue to "illuminate and make more firm the common ground we share as the Catholic community in our parishes, dioceses and the nation." The Mobile, Ala., archbishop, who picked up the torch as director of the initiative after the death of Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin in 1996, spoke during the April 14-18 convention of the Conference for Pastoral Planning and Council Development in New Orleans. In his address, Archbishop Lipscomb said the essential element of the Catholic Common Ground Initiative was the type of dialogue that respects Catholic teaching and listens to different points of view among the faithful.

Visitors Pay Tribute To 'Unforgettable Rescuer'

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The cemetery caretaker points to two heaping piles of rocks near the grave of Oskar Schindler in Jerusalem's Catholic cemetery.

Every day, says caretaker Amjad Jabber, he has to clear the rocks off the tombstone. He has to clear off memorial candles and flowers, too, Jabber says.

According to Jewish tradition, placing a rock on a grave is a symbol of respect and remembrance.

Schindler's tombstone, which bears the legends "A righteous man among the people of the world" in Hebrew and "The unforgettable rescuer of 1,200 persecuted Jews" in German, is marked from all the rocks and stones that have been left on the smooth surface over the years.

When he died in 1974, Schindler, a Catholic who had made more than 17 trips to Israel to visit many of the Jews he saved, was buried in Jerusalem as he had requested.

The actions of the German businessman, who has for many people become a symbol of righteousness during the Holocaust despite his personal overindulgence, were dramatized in Steven Spielberg's movie, "Schindler's List."

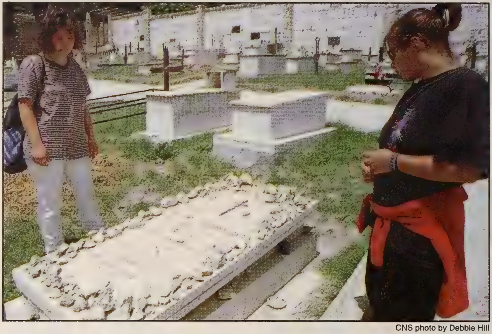
"In a place where there were no men, he tried to be a man," said Natanel Baram, quoting a Talmudic saying. The 18-year-old religious Jew had come with two friends to pay his respects to Schindler on April 23, Holocaust Memorial Day.

"All the high and powerful people ... were silent. It was somebody simple, a regular person like Schindler who did something. Jesus also came from the simple people," he said.

By placing a rock on the grave, said Baram, he was signaling that Schindler belonged to the land here, that he was a part of the Jewish people.

Sometimes, said Jabber, up to 100 people a day — mostly in tour groups — come to visit the grave. Some days there are only one or two people, but Schindler's grave is the most-visited in the cemetery, he said.

One woman who was rescued by Schindler comes to the grave almost every Saturday, said Jabber, 20, who took over the caretaker job from his father and older brother two years ago.



CNS photo by Debbie Hill

Young women visit the grave of Oskar Schindler on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. Rocks are placed on the tombstone as symbol of respect and remembrance of the German Catholic businessman who saved more than 1,000 Jews during the Holocaust.

"My father told me about Oskar Schindler and what he did, but this woman she told me how he helped her and how he saved 1,200 Jews," said Jabber, a Palestinian from the village of Silwan. "They still remember him and tell their children. Schindler will continue living in this world."

Josef Bau, today 77 years old and living in Tel Aviv, Israel, is too frail to visit the grave of the man who saved him from the hands of the Nazis. But all around him in his crowded art studio where he has drawn and made animated films for over 40 years, he has daily reminders of the man to whom he owes his life.

Bau, who worked as a draftsman in one of Schindler's factories in Czechoslovakia, still has the little brown case where he kept his pens and paints during the war. He also has a map he drew of the Nazi concentration camp of Plaszow and a tiny book where he clandestinely wrote poetry and sketched drawings. After the war, Schindler returned all three to him.

Bau, whose concentration camp wedding to wife Rebecca was depicted in an embellished version in the movie, won't let a bad word be said about Schindler. He doesn't even like to recall that Schindler at the time was nicknamed "Schindler-Swindler."

"It is not important who he was. When nobody else was saving, he saved. He was not afraid that (the Nazis) could kill him," said Bau.

Schindler would call Bau to let him know he was coming for a visit and when Schindler arrived at the airport, there would be nearly a thousand people waiting to greet him, said Hadassah.

After the war Schindler failed in his business ventures and his marriage fizzled. He eventually left his wife, Emily, who now lives in Argentina. The Jewish people he rescued became his family and in the end, said Hadassah, they would send him money every month so he could live.

A group of young Mormons studying at the Brigham Young Center in Jerusalem came to Schindler's grave. They took a few pictures and stood by the tomb, talking among themselves.

"We're not all perfect, we all fall short in certain areas," said Michelle Driggs, 21, an American from Dallas. "But there are great things we do in our lives. We have to look at those things."

Youth Ministry Volunteers Sought For Traveling Teams

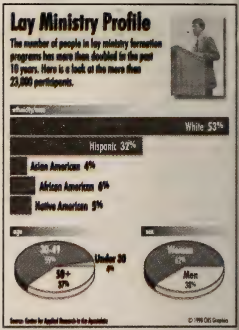
ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — NET Ministries, an international Catholic youth ministry based in St. Paul, is recruiting volunteers to serve on its traveling youth ministry teams from August 1998 to May 1999.

Each year some 100 men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 receive five weeks of training to lead retreats across the United States and Canada. The National Evangelization Teams, or NET, travel to Catholic schools and parishes.

"These young people are sacrificing one year of their lives to bring the Gospel to their contemporaries. What a sign this presents of deep and vibrant hope," said Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul and Minneapolis, which supervises the nonprofit ministry.

Since its founding in 1981, NET Ministries has reached more than 1 million youth during its retreats each year. Eight teams travel approximately 20,000 miles to conduct 120 retreats.

For more information, contact NET Ministries Inc. at (612) 450-6833.



Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

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Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

For more information:
Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
704-370-3353
E-mail: elh@dnet.net

Diocese of Charlotte

DIOCESAN SCHOOL BOARD OPENINGS

The Diocese of Charlotte School Board has five board member positions to be filled. The term is for three years. The Board is responsible for proposing policies to Bishop Curlin to enact in governing 17 schools.

The Board meets monthly from September to May on agreed upon dates from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Rotating from a school in Charlotte to a school in the Triad, to an outlying area school.

Send Information to:

Diocesan School Board
c/o Catholic Schools Office
Diocese of Charlotte
Pastoral Center
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Interested applicants should send by June 1, 1998 a letter of application and resume detailing parish and/or school involvement and state why you would like Bishop Curlin to appoint you to serve on the Diocesan School Board.

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IOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 34 • May 8, 1998

Vatican News

Swiss Guard Commander, Wife, Slain In Apartment

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In what the Vatican called a crime of "momentary insanity," the new commander of the Swiss Guard and his wife were shot to death in their Vatican apartment, apparently by a disgruntled guard member who then killed himself.

Vatican officials discovered the bodies of all three late on May 4 after a neighbor reported loud noises. The Vatican immediately ordered autopsies and, after an initial investigation, said it was treating the case as a double murder and suicide.

Slain were Alois Estermann, 43, and Gladys Meza Romero, 47, his Venezuelan wife of 14 years, who lived in an apartment just below the pope's own residential building. Estermann had been appointed commander of the Swiss Guard only hours earlier by Pope John Paul II.

Investigators discovered the body of Cedrich Tornay, a 23-year-old member of the elite papal corps, near the other victims in a receiving room of the Estermann home. The Vatican said the only weapon found was Tornay's standard-issue, 9-caliber pistol. The gun lay under Tornay's body, and five shots appeared to have been fired from it.

"The most likely hypothesis — much more than a hypothesis at this point — is that of momentary insanity in a person with deep feelings that he was unappreciated in the corps," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

He said Tornay was resentful at having been rebuked by Estermann more than once, including a formal reprimand in February for staying out all night. Tornay was also disappointed at being passed over for a promotion, the spokesman said.

After Estermann's appointment was announced May 4, Tornay had complained about the commander to fellow guards, and later prepared a letter which he left behind for his relatives.

Navarro-Valls said the Vatican was conducting its investigation without the assistance of Italian judicial authorities, but he noted that, if needed, such assistance could be requested.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state, was to celebrate a funeral Mass in St. Peter's Basilica May 6. The Vatican did not specify whether the liturgy would be held for the Estermanns alone.

It was the first murder inside the Vatican in more than 150 years. The pope was awakened and informed of the tragedy, and immediately went to pray in his private chapel.

"The Holy Father was very moved, visibly saddened. He made some very positive comments about the commander, which unfortunately Estermann will never hear," Navarro-Valls said.

In a telegram to Estermann's parents, the pope offered his condolences and prayers, and expressed his great sadness at the deaths.

Estermann, an 18-year-veteran of the

See **Esterman**, page 2

CNS photo from the Vatican

ESTERMANN, ALOIS -- Alois Estermann, recently appointed head of the Vatican's Swiss Guard, is shown in this undated file photo. Estermann, his wife and a younger Swiss Guard were found shot to death inside the Vatican May 4 in an apparent double murder and suicide.

Synod Members Say Asian Church Seen As Western, Foreign

By LYNNE WEIL

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Participants at the Synod of Bishops for Asia said the Catholic Church was perceived across the continent as "Western" and "foreign."

Members of the April 19-May 14 synod reached several similar conclusions in working groups divided according to language —Italian, French and English.

"Our Christian faith must by all means shed its reputation as a foreign religion and become better inculturated, taking on an Asian face everywhere without in any way compromising or diminishing Christ's Gospel teachings," wrote Bishop Francisco F. Claver, apostolic vicar of Bontoc-Lagawe, Philippines, on behalf of one working group. "The inculturation of the liturgy requires greater use of vernacular languages and indigenous symbols."

The bishop also said the group agreed that the belief in Jesus' unique salvific power "is a belief that can make us appear arrogant unless a more humble way is found by which the same truth is put across without watering it down."

But Bishop Arturo M. Bastes of Romblon, Philippines, said on behalf of his group: "It is not true that the uniqueness of Christ as savior is hurtful to other religions. It is our arrogant way of proclamation which turns them off."

Bishop Ramon B. Villena of Bayombong, Philippines, summarized a number of ideas put forth for evangelizing Asia, including through the "use of puppets, shadow plays and pantomime," "use of stories, including those taken from ancient Hindu tales," and "mastering marketing techniques proven successful by American evangelists."

Another group, whose ideas were recorded by Syro-Malabar Bishop Jacob Manathodath of Palghat, India, concluded that clergy are formed in Asia "according to the Western style."

"Most of the seminary professors are trained in the West," the bishop wrote. "What they give us is information rather than formation. We need holy professors/formators who are real gurus. Only they can form holy priests."

Bishop Manathodath also said the group thought "ongoing formation, chiefly spiritual formation, to face the socio-pastoral realities of today is very necessary. Bishops also need ongoing training."

The group represented by Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi of Caceres, Philippines, suggested that members of various Vatican departments "exhibit more fully pastoral attention and charity to whom they minister. A warm and welcoming attitude does much to promote ecclesial communion."

Bishop Armando Bortolaso, apostolic vicar of Alep, Syria, wrote that the one Italian-speaking group "suggested delving further into the religious experience of Jesus Christ as the way to interreligious dialogue, but to beware of some theologians, especially the Indian ones, who have too strongly emphasized the salvific value of other religions."

A synod participant explained that the Italian-speaking group "tended to sound more curial" because it had a greater proportion of members of the Roman Curia than the two French-speaking groups and the eight groups that conducted meetings in English.

Esterman,

from page 1

Swiss Guard, accompanied Pope John Paul on more than 30 of his foreign trips. When the pope was shot in St. Peter's Square in 1981, Estermann was at his side, trying to protect the pontiff.

Reaction inside Vatican City was one of shock. At the barracks of the 100-member Swiss Guard, the Vatican flag flew at half-staff, and many of the downcast soldiers wore black ties as a sign of mourning.

"Terrible," said one guard, who fought back tears as he stood near the barracks building inside the Vatican's St. Anne's Gate. Others in the corps, dressed in their colorful costumes, continued to direct traffic and pilgrims at the Vatican entrance areas.

Three Milwaukee Catholics touring the Vatican for the first time gazed up at the soldiers' residence, where candles had burned all night.

"What a tragedy," said one, shaking his head.

Those who knew Estermann described him as a serious, cordial and generous man, who could sometimes be seen strolling arm-in-arm with his wife in the neighborhood around the Vatican. He spoke five languages, had earned a theology degree and written about spirituality, and was a postulator for a German sainthood cause.

His wife had degrees in canon law and civil law from a Rome pontifical university. The couple had no children.

Navarro-Valls, who knew them personally, called them a "model couple" and said Estermann was a man of "extraordinary human, professional and, I would say, spiritual qualities."

He had been vice-commander of the Swiss Guard since 1989, and had temporarily administered the corps over the last several months while the Vatican conducted a search for a new commander. The search was unusually lengthy, prompting speculation that the Vatican was seeking to restore the tradition of naming a commander of noble birth.

The choice of Estermann was made public at the Vatican two days before the annual swearing-in ceremony of new Swiss Guard recruits. After the murders, the Vatican postponed the ceremony indefinitely, and said many of the expected guests would attend the funeral instead.

Italian media immediately speculated that the slayings might have been a crime of passion. That was rejected as "impossible" by one former Swiss Guard, Jacques Fierz, who was acquainted with Estermann and Tornay.

A crime of passion "seems like science fiction to me. I think momentary insanity is the only reasonable hypothesis," Fierz said. Fierz said he had not known Tornay well at the Vatican, but said he had appeared to be a "very normal young man."

Special on the Swiss Guard

Swiss Guard Is Security Force, As Well As Ceremonial Corps

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the Swiss Guard is best known for its colorful uniforms, members of the regiment pride themselves on their professional military training and their absolute dedication to protecting the pope.

Standing ceremoniously at attention at the Bronze Door leading to the Apostolic Palace, the guards tap their 7-foot-long halberds on a wooden pedestal as dignitaries and prelates pass by.

The pristine image of the guards was shattered May 4 when the newly appointed commander, his wife and a guard member were found shot to death in the commander's apartment near the Swiss Guard barracks.

At first glance, the publicly ceremonial role of the modern Swiss Guard is a far cry from the truly military function it carried out for centuries after being established in 1506 by Pope Julius II.

The Vatican honors the guards and holds a swearing-in of new recruits each year on May 6, the anniversary of the date in 1527 when 147 Swiss soldiers died protecting Pope Clement VII during the Sack of Rome.

The Swiss Guard's profile as the pope's army continued for centuries, at least until 1929, when the Vatican and the Italian government signed a treaty formally recognizing the Vatican's independence, but ending all papal claims to temporal power outside the Vatican walls.

After the 1981 attempt on Pope John Paul II's life, the guard's training as a professional security force was enhanced.

New recruits train for hours to handle their long medieval weapons with precision during ceremonial drills. But they also spend hours training with modern firearms at an Italian military base, work out in their own gym, learn martial arts and attend seminars conducted by the Swiss government's secret service.

Most members of the corps — which can number up to 100 — live in the Swiss Guard barracks just inside the Vatican's St. Anne Gate, the main business entrance to the Vatican.

The barracks have double rooms for the young soldiers of the lowest rank, which is called halberd after the ceremonial weapon, and single rooms for unmarried officers.

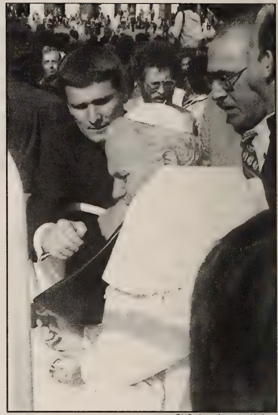
While barracks residents have a strict curfew, it has not always kept modern members of the corps out of trouble. After a Swiss soccer team won a match in Rome in 1995, residents of the neighborhood near the Vatican called the police at 1 a.m. because a group of seven boisterous guards were singing, shouting and kicking automobiles and street signs.

When the police arrived, the guards ran for the Vatican gates. After the police caught up with the young men and asked for identification, a scuffle broke out. Two of the guards were arrested and released only after official intervention.

The Swiss Guard is an all-volunteer force. The initial two-year enlistment is limited to unmarried Catholic men between the ages of 19 and 30, who are at least 5 feet 8 inches tall and have finished their mandatory service in the Swiss Army.

Guards who continue their service at the Vatican and want to marry must receive permission to do so. They have to have served in the regiment for more than three years, be at least 25 years old and have reached the rank of corporal.

But the most difficult requirement is that there must be a vacant Vatican apartment for the guard and his new bride. The guards, who are Vatican citizens for the duration of their service, are required to live within the Vatican walls.



CNS photo from the Vatican

Swiss Guard Alois Estermann (left, behind pope) is seen in this file photo aiding Pope John Paul II after the pontiff was wounded by a gunman in St. Peter's Square May 13, 1981. Estermann, newly named commandant of the Swiss Guard, his wife and a younger guard were found shot to death at the Vatican May 4.

Thinking of Priesthood?

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For more information:
Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
704-370-3353
E-mail: elh@dnet.net

Scripture

Readings for the week of May 10 - 16, 1998

Sunday
Acts 14:21-27
Revelation 21:1-5
John 13:31-35

Monday
Acts 14:5-18
John 14:21-26

Tuesday
Acts 14:19-28
John 14:27-31

Wednesday
Acts 15:1-6
John 15:1-8

Thursday
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
John 15:9-17

Friday
Acts 15:22-31
John 15:12-17

Saturday
Acts 16:1-10
John 15:18-21

Vatican Plans Website To Link Dioceses Worldwide For 2000

By LYNNE WEIL

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the click of a mouse, a traveler in cyberspace may soon be able to reserve a place at a papal ceremony and buy tickets to the Vatican Museums.

Vatican officials are trying to ensure that arrangements to attend some of the church's year 2000 commemorations can be made via the Internet, where one already can shop for clothes, book hotel rooms, consult astrologists and get access to countless other services.

Archbishop Crescenzio Sepe, the official in charge of the Vatican's office for coordinating year 2000 celebrations, told journalists April 28 that the Vatican is creating a special millennial Web site and linking its electronic resources with dioceses in 130 countries.This will include connection to the Diocese of Charlotte, www.charlottediocese.org. The diocesan website is currently under construction.

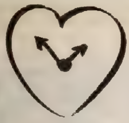
He said the linkage would also help determine how many pilgrims would be heading for Rome during the year 2000 — a question that engrosses local media and civic planners, resulting in estimates as high as 30 million visitors during that year.

Predicting that the site would be on line "in June, July — September, at the latest," the archbishop said part of the service would be dedicated to "a system of reservations" to prevent overflow crowds at papal ceremonies and impossibly long lines at the Vatican Museums.

Because young people in particular show an aptitude for and interest in the Internet, Archbishop Sepe said, at least one page of the new Web site would be dedicated to them.

The archbishop made his remarks during the launch of a new Vatican document on pilgrimages in connection with the year 2000. The paper points out that the Internet "can be a means of proclaiming faith and love, positive messages, fruitful and efficacious contacts," but also risks corrupting "true communication" with "a Babel-like myriad of information."

Joann Keane, associate editor of The Catholic News & Herald, contributed to this story.



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the weekend of

May 16-17.

St. Patrick Cathedral

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Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

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DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE PASTORAL CENTER
THE CHANCERY

May 8, 1998

Dear Friends in Christ:

As we approach the Millennium, our Holy Father calls us to strengthen and renew our faith. One of many ways that we, as Catholics, can prepare for what he terms "a new springtime of Christianity," is to help the Church spread the **Good News**.

The Catholic Communication Campaign is **How the Good News Gets Around** to millions of people in our country and throughout the developing nations. For example, a series of public service messages entitled **A Little Time Makes a Big Difference** encourages us to reach out to those in need by preparing food for the hungry, comforting the sick and befriending the neglected. This public service series follows the highly successful **Good Values Make Great Kids** campaign that was seen and heard by more than 158 million adults.

CCC's Movie Review Line helps us make choices about which recently released movies are suitable for family viewing. Also, televised Masses and inspiring documentaries make the Holy Spirit present in our homes, helping us deepen our Catholic Faith.

CCC also works locally. One-half of the contributions will remain in our Diocese to help fund projects such as our diocesan website currently under construction (www.charlottediocese.org).

These are only a few of the ways CCC helps us stay in tune and in touch with God's Word. On the weekend of May 16-17, you will have an opportunity to help support the Campaign when the collection is taken in the parishes of our Diocese.

Wishing you and yours God's blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

Grant to our families, oh Mother of fair Love, the grace of loving and respecting life, which is beginning, with the same love with which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God.

— Pope John Paul II

Happy Mother's Day!

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 9
5:30 p.m.
Installation of
Augustinian Father Thomas M. Meehan
as pastor of St. John Neumann Church,
Charlotte

May 10
11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

May 12
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Charlotte

May 14
7 p.m.
Seminarian Dinner
Grandover Country Club, Greensboro

May 16
11 a.m.
Lay Ministry Graduation
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience April 29.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis in preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we reflect today on Mary, the mother of Jesus. God the Father chose Mary to be the mother of his Son so that he could be born in a truly human way. Mary's virginity would be the sign of the divine sonship of the child.

Her acceptance of this divine plan made possible the coming in the flesh of the One who would free us from the slavery of sin and win for us the divine life of grace. From the moment of Mary's consent, the Incarnation of the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, becomes a reality. This is what we express in the title given to Mary from the third century, the "Theotokos," the Mother of God. Mary's sharing in the sacrifice of Christ brought a new dimension to her motherhood: at the foot of the cross, Mary became the spiritual mother of all Christ's disciples. We are invited to love Mary as Christ loved her, to welcome her into our lives as our mother, and to allow ourselves to be led by her along the ways of the Holy Spirit.

I warmly greet the pilgrims from the parish of Olari, Finland, accompanied by Bishop Paul Verschuren of Helsinki. I extend a special welcome to the Oki Sono Ayako group from Japan and to the members of the Chief Executives Organization from the United States. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Sweden, Finland, Australia, the Philippines, Japan and the United States of America, I invoke the abundant blessings of Almighty God.

Pope Urges Progress In New Round Of Mideast Peace Talks

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged Palestinian and Israeli leaders to revive the stalled Middle East peace process in a crucial new round of talks in London.

Both sides should recognize that there is no workable alternative to the way of peace and cooperation, the pope said at a Sunday blessing May 3.

On May 4, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was holding back-to-back talks with Israelis and Palestinians in London, in an effort to forge an agreement on the next phase of territorial hand-over by Israel. The highly contested issue is considered key to unblocking the peace talks.

The pope called the talks important in overcoming the "serious difficulties" that face the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and prayed that leaders on both sides would make good use of the opportunity.

"I join in the sentiments of those who have proposed and accepted this initiative, with the deep hope that the two sides directly involved, and those committed to helping them, may show a strong desire to take up once again the road of dialogue and understanding," the pope said.

"Once again, I remind everyone that for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, only one road is possible: the road of peace, respect, justice and cooperation," he said.

U.S. officials reported that both sides remained far apart on the issue of land reconsignment. Israel has already turned over about 27 percent of the occupied territories to the Palestinian Authority and has offered to transfer another 10 percent — far short of Palestinian hopes.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

Write Your Own Psalm

Say the word "psalm," and what comes to mind is a beautiful segment of the Old Testament, with familiar lines such as "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

I don't think I ever wondered what the root meaning of that word was until I picked up a book called "A Personal Psalm Journal" (Twenty-Third Publications) written by Maryknoll Sister Joan Metzner. She tells us that the word "psalm" is taken from a Greek word meaning "a plucking of strings," and she takes that idea to heart — literally.

Sister Metzner, who spent four decades working as a Maryknoll missionary, promises that "with a bit of a nudge we can release the psalmist within and set the strings of our heart stirring."

That thought was so intriguing to me that I had to talk to her in person.

I discovered a lovely person, who entered the Maryknoll order at age 18, studied in Paris and worked for years in Japan. Now living in Hartford, Conn., this nun and poet has lately worked in a shelter for homeless women, in nursing homes and a prison.

Now she has a new accomplishment — her inspired book, in which she writes: "Each of us is a Bible waiting to be written. Our story is a scripture, a revelation of God's mercy and faithfulness."

Now that's original thinking and gave me definitely nourishing food for thought. Fortunately, I had a lot of help from Sister Metzner, who shares her own stories, in poetry, to show us how "to let God pluck the strings" of our hearts. If we do that, we get to listen to the songs that are our own stories of joy or lamentation, of anger or forgiveness, of hope or despair.

This was the first time I ever visualized God plucking at the strings of my heart. I wondered what sounds he would hear if I trusted him enough to play me.

Without this book, I wouldn't have known how to get started. But Sister Metzner has set out a gentle blueprint to guide us. She shares her own poetic psalms to help point us to how we can discover our own truths.

The book is designed to make it easy for us to put our heart songs down in writing. As one example she writes on the left page: "Are you aware of the cages in your life that keep you from flying free? What are the bars in your relationships?" Then follows her own psalm called "Cages."

At the top of the facing page, she writes: "Ask God for the key to the cages that keep your real self locked up. With all confidence, write your holy (or not so holy) thoughts and feelings about your cages." The rest of the page is blank and lined.

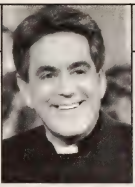
It took me only about a minute to grab a pen and fill in the blanks with the words I heard as I felt the Lord plucking at my heartstrings.

Sister Metzner says the rich lesson she has learned and put into her book is that each person's story is a testament to how, in some mysterious way, God is leading us. I thanked her for her insight and for challenging us to believe we are psalmists.

Antoinette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Bulletin Bloopers

What a strange world it would be if we all had the same sense of humor. What strikes one person as out and out hilarious can fly right over the head of another. I learned this from my mom, who was born and raised in the British frame of mind. Her sense of humor possessed a sort of Noel Coward quality. She loved jokes that were more pun than fun.

So, at the risk of disclosing my own peculiar comedic bent, I thought I might lighten your day with some actual "typos" from a number of church bulletins collected by LuAnn Wilson. Sometimes the funniest items come from real life. Like those TV "Blooper" shows, they come unrehearsed and unexpected.

Imagine sitting in your pew waiting for services to begin, and you read one of the following slightly unusual announcements:

- The congregation is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.
- As part of our hospitality outreach, ushers will now eat latecomers.
- Today the third verse of "Blessed Assurance" will be sung without musical accomplishment.
- Due to Monsignor Kelley's illness, Wednesday night's healing service will be discontinued until further notice.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- The songfest was hell at the St. Anne's Parish Hall last weekend.
- Don't forget next week's potluck supper — prayer and medication will follow immediately afterwards.
- Don't let worry kill you — let your church help.
- 8 new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery in the back of the church.
- While our pastor was on vacation, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when Father Martinis graced our pulpit.

Any one of these would have gone straight to my funny bone and sent me off the edge of the pew. Studies show that people who can laugh freely are less depressed, bounce back faster from sad events, have higher achievement in school and at work, tend to have better health — and may even live longer. The Book of Proverbs shows that people knew thousands of years ago that "a cheerful heart is good medicine."

The gift of laughter is one of the great treasures God bestowed on his children. He knew we would need the pure release of laughter welling up from a moment of incongruity or a flash of joy to make existence more than something to be endured.

And I have to believe laughter might even make us pray better as well. For as Reinhold Niebuhr observed: "Humor is prelude to faith and laughter is the beginning of prayer."

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

"If You Want Peace, Work for Justice"

Q. Like an advertising jingle, we seem to see everywhere — on billboards, bumper stickers, even church bulletins — the saying of Pope Paul VI, "If you want peace, work for justice."

Where did that quote come from? Our deacon says it came from an encyclical. The director of religious education at a neighboring parish thinks it came from St. Augustine. Who is right?

A. In some sense, they both are. The theme that a society which treats its people justly and with dignity will be a society of peace runs throughout Christian literature, from the New Testament on.

It even, in fact, predates Jesus in the Hebrew Scriptures, if not also in writings of other pre-Christian cultures.

"Justice will bring about peace," says Isaiah, and "right will produce calm and security" (Is 32:17). The context makes clear Isaiah is not speaking here of justice as holiness in general, but of the right treatment of people.

Pope Paul VI formulated this now well-known phrase in his 1971 message for the World Day of Peace. They are a briefer, but faithful, rendering of a sentence in his 1967 encyclical "The Development of Peoples."

The same thought is expressed, in nearly the same words, by Pope John XXIII in the encyclical "Peace on Earth" (1963; No. 165). It is also found in various places in the writings of Pope John Paul II.

Q. Jesus is quoted in Luke 23:34, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

A footnote in the New American Bible indicates the words do not occur in the oldest manuscripts of Luke or other earlier Greek manuscripts.

Why then did the church include that portion of the Bible? It is significant, because forgiveness of his crucifiers from the cross has become an accepted part of Catholic theology and spirituality.

A. Determining which of the various possibilities is most probable involves many factors. Which one best reflects the style and language of that writer, the literary devices he uses? Does the time the manuscript was written explain why certain changes may have been introduced?

So here, the New Jerome Biblical Commentary notes that the internal evidence (evidence from the text itself) weighs heavily for the authenticity of this passage (p. 719).

Luke balances Stephen's prayer of forgiveness (Acts 7:60) with that of Jesus. Unlike the other synoptics, Luke presents Jesus as speaking at every main section of the crucifixion, as here at the moment of crucifixion.

Other manuscripts might have left out these words for several reasons. The destruction of the Jewish temple could seem to indicate that Jesus' prayer of forgiveness was ineffective. Or maybe the omission resulted from anti-Jewish sentiment.

Whatever the academic reasons for such choices, the passage remains part of the canon of the Gospels accepted by the church, guided, we believe, by the Holy Spirit.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Parish Diary

Father Peter Daly

Building Up Mom and Dad

The Hallmark "holy days" are upon us: Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Fueled by the greeting card and florist industries, these observances have taken on a semi-sacred character, second only to Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving.

Until recent years these days hardly got a mention in church. Today they are practically part of the liturgy.

These observances show reverence for the fourth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, that you may live long in the land that I give you."

That is not just Scripture; it is practical advice. Ignore these days at your peril.

Of the two, Mother's Day is clearly the bigger deal. It is the sun. Father's Day is the moon, basking in reflected light.

There is definitely an up-tick in church attendance on Mother's Day. I think that is because young-adult and teen-age children everywhere say to their mothers, "What do you want for Mother's Day?" To which mothers everywhere respond, "I want you to go to church with me, and then we can go out for brunch."

After Mass on both days restaurants are full. One headwaiter at a big Washington establishment told me Mother's Day is the busiest morning of the year in the restaurant business.

Since we are in a semirural area, we don't have many "brunch" places nearby, unless you count the buffet at Bert's Lunch and Auto Repair Shop. This place seems more appropriate for Father's Day. It provides both a high cholesterol breakfast and an oil change, all in one convenient location.

In our parish hall we mark both days with breakfasts. For Mother's Day, the men's club cooks. For Father's Day, the womens' club cooks. This results in an odd reversal of tastes. Our Mother's Day breakfast is masculine, with pancakes and syrup, eggs, and lots of bacon and sausage. The Father's Day breakfast is more feminine, with fresh fruit and nice pastry.

One of the nicest features of Mother's Day is that churches get a chance to join together in some ecumenical effort. In our parish, we are joining with other area churches to support the local crisis pregnancy center for Mother's Day. Other area churches also will sponsor the same crisis pregnancy center with fund-raisers.

The best thing about Mother's and Father's Day is that we celebrate vocations too little honored recently. The Christian vision of motherhood and fatherhood needs a little building up.

For women we can celebrate the love that they showed in giving us the gift of life and nurturing that life to adulthood. We honor all mothers, especially new mothers; they accept many difficulties, like the Blessed Mother, who herself was a woman in a crisis pregnancy.

For men we celebrate Christian fatherhood in the model of St. Joseph. This almost-forgotten man of virtue needs celebrating. We desperately need to celebrate men of fidelity, chastity and gentleness.

If those are the qualities that emerge from Mother's and Father's Day observances, they are worth every effort, including the greeting cards and the flowers.

Father Peter Daly is a CNS columnist.

Diocese Receives National Award From Anti-Poverty Campaign

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — In appreciation for a significant increase in response to the U.S. Catholic bishops' official anti-poverty effort, the Diocese of Charlotte has received an award of merit from the national Campaign for Human Development.

The award comes after the national CHD recorded responses from dioceses specifically targeted for year-round educational and financial support in 1996.

Target parish input is an effective supplement to the Campaign's nationwide collection taken each November, said Barney Offerman, Campaign for Human Development director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

With a 41 percent increase from the previous year's collection, five target parishes representing the Diocese of Charlotte had the highest increase in their collections among parishes in 33 dioceses across the nation.

Target parishes are those choosing to remain in regular contact with national and diocesan liaisons of the Campaign for Human Development to address the root causes of poverty and societal injustice.

The contributions of target parishes can bridge localized responses to the CHD with that of the diocese as a whole. "It makes such a difference when parishes are willing to show a year-round interest in the purposes of the Campaign and what it is accomplishing in the diocese through our local projects," Offerman said.

The five parishes choosing the target parish designation in 1996 are St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, and St. Peter Church in Charlotte.

Offerman said the collaboration between pastors and parish coordinators is one of the most valuable factors in the target parish program. "They really do form a compact with the people in the pews by saying, 'If we expect you to contribute, we want you to know what kinds of projects are supported,'" he said.

Among their many responsibilities, target parishes organize local justice initiatives, utilize and distribute educational materials, help increase awareness of CHD-funded programs, and foster relationships between parishes, funded groups and communities.

Diocesan support as a whole was recognized by the CHD in 1996 as well. "Your diocese's active and committed participation in the Campaign for Human Development has helped CHD to raise its highest collection ever, $13.5 million ... ," wrote the United States Catholic Conference/CHD Committee chairman Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M., in a letter to Bishop William G. Curlin.

The diocese's overall 1996 collection yielded a 22 percent increase from the previous year's total.

Bishop Curlin presented a certificate of appreciation to Offerman on behalf of the USCC/CHD Committee on April 28 in Charlotte.

The Campaign for Human Development was founded in 1969 by the Catholic bishops of the United States against a national backdrop of racial tensions, social discontent and debates over the American presence in the Vietnam War. The CHD focuses its efforts especially through education and community-controlled self-help organizations operated at the parish and community levels.

On behalf of the United States Catholic Conference/Campaign for Human Development Committee, Bishop William G. Curlin presents a certificate of appreciation to diocesan CHD director Barney Offerman at the diocesan pastoral center April 28.

Photo by Joann Keane

The Diocese of Charlotte has contributed more than $1 million to the Campaign. Funded organizations in western North Carolina include employment, youth, education, safety and housing groups. The diocesan CHD is an agency of Catholic Social Services and works closely with church and community entities.

Offerman said his involvement in the CHD keeps him in touch with the grassroots efforts of parishes throughout the diocese. "The idea of the Campaign isn't just about direct service; it's about social change," he said.

"If people see a faith-based reason for supporting CHD, that's the most exciting thing. When that happens, it feels like we've made some progress."

Want to know more? If you would like more information on the Campaign for Human Development or how to designate your parish as a target parish, call Barney Offerman at (704) 370-3234.

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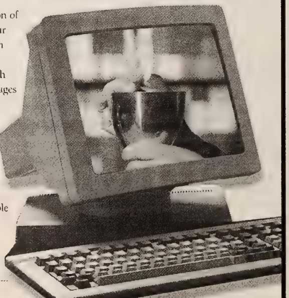

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Entertainment

Not Much Happens In "Dancer, Texas: Pop. 81"

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — In "Dancer, Texas: Pop. 81" (TriStar), four pals who vowed to head for L.A. together once they got their high school diplomas start getting cold feet on graduation day.

It's a sweetly semi-autobiographical story from Texas-reared writer Tim McCanlies, who makes his directorial debut with the modest feature.

There is a pleasant, dry sense of humor surfacing throughout the tale as the 77 other residents of tiny Dancer say what they can to discourage the foursome — the entire male graduating class — from leaving their hometown come Monday morning's westbound bus. The townies also place bets on how many — if any — will actually get up the courage to take on a city of 13 million.

Keller (Breckin Meyer) is the most determined, having planned the move since the foursome made a solemn oath to do it at age 11. He's only got an aging grandfather (Wayne Tippit) to think about, and a dozen eager widows seem more than willing to look after the only widower in town.

Squirrel (Ethan Embry) has little to hold him either, what with his surly father often in an alcoholic daze in their pigsty of a trailer.

John (Eddie Mills) starts having unexpected doubts about leaving when his kid sister (Ashley Johnson) practically begs him to stay and hints that his father is just too shy to admit how much he needs his son to help him run their sprawling ranch.

Terrell Lee (Peter Facinelli) seems to have little choice in the matter. His domineering mom (Patricia Wettig) orders him to stay and go into the family's oil business, so he sadly breaks the news to the others, precipitating a crisis in their lifelong friendship.

As in Dancer, not much happens in the movie, and what does happens slowly. This gives the audience plenty of time to guess just what each young man will do and there are no surprises. Overlooking its sentimentality, predictability and sluggish pace, the movie is adept at depicting the nuances of small-town life with wry charm. The boys aren't too jaded to appreciate beautiful sunsets outside Keller's gas station, a herd of wild mustangs they come upon outside town, or all the nice folks who gather to wish them well on graduation day bearing all manner of home-cooked dishes.

And speaking of donated food, Keller's granddad is so popular with the widows, the lad resorts to using Post-It Notes so each lady gets back the correct Tupperware.

An ensemble cast turns in very natural-looking performances as if this was not a made-up movie but more of a lighthearted documentary.

Surprisingly, the 18-year-olds talk little of sex, except in the comic context of Terrell Lee hogging two girlfriends while poor Squirrel has no one left to ask out, given Dancer's limited population pool.

The various characters' personalities emerge in leisurely fashion. One character who seems too good to be true is Sue Ann (Shawn Weatherly), a one-night stand Squirrel's drunken dad has taken home, who in a flash has the trashy trailer sparkling, serves homemade pie to an amazed Squirrel and urges him to help her turn Dad into the man she wants him to be.

Overall, however, the people of Dancer seem quite credible and although the story is small, what humor there is in it is well observed.

Due to a father's alcohol abuse and implied promiscuity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS photo from Miramax

Gwyneth Paltrow and John Hannah star in the romantic fantasy "Sliding Doors." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Alien Resurrection" (1997)

Grim sci-fi sequel finds Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) revived on board a spaceship and teamed with a mysterious stranger (Winona Ryder) to rid the vehicle of rampaging aliens. Director Jean-Pierre Jeunet's mildly suspenseful thriller uses the stale aliens-on-the-loose premise mainly for grotesque combinations of incubating monsters grafted onto deformed human body parts. Recurring gory violence, some profanity and frequent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Beast" (1996)

Formula marine thriller in which a hungry giant squid threatens an island resort's inhabitants and property values until a local fisherman (William Petersen) takes on the monster from the deep while romancing a feminist Coast Guard officer (Karen Sillas). Directed by Jeff Bleckner from the Peter Benchley novel, the television production offers a cast of underdeveloped characters and an overdeveloped sea beast whose tentacles and beady eyes fail to arouse the same kind of fright as do the jaws of a shark. Stylized violence, menacing situations and sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"For Richer or Poorer" (1997)

Thin comedy in which wealthy yuppies (Tim Allen and Kirstie Alley) hide from the IRS by posing as newcomers in an Amish community whose simple hardworking lifestyle inspires them to change their ways and renew their marital commitment. Directed by Bryan Spicer, the fish-out-of-water premise is wholly predictable, but the actors manage to wring some measure of humor from their unlikely predicament. Mild sexual innuendo, recurring coarse expressions and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Jackal" (1997)

Updated but uninspired remake of 1973's "The Day of the Jackal" this time around teams an FBI agent (Sidney Poitier) with a temporarily paroled IRA gunman (Richard Gere) to prevent a major assassination by a notorious terrorist (Bruce Willis). Directed by Michael Caton-Jones, the action formula moves efficiently forward but never achieves the level of gripping suspense of its predecessor. Some gory violence, intermittent rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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FAITH alive!

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When parishes become health care providers

By Stan Konieczny
Catholic News Service

It all started long ago on Solomon's Porch. Two apostles, Peter and John, went to the temple to pray. On Solomon's Porch, they met a lame beggar who asked for some loose change. His request netted quite a change! Peter healed him in Christ's name.

In this scene, recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, Peter continued the healing ministry of Jesus.

Today, Catholic parishes are taking their cue from that incident on Solomon's Porch and are playing a more active role in promoting the healing ministry of Jesus among parishioners and neighbors.

In places such as the Diocese of Belleville, Ill., communities are beginning to provide some basic health care and health education for parishioners.

> **A number of parishes today have started parish nurse ministries which offer blood pressure screenings and "basic health care and health education for parishioners."**

The Diocese of Belleville has a Coalition for the Healing Ministry that brings Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville together with the administrators of southern Illinois Catholic health care facilities, social service agencies and representatives of the diocese's regions to discuss health care concerns.

Originally the group included only health care administrators and the bishop. It was expanded to reflect the trend to take health care beyond the walls of acute-care facilities.

The coalition's premier project was to host a 1996 clergy study day. "The purpose of the clergy day was to help familiarize our priests with the changing climate of health care in the United States. Part of that changing atmosphere is the need to have local parish communities be more sensitive and informed about ways that they can access better health care. Parishes can also provide simple, but vital, services locally that will keep healthy people healthy," explained Bishop Gregory.

With all the changes today in the health care field, "pastors can provide a helpful service by knowing as much as possible about the challenges their parishioners face," Bishop Gregory added.

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A number of southern Illinois churches are extending Jesus' healing ministry through their own parishes.

CNS photo by Loretta Pehanich

The Wellness Commission at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Herrin, Ill., was established in response to trends such as early hospital discharges. "We try to help people keep in contact with their faith community when they are ill as well as to meet some of their health care needs," explained Sister Clara Ternes, a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ who is a registered nurse.

The Wellness Commission includes six nurses, one social worker and a parish council representative. It provides monthly blood pressure screenings and monthly parish bulletin inserts that offer health care information for parishioners.

The group also sponsors an annual Parish Health Fair in cooperation with Southern Illinois Healthcare, a regional health system serving the Herrin area. This kind of collaboration between faith communities and health care providers is a key to maximizing efficiency and minimizing duplication of services in any health care outreach program, according to Sister Ternes.

The Health Fair offers "something for everyone," she said. In addition to tests usually offered at such events, there are displays, videos, presentations on topics ranging from hospice to advance directives for health care. A section of the fair for children features fun presentations on safety, nutrition and hygiene.

The Health Fair also has display booths by various organizations within the parish. Thus, as parishioners learn about health they also learn more about their parish.

"It is the responsibility of all of us to continue Christ's healing ministry, addressing peoples' physical, psychological, spiritual and emotional needs," Sister Ternes said. "I would love to see parishes eventually add health care professionals to their staffs to coordinate the good things that parishioners are already doing informally, like checking on their elderly neighbors daily and providing transportation to medical facilities," she added.

▪ ▪ ▪

St. John the Baptist Parish, Red Bud, Ill., has had a parish nurse ministry since 1993, offering parishioners health care education and screenings. The program's mainstay is monthly blood pressure testing by a core group of approximately six nurses.

These screenings are lifesavers, especially for senior parishioners who still live on farms. They can have their blood pressure checked at church and do not have to make an extra trip into town.

"We have seen some cases of high blood pressure and have been able to refer these people to their family physicians," said Sharon Meister, one of the six nurses. She believes "it is good to be able to offer services away from a hospital setting, because people relate when they are in church. They are not as tense or nervous as they sometimes are in a doctor's office or hospital. They feel more at ease asking questions."

Patients and caregivers have grown through the parish nurse ministry at St. John the Baptist Church. "We have bonded!" Meister said. "Before, I did not know many of the older folks, but now I know them by name and they look for me and the other nurses."

Continuing the healing ministry of Jesus has come a long way from Solomon's Porch, but the hope, the concern and the love remain constant.

(Konieczny is director of communications for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Ruma, Ill.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

As a parish minister to the sick, what do you actually do?

"As Eucharistic ministers ... we go out to the shut-ins on a weekly or monthly basis as they request.... We visit and pray together. We also bring them a copy of the church bulletin and a copy of the diocesan newspaper to keep them abreast of what's happening at the parish and in the diocese." — Sid Haeck, Mt. Washington, Pa.

"I take Communion to the homebound and I visit the sick in the hospital. Plus a group of people in our parish take Communion to the area nursing homes each week, and the priest has a Mass once a month in each nursing home.... We are an old parish, so there is the ministry to the families or the bereaved at the funeral homes, wakes and at the funeral itself." — Sister Catherine Manning, SSND, Baltimore, Md.

"I've been doing this since September and since some of the people I take Communion to are elderly and Hispanic, I'm learning the prayers in Spanish.... At first I was confused and emotional doing this.... But now I realize I'm not only helping them, they're helping me a lot, too." — Josie Islas, San Marcos, Texas

An upcoming edition asks: What are two biographies of figures from church history that a theologian or church historian in your area would recommend to readers? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FAITH alive!

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Elderly people who serve the elderly

By Father David K. O'Rourke, OP
Catholic News Service

People are living longer.

Top-notch medical care means that most of us will live well into retirement years. Many of us will have some leisure time in our later years that we didn't have earlier on.

This is new. So we are discovering a new and large group inside our towns and cities and in our own homes: the elderly.

We also know that the number of older people who will spend some time receiving bed care at home or in a medical care facility is growing. This is making an impact on parishes.

Many old people don't drive at night. Thus, they usually are left out of evening parish functions. The elderly also are especially conscious of bad weather. They have to be careful about steps. And poor sound systems can drive them to distraction.

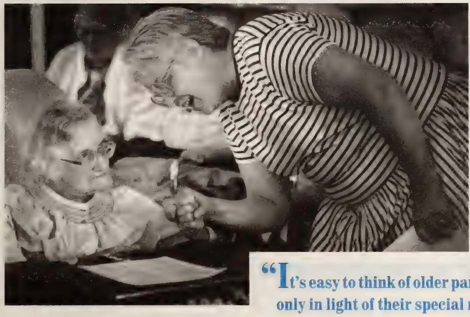
All of which means we must look at parish schedules and facilities in a new way.

Because parishes like to help people, it's easy to think of older parishioners only in light of their special needs. But it is much better to start out thinking of them simply as another part of the community — a wise and experienced part.

Older parishioners rank among our great human resources. I think of Emilie, for example, a delightful and upbeat woman, a retired school teacher already into her 80s, who organized a group of people to drive the elderly to their various appointments. That included trips to the movies, the hairdresser, the pharmacist, the doctor.

Emilie knew what it could mean to be old and alone. She was determined to make sure that other older people could enjoy life as much as she did.

CNS photo by Karen Callaway



She became a familiar figure around town, arranging rides, soliciting support, making sure that the town newspaper carried stories about available services and gatherings.

In her own final illness both the older people she had helped and the younger people she recruited made sure that she received Communion and visitors every day. Her funeral Mass was filled with young and old — and this for a widow in her 80s with no relatives in town.

> "It's easy to think of older parishioners only in light of their special needs. But ... older parishioners rank among our great human resources."

There is another issue related to the care of older people that parishes are considering: the pastoral care of parishioners who move out of the parish — not to a new home but to a care facility. Are they still our parishioners or are they members of the new parish in which they live?

Using what I'd like to call a mix of common sense and kindness, some of us decided that these people were still parish people. As one woman said, "We'll take good care of them as long as they're around."

Another new reality in caring for the elderly involves the advent of Hospice care — specialized care for people at home during their final illnesses. This means that homes in our parishes are becoming the settings for a new, important kind of pastoral ministry.

In-home hospice care looks at visits from a spiritual caregiver as a necessary part of the care given. But that means more work. Frequent, even daily visits to the terminally ill often are expected.

In our parish we got other elderly people involved in visiting, bringing Communion, staying in touch and, in general, being present to those in hospice care.

The fact is, we have a human and spiritual treasure in our growing number of older people.

(Father O'Rourke, a Dominican, lives in Oakland, Calif., and is a freelance writer.)

Cared for, body and soul

By Judy Esway
Catholic News Service

Dr. Jim Miller, a general practitioner, had worked hard all his life and looked forward to retirement. It would be hard to leave his patients; he'd grown close to them. Yet he and his wife, Herta, decided it was time to fulfill their dream of moving to Arizona to enjoy their golden years.

Soon after their move, the good doctor came down with Parkinson's disease and colon cancer. Away from family and friends, Herta was stunned.

"I was shocked and sad," she said. "I felt there was no tomorrow. I said to my husband, 'I'm so afraid. I don't know what we'll do.' But Jim told me not to worry. He said, 'I've helped so many people; I know God will help us.'"

Herta brought her concerns to their new parish. Soon volunteers from the parish's ministry to the sick were at their door. Women and men took turns visiting and providing respite care for Herta. They even fed the doctor when he could no longer feed himself.

"These people truly have been a gift from God," Herta said. "To know that here are people who are dependable, people you can trust in your home, it means everything."

Herta naturally gravitated to the church for help. Most parishes now have organized groups of dedicated volunteers eager to serve the sick.

Another promising trend is the hiring of registered nurses for parish staffs. I asked Pat Pecqueux, a registered nurse, about her duties at St. Timothy's Catholic Community in Mesa, Ariz.

"The role of a parish nurse is to focus on health education and health promotion. We offer blood pressure screening, flu immunizations and even a Scripture-based weight loss program. The spiritual component is always present. For example, in our parish walking program the group begins and ends with prayer," she explained.

Parish nurses work closely with the other volunteers in the parish's ministry to the sick. Pat noted, "Because of recent cuts in social programs and changes in health care, the need is enormous. People are moving out of the hospital a lot sooner and they need a little help, a safety net."

When asked how she likes her job, she answered, "I feel very blessed to be able to serve and live out my faith in this work. I love nursing, and I love my Catholic faith. The rewards are so great."

She told me of a woman she referred to a doctor for treatment of high blood pressure. Later, the grateful woman told her pastor she was greatly touched that her church would care that much about her.

(Esway is the author of "Real Life, Real Spirituality" and other books from Twenty-Third Publications, Mystic, Conn. She serves in her Arizona parish's ministry to the sick program.)

In a Nutshell

- ***The advent of Hospice care means that homes within a parish's boundaries are the settings for a new kind of parish action directed to the sick and their families.***
- ***Parishes are carrying out Christ's healing ministry by addressing peoples' physical, psychological, spiritual and emotional needs.***
- ***One promising trend involves the hiring of registered nurses for parish staffs.***

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Some illnesses are long term. So it is important to realize that the support offered to a sick person and his family by others may need to be long term too.

It is also important to recognize that when someone in a family is seriously sick, all family members are affected. What support might they welcome from others in the parish community?

—The support of someone who listens with compassion to their anxieties and their fears.

—Support with household tasks — cleaning the kitchen; taking the car for an oil change; cooking — which become more difficult as family members grow more and more fatigued.

—The support of a smile and praise for giving their family member the best care they can give.

—The support of sound advice when requested.

—The support of someone who prays with them and the sick person. And some people want support from someone else who serves as a liaison with the pastor, helping to keep him informed about the family.

—The support of someone committed to spending time with the sick person.

—The support of others who care about them and show it.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

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People In The News

Father Thomas Reese Named Editor Of America

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jesuit Father Thomas J. Reese, 53, has been named editor in chief of America magazine, the Jesuits' national weekly of commentary on politics, religion and the arts. A fellow of the Woodstock Theological Center in Washington since 1985 and an adjunct professor in public policy at Georgetown University, Father Reese is author of three major books on the organization and power structure of the Catholic Church. He was an associate editor of America from 1978 to 1985, and since 1985 has been its Washington correspondent.

Mother Theodore Guerin To Be Beatified Oct. 25

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. (CNS) — Mother Theodore Guerin, who in 1840 founded the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, will be beatified Oct. 25 at St. Peter's Square in Rome, according to an announcement from her order. "Mother Theodore is a woman for our time," said Sister Diane Ris, general superior of the Sisters of Providence Congregation. "Mother Theodore's faith, hope and love are models for all of us." She was born Anne-Therese Guerin in France in 1798. After caring for her invalid mother, she entered the Sisters of Providence in Ruille-sur-Loir in 1823. She and five sister companions came to the United States in 1840 in response to the bishop of Vincennes, Ind., to establish a motherhouse and school for girls in the wilderness of west-central Indiana.

Former Hong Kong Governor To Head Review Of Northern Irish Police

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Church and Royal Ulster Constabulary officials welcomed the British government's appointment of former Hong Kong governor Chris Patten to head an independent review of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Patten, a Catholic and former junior Northern Ireland minister, has accepted the appointment to work with the Northern Irish police force on the condition that the April 10 peace settlement receives a "yes" vote in referenda to be held in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic in May. Welcoming Patten's appointment, Msgr. Denis Faul, a prominent peace campaigner in Northern Ireland, said, "Chris Patten will have to keep his wits about him and listen to everyone very carefully, because everything in Northern Ireland is complicated, and there are a lot of hidden agendas."

Archbishop Martino To Receive Award From Catholic Magazine

BALTIMORE (CNS) - Archbishop Renato R. Martino, the Vatican's nuncio to the United Nations, has been named the recipient of the Distinguished International Catholic Award. The award, given by Baltimore-based Catholic International magazine, was scheduled to be presented May 11 by Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore. Archbishop Martino, who has headed the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See at the United Nations for 12 years, is being honored for his many years of service to the Catholic Church worldwide. As head of the Vatican's U.N. mission, Archbishop Martino has participated in all sessions of the world body's General Assembly since 1987.

Suspect Arrested In Connection With Guatemalan Bishop's Murder

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — A man has been arrested in connection with the murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi, the government announced April 30. Carlos Enrique Vielman, 24, of no fixed occupation, was taken into custody mid-morning April 30 as "the first suspect" in the murder case, Interior Minister Rodolfo Mendoza Rosales told reporters. "This is a just first step, although an important one, in the investigation process, but it still only one step," Mendoza said. He added that "what's still to come is a whole process of collecting evidence" and interrogating the suspect, which is the responsibility of the attorney general's office. However, Dr. Robert Kirschner, a forensics specialist with Physicians for Human Rights, told The Los Angeles Times, "I am almost certain they have the wrong guy."

Archbishop Released After Being Held For Archdiocesan Debt

ROME (CNS) — Archbishop Gabriel Zubeir Wako of Khartoum, Sudan, was arrested May 1 and held in a local jail for several hours after a court ruled his archdiocese owed a merchant more than $650,000. The archbishop was arrested and several people in his residence were taken into custody about 8:30 a.m., said an official at the Vatican nunciature in Khartoum. After Archbishop Marco Brogi, the nuncio, visited the jail, Archbishop Zubeir Wako was released without bail at 1 p.m., and the others were freed without being charged, the official told Catholic News Service in Rome. The archbishop's release was ordered by Sudan's supreme court, according to information published by the Comboni Missionaries in Rome.

Chinese Bishop Says He Can't Attend Synod For Political Reasons

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One of two Chinese bishops invited to the Synod of Bishops for Asia said he regretted that he was unable to leave his country for "political reasons." Bishop Matthias Duan Yinming of Wanhsien faxed his message in Latin to the Vatican April 30, 11 days after Pope John Paul II announced he had invited bishop Duan and his coadjutor, Bishop Joseph Xu Zhixuan, to the April 19-May 14 synod. "I regret not being able to attend the synod due to political reasons," Bishop Duan wrote. "I was so sad about this that I could not sleep for two nights. Then I tried to convince myself to be serene: I am physically absent, but my heart is always present at the Synod of Bishops." The bishop noted that "many themes are expressed and very important problems are discussed" at the gathering, and he requested a copy of its proceedings.

Students mourn the loss of Parker Middle School teacher John Gillette at his funeral Mass April 28 in Edinboro, Pa. A 14-year-old student was charged with the murder at a school dance April 24.

CNS photo from Reuters

Slain Pennsylvania Teacher 'Followed God,' Says Priest

By GARY LONCKI

EDINBORO, Pa. (CNS) — In a sports center adorned with championship banners, a beloved coach and teacher who was slain during a school dance was remembered at a funeral Mass April 28 as someone Jesus knew.

"It takes one to know one," said Father John Jacquel, pastor of Edinboro's Our Lady of the Lake Parish, of parishioner John Gillette.

"Jesus knows Mr. Gillette, knows him well," Father Jacquel told about 4,000 mourners gathered at the field house at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Erie Bishop Donald W. Trautman and several priests attended the liturgy, which had been moved from the 600-seat Newman Center to the field house to accommodate the large crowd.

Father Jacquel described Gillette — a husband and father of three — as a man devoted to his family, work, students and, especially, to God.

"He followed God," Father Jacquel said.

Gillette, 48, a science teacher at James W. Parker Middle School, just north of Edinboro, was shot to death as he chaperoned a middle school dance April 24. Fourteen-year-old Andrew Wurst, an eighth-grader at the school, was charged with the shooting. Another teacher and two students were slightly wounded.

Wurst, who has been charged as an adult, was being held in prison without bond.

The nearly two-hour funeral Mass included remarks by Bishop Trautman, reflections by friends, and music by the parish choir and students at General McLane High School, where Gillette had once taught.

Those attending the liturgy were given small white ribbons to wear to remember Gillette, who owned the John J. Gillette Construction Co. in Edinboro, 20 miles south of Erie. Several students entering the field house hugged each other, disbelief etched on their faces.

In his homily, Father Jacquel told the story of a great teacher who was respected and loved.

"He was no pushover, however — tough, in some very good ways," he said. The teacher was interested in building things, forming people into a community and was devoted to God, he said. But, his life was unfairly and tragically taken from him.

"This teacher's name, of course, was Jesus of Nazareth," Father Jacquel said. "Yet, everything I have said to this point also applies also to John of Edinboro.

"He was devoted to God and to what God wanted him to do," he added. "It seems that faithfulness to God doesn't guarantee safety or a trouble-free life — it practically guarantees the opposite."

Father Jacquel assured mourners that nothing could separate them from the steadfast love of Jesus Christ. And like the apostles who saw Jesus after his death and resurrection, they would see Gillette again, he said.

Just before the Mass, Adam Stickle, a member of an ecumenical student group, introduced a song titled "In His Arms," saying that the arms of God and Gillette are "stretched out to us because they love us so much."

He added, "Show how much the human race can reach out together in such a tragedy."

Then as the choir sang "Here I Am, Lord," the bronze-colored coffin was wheeled into the field house followed by family and friends.

In his remarks, Bishop Trautman said the Edinboro community knows well the meaning of the words "a time to dance and a time to mourn." But, he said, "the Old Testament writer did not hear Jesus say, 'I am the resurrection and the life." "We belong to Jesus," the bishop said.

Gillette, he said, expressed his deep faith in deeds, especially by helping young people. He called on the congregation to follow Gillette's vision and values and rededicate themselves to caring for youths so that the recent tragedy does not occur again.

"Tragedy and murder must not have the last word," the bishop said. "The last word is not death, but life."

Employment Opportunities

Faith Formation:

Director of Faith Formation, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community, is seeking a knowledgeable, experienced, creative, enthusiastic person to lead its 1800+ family parish program. Student enrollment exceeds 1200. Median age of the parish is young; parish is vibrant and fast-growing. Responsibilities include organization of classes 1-9, sacrament formation, recruitment of volunteer teachers/assistants and parent formation. MA in religious education and/or theology required, five years experience in parish administration or equivalent. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resumes by May 29 to: Office of Faith Formation, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 1400 Suther Road, Charlotte, NC 28213 or fax to: (704)549-1614 attn: Sister Margaret Straney.

Director of Religious Education at Asheville Catholic School:

This is a full-time position for the 1998-99 academic year with responsibility for the administration of the ACS faith formation program which includes a variety of faith-filled objectives and outreach. A degree in Religious Education in the Catholic faith or a related field is preferred. Some experience in the field of Catholic religious education is beneficial. Applicant must be committed to implementing the ideals of the Catholic Faith as outlined in the documents of Vatican II and as directed by the Diocese of Charlotte, and to working with the staff, students, and parents in a collaborative manner. The salary is based on experience and educational background and includes a diocesan benefit package. Send your resume to: DRE Search Committee, Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern Street, Asheville, NC 28804.

Organist — Pianist:

St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28115. Two choir rehearsals and masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard, Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Secretary — Receptionist:

An immediate position is open for an experienced secretary/receptionist for the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services. High school diploma with PC desktop, word processing experience is needed. Individual must be multi-task oriented, flexible and have the ability to work well with people of diverse backgronds. Please contact Geri King, Director at (704) 370-3224, or send resume to: Geri King, Director, Charlotte Regional Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

New School Opportunities:

St. Catherine of Siena Parish School, Wake Forest, NC is accepting applications for the following positions: Managing Secretary (must have strong organizational, interpersonal, and clerical skills with experience in conflict resolution and light accounting), Kindergarten Teacher (NC or reciprocal certificate with 3-5 years of teaching experience), Kindergarten Aid and Pre-K Program Developer/Teacher (3-4 year old, strong planning skills with experience). All applicants must be practicing Roman Catholics, teaching honestly the wisdom of the Church in faith and morals. Saint Catherine Parish School offers an attractive salary and benefit package. Persons interested in helping build a K-8 Catholic School future for the children of the growing Wake Forest area should submit their resume and references to: Mr. Bill Abel, School Planning Committee, Saint Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church, 520 West Holding Avenue, Wake Forest, NC 27587. Applications deadline is May 15, 1998.

Elementary Principal:

Asheville Catholic School, located in the mountains of western North Carolina, seeks a principal for its Pre-K — 8 program. Desire a creative, highly motivated principal for our 250 students who is a strong leader, solid administrator with skills to assist both faculty and curricular development and the building of the faith community. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with at least a Master's Degree in educational administration. Prior administration experience desirable. Salary is negotiable. Diocese offers a generous benefits package. Send resume or letter of inquiry to Principal Search, P.O. Box 8160, Asheville, NC 28814. Position August 1.

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Diocese of Charlotte

DIOCESAN SCHOOL BOARD OPENINGS

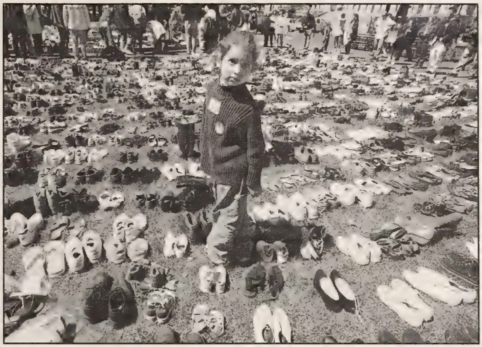
The Diocese of Charlotte School Board has five board member positions to be filled. The term is for three years. The Board is responsible for proposing policies to Bishop Curlin to enact in governing 17 schools.

The Board meets monthly from September to May on agreed upon dates from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Rotating from a school in Charlotte to a school in the Triad, to an outlying area school.

Send Information to:

Diocesan School Board
c/o Catholic Schools Office
Diocese of Charlotte
Pastoral Center
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Interested applicants should send by June 1, 1998 a letter of application and resume detailing parish and/or school involvement and state why you would like Bishop Curlin to appoint you to serve on the Diocesan School Board.



CNS photo from Reuters

GUNS PROTEST — Demi Gonzalez, 4, of New York stands among thousands of pairs of shoes representing deceased victims of gun related violence at a May 2 protest near the headquarters of the Smith and Wesson gun company in Springfield, Mass. Her cousin, Christopher Matthews, was accidentally shot to death by a 12-year-old friend.

Operation Rice Bowl To Award Mini-Grants

CHARLOTTE — Mini-grants of $500 will be awarded to parishes, schools, vicariates, or other diocesan programs for local initiatives on international issues or projects. The grants, offered through Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl program, will go to projects that reflect the diversity among Catholics; a range of international, immigration or migrant issues; and a range of approaches (such as linking faith and justice, education, advocacy, the media).

The postmark deadline is May 16, 1998. Ask your pastor for an application, or contact the Office of Justice and Peace at (704) 370-3225 for more information or additional applications.

The diocesan 1998 donations to the Operation Rice Bowl Lenten program are still being totaled. Seventy-five percent of the diocesan contribution will be forwarded to national Catholic Relief Services to be used to help our brothers and sisters in developing countries worldwide. Twenty-five percent of Operation Rice Bowl funds remain in the Diocese of Charlotte where the Catholic Relief Services diocesan committee administers the mini-grants program to promote solidarity between our churches and global communities.

The Lenten Operation Rice Bowl program provides an excellent opportunity for educating parishioners as well as collecting funds to help the disadvantaged. The CRS national office provides the resources at no charge for this Lenten program focusing on prayer, fasting, learning and giving.

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Use your MasterCard or Visa when ordering tickets.

Newman Club Hosts Center Retreat

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — For a typical college student, spring is a time to make plans for the summer. Seniors especially are confronted with important decisions as they leave the security of a college campus and embark on new challenges. For the Newman Club, the Catholic campus ministry program at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, early April was designated as an excellent time to gather and share, so the group held a weekend retreat April 3-5 at the Catholic Conference Center.

The retreat, entitled "Celebrating God's will for our lives," was planned by co-presidents Ellen Rearden and Keith Brown, with the help of campus ministers Jim and Rosalie Richards, members of St. Aloysius Church. It consisted of fun activities, group discussions, meditations, and Mass celebrated by St. Aloysius pastor Father Wilbur Thomas. During his homily, Father Thomas shared with the students the need to see God's will in everything and to hear his call.

"As you reflect on God's will in your life, remember that somehow in all our experiences, even painful ones, you are drawn out as God's daughters and sons," he said.

Another highlight of the retreat was the late-night hay ride along the rocky terrain which surrounds the conference center. Between ice breakers and fun were moments of sharing. Individuals gave testimony on how family, friends and prayer have helped them see God's will in their lives.

After each session, organizers designed activities to compliment each topic. One exercise involved writing down a regrettable deed each participant had done. Students wrote on paper with washable markers and placed the paper in water. Within seconds, the ink vanished from the paper, symbolizing the sacrament of reconciliation.

"We have to do more than just recognize the wrongdoing," explained Rearden. "We must ask for forgiveness. Then God will forgive us and wash us clean like the paper."

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Lenoir-Rhyne College students Jenn Hart, Jennifer Butcher and Keith Brown take part in an activity during the school's Newman Club retreat last month.

Members Of Congress Pledge Support For Closing School Of Americas

By MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A senator and a congressman pledged their support for closing down the Army's School of the Americas in front of 125 anti-SOA demonstrators camped on the steps of the Capitol April 28.

Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., and Rep. Joseph Kennedy, D-Mass., accepted petitions bearing 500,000 signatures to close the SOA, located at Fort Benning, Ga. Fort officials refused to accept the petitions last November at a demonstration during which 601 people were arrested.

Kennedy, who has led the congressional effort to close SOA, said to cheers that he would deliver the petitions to Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

The annual late-April fasting and vigil surrounding the SOA closure effort has become a new ritual for participants.

This year's activities seemed to take on new urgency following the April 26 slaying of Guatemala Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conadera, 75.

The bishop was murdered two days after the release of a report he coordinated that details atrocities committed during Guatemala's 36-year civil war. The report named military officials and guerrilla commanders responsible for human rights violations during the war and among them were SOA graduates.

SOA has accepted students from virtually every Latin American country. Graduates have been implicated in some of the most widely reported abuses, particularly in El Salvador, including the El Mozote massacre, the assassinations of Archbishop Oscar Romero and four Maryknoll churchwomen in 1980, and the killings of six Jesuits, their cook and her daughter in 1989.

Although no arrests had been made in the days following Bishop Gerardi's murder, human rights groups and a spokesman for the Archdiocese of Guatemala City said they believe the slaying was in retaliation for the report.

Material released by SOA Watch, a U.S. group founded in an effort to close the school, highlighted the case of Carlos Ochoa Ruiz, a Guatemalan army officer who was sought by the U.S. government in 1991 to face six drug-related charges.

The judge who approved extradition was assassinated a week later. Shortly afterward, another judge reversed the extradition order.

"We don't need to associate with military dictators," Durbin said in his remarks at the Capitol. "We don't need to teach members of the Third World how to kill each other more efficiently."

Kennedy said, "We will do everything we can to bring the bill to the floor and close the School of the Americas."

A vote last year to close SOA failed in the House by seven votes. A vote this year is not expected until July or possibly September, according to SOA Watch's Heather Dean.

Dean's mother, United Methodist Rev. Carol Richardson, is serving a six-month term for her role in the Fort Benning demonstration last November. Dean said her mother should be out of jail on or about July 17 "if all goes well."

"We have learned as far back as Gandhi and maybe before, there is a price to pay for nonviolence," Durbin said. "The people who are incarcerated stood up for what they believe in."

The protesters "believe the United States of America ought not to be standing with dictators, ought not to be standing with human rights abusers, people who have murdered nuns, people who have murdered poor people, people who have murdered children," Kennedy said.

Kennedy added he talked April 28 with Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, one of the protesters. He has been in solitary confinement for refusing to obey prison rules while serving his sentence.

"Father had a difficult time speaking because he was handcuffed," Kennedy said. "I asked how he was doing, and he said, 'I think I've said enough prayers. It's time to close down the School of the Americas and get me out of jail.'"

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IN BRIEF

Estate Planning Seminar

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church hosts an estate planning seminar May 14 in the multi-purpose room at 7:30 p.m. Focus will be on a properly drawn will as one of the most important documents you will ever sign. Call the church office, (704) 664-3992, for more information.

Vacation Raffle

SYLVA — St. Mary Church is conducting a raffle for an all-inclusive, week-long vacation at a Sandals resort. Tickets are $5 each or six for $25, and are on sale until May 30. The drawing will be held May 31. For tickets or more information, call or write to St. Mary Church at (828) 586-9499, 22 Bartlett St., Sylva, NC 28779.

Bereavement Support

SYLVA — A bereavement support group is hosted at St. Mary Church for parishioners in the Smoky Mountain area who are widowed, separated, divorced, or with new or unresolved grief. Meetings are every third Friday in the church fellowship hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 586-9496, or Mary or Chuck Brogan at (828) 497-9452.

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THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PROTECTING FAMILIES FOR GENERATIONS™

Diocesan News Briefs

Home Educators Support

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, western North Carolina's Catholic home school support group, meets the third Friday of each month for a family potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Laurentine Hall of St. Lawrence Basilica. Call Sheryl Oligny, (828) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (828) 645-6990, for more information.

Fashion Show

BELMONT — "A Fiesta for Josephina" is the theme of the 1998 American Girls Fashion Show in Curtin Hall on the Sisters of Mercy Sacred Heart Campus May 15 at 7:30 p.m., May 16 at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7 p.m., and May 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $18, and admission includes the fashion show, door prizes, a gift bag and Mexican fiesta treats. Proceeds will benefit Holy Angels, which provides residential, developmental, social and other services and programs to children and adults with mental retardation and other disabilities. To purchase tickets, call (704) 825-0417.

50+ Club

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets May 13 at 10:30 a.m. for a covered dish luncheon to honor five couples in the group celebrating their 50th anniversaries. For further information, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.

St. Paul Seminar

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church hosts "Scripture in the Summer," a seminar focusing on the writings and life of St. Paul, June 15-19 from 9 a.m.-noon each day. Tuition is $30, or $6 per day. Send checks payable to St. Gabriel Church to Caryn Cusick, St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211. Babysitting is available for $3 per day and vacation Bible school will be presented for children ages 4 through the fourth grade. Call (704) 362-5047, ext. 276, for reservations.

Respite Training

CHARLOTTE — A respite training workshop for those involved in the disABILITY with H.O.P.E. ministry, those wanting more information about starting such a ministry at their parishes, and those caring for loved ones who are elderly, ill or with disabilities is May 11 and 12 from 7-9:30 p.m. in Room 102 of the St. Matthew Church parish center. A $5 fee for materials can be shared at the workshop. Reserved accessible parking is available with registration by May 8. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677, ext. 43, or Kathy Tetu at (704) 846-3219.

Norwegian Adventure

CHARLOTTE — Msgr. Richard Allen, pastor of St. Ann Church, leads a five-day Norwegian adventure July 16-25. Cost is $2,847.10 per person, which includes air, five-day cruise, land, taxes and meals. Travelers will depart from Charlotte. Space is limited. For information and a brochure, call Jean Ponischil at (704) 375-2366 or write to 1614 Dilworth Rd. E., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Natural Family Planning Course

CHARLOTTE — The Couple to Couple League begins a four-part course on natural family planning May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. For more information and to register, call Alex or Maria Muñoz at (704) 849-0891, or Richard or Carmen Cashman at (704) 552-1334.

English Class Information

CHARLOTTE — An informational session on a planned "English as a second language" class for immigrants is at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., May 14 at 7 p.m. If someone you know would like to learn English, call Maralee Battaglia, (704) 921-1818, after 2 p.m.

Pentecost Conference

GREENSBORO — "Pentecost in North Carolina: Springtime for Christians," a statewide conference celebrating the year of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the millennium, is May 15-17 in Odell Auditorium at Greensboro College. Speakers include Father Patsy Iaquinta, chairman of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and Franciscan Father Paul Williams, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Greenville, S.C. Music will be performed by Hearts of Fire and Keith, and child care will be provided. For more information and to register, call Bette Steinkamp, (336) 476-9717, or Joyce Brown, (704) 547-1836.

Arc
HELP
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

North Carolina Knights of Columbus representatives gather with the executive director of the Association for Retarded Citizens in front of a new van contributed to ARC by the Knights. The Knights State Council and Council 4660 of Wilson, N.C., contributed the balance of the $18,000 for the van, which replaced a vehicle destroyed by Hurricane Fran.

Knights councils across the state frequently engage in charitable activity. One the most popular programs is the annual Operation LAMB campaign, a donation drive benefiting people with mental retardation. Last year's effort raised more than $710,000, bringing the N.C. Knights of Columbus' total to more than $8.7 million raised over 24 years.

Pictured above from left are Philip Lamendola, Knights state warden; Robert J. Singer, Knights state secretary; John Harrison; Knights state deputy; Kay Bunch, executive director of ARC; William W. Scott, Knights past state deputy and founder of Operation LAMB; and George H. Wahl, Knights past state deputy and chairman of Operation LAMB.

Adult Education Series

GREENSBORO — Franciscan Father Greg Gebbia of the Franciscan Center in Greensboro leads "Beyond Shamrocks and Other Understandings of God," an adult education discussion on a Christian understanding of God, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. Baby-sitting is available by calling Joe Casacchia, (336) 632-0729, to R.S.V.P.

Benefit Concert

HENDERSONVILLE — Zoltan Marczi, director of the music ministry at Immaculate Conception Church, and the Immaculata Youth Choir are featured at a benefit organ concert at First Baptist Church, 312 5th Ave. W., on May 29 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 and can be purchased by calling (828) 891-1497. Proceeds will be applied towards a purchase of a new organ for the new Immaculate Conception Church building scheduled for completion this fall.

Bishops' Dialogue

HICKORY — The annual Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue, hosted by western North Carolina's Roman Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran, Episcopal and United Methodist bishops, is May 12-13 at the Catholic Conference Center for ordained clergy, parish staff members and parish lay leaders. Lectures will examine the elements of parish life that make congregations places fostering healthier relationships in the parish and in homes. Cost is $70, which includes accommodations and three meals; a sliding scale exists for lectures only. Send registrations to the Rev. Gilmer Miller, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 1406 Harper Ave., Lenoir, NC 28645.

Charismatic Mass

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated in the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel every third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Living Waters Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — "The Hills are Alive" is a May 22-28 nature retreat focusing on the experience of God's love in a springtime mountain setting. Dominican Father Martin Iott facilitates with Dominican Sister Jeannette Stang. Cost is $260. "Healing Touch" is a May 29-31 retreat focusing on holistic health. All are invited, especially health care personnel and those interested in physical healing. Concepts of human energy fields will be introduced, and therapeutic touch will be explained and demonstrated. Irene C. Morelli, NABRS member, facilitates. Cost is $95.

To register, get more information, or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the Diocesan News Briefs page. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence welcomes all to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m. For information call the parish office, (828) 252-6042.

BREVARD — Eucharistic adoration is hosted at Sacred Heart Church every Tuesday from 7-11 a.m. Call Bill Knowlton at (704) 696-1715, or Dick Smith at (828) 884-7823 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Matthew Church each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass and lasting until the 9 a.m. Saturday Mass. Call Pat Gundaker, (704) 366-9687, or Bernice Hansen, (704) 846-2958, for details.

Eucharistic adoration is at St. Thomas Aquinas Church each Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for details.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts eucharistic adoration from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church each Friday other than the first. First Friday adoration follows the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasts until 8 p.m. Call (704) 464-9207 for more information.

World And National News Briefs

Archbishop Forgives Debt In 20 St. Louis Parishes

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Archbishop Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis announced in mid-April that he is forgiving about $1.3 million in debt owed to the archdiocese by 20 of its 227 parishes. The debts come from unpaid bills from the archdiocese for services such as property and liability insurance coverage, high school assessments, and the cathedraticum, a fee each parish pays to cover costs of archdiocesan administration. "The archdiocese is only able to grant this debt forgiveness today because of the remarkable cooperation of clergy and laity throughout the archdiocese who worked hard to overcome our past financial problems and to strengthen the financial condition of the archdiocese," the archbishop said in announcing his decision.

U.S. Church Funds Latin American Projects

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Committee on the Church in Latin America announced grants in April of nearly $2.3 million to fund 120 Latin American church projects. A second round of grants will be approved in November. The spring grants ranged in size from a $1,000 education grant for four sisters of the Company of St. Teresa of Jesus in Costa Rica to $550,000 to help fund the Latin American bishops' council, or CELAM, and three of its special continent-wide projects in 1998. Most of the projects funded were in the range of about $5,000 to $20,000. Most are in the fields of evangelization, catechetics, pastoral development or education for seminarians, catechists, teachers, lay leaders, religious personnel or diocesan leadership.

Cardinal Urges Quick Action By Congress To Ban Human Cloning

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Congress "should enact a meaningful ban on human cloning without further delay," the head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities said in a letter. Along with the letter, Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, who chairs the committee, sent each member of Congress an information packet addressing what he called the "misleading arguments" against a federal ban on human cloning. "Past congressional efforts to address this issue have been stymied by three objections" — that such a ban "would block essential medical research," that no one can define what a human embryo is, and that no one knows whether human cloning can produce an embryo, the cardinal said. "Almost universal support" for the idea that human embryos must never be created merely for experimental purposes and their eventual destruction.

Archbishop Hopes To Establish Russian Bishop's Conference

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The head of Russia's Catholic Church said he hopes to set up a formal bishops' conference after the installation of two new bishops. Meanwhile, the Polish-born bishop-designate appointed to work in the country's East has said he will try to attract more foreign priests and "open Siberia to the world." Addressing priests and nuns in Moscow's St. Louis Church in mid-April, Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, apostolic administrator of European Russia, said the million-strong Catholic Church now had "a right to speak of a Russian episcopate and open a bishops' conference" after the March 23 appointment of Bishops-designate Jerzy Mazur, a 44-year-old Pole, and Klemens Pickel, a 37-year-old German. They will work respectively in the apostolic administrations of Siberian Russia and European Russia.

Bishop Opposes Move Of Execution Facility To Rural Illinois

BELLEVILLE, Ill. (CNS) — Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville has decried a decision by the state of Illinois to locate a new prison in a town in his diocese that is equipped to handle lethal injections of convicts sentenced to death. In an April 28 statement, Bishop Gregory also urged that the death penalty issue "become ever more central to all people of Illinois." By mid-April, 112 inmates had been transferred to the maximum security facility, according to Nic Howell, spokesman for the Illinois Department of Corrections. He said the prison does not have a death row but has a death chamber equipped to handle lethal injections.

At Bishop's Funeral, A Call For Guatemalans To Unite

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — A bishop called on Guatemalans to bury their differences and unite to overcome "this delicate moment" in the Central American country following the murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City. "To give way to divisions ... ruptures, indecisions, or internal struggles in search of privileged positions at this moment would be to sink once again in the chaos of death and suffering," warned Bishop Gerardo Flores Reyes of Vera Paz at the April 29 funeral for the auxiliary bishop. Addressing the thousands of people gathered inside and outside the capital's cathedral, he said Bishop Gerardi was murdered because "he fought for reconciliation and true peace ... that's why they tried to silence his voice." The call for unity came as Guatemalans still reeled from the April 26 murder that sent waves of shock and grief through the deeply religious population.

Clinton Criticized Over Stance On Foreign Aid, Abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Clinton's threatened veto of a foreign aid bill that bars U.S. payments to groups that provide abortions overseas shows how far he has drifted from American public opinion on abortion, according to the U.S. Catholic bishops' pro-life spokeswoman. Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, praised the Senate for its 51-49 vote April 28 to approve a foreign aid bill that would forbid U.S. funding of foreign groups that perform abortions or lobby foreign governments for changes in abortion laws. The legislation, already passed by the House, also includes nearly $1 billion in back dues owed by the United States to the United Nations, which Clinton had requested. But the president said he would veto the bill if it also included limits on international family planning funds.

Bishop Holds Healing Service For Victims Of Sex Abuse By Priests

PORTLAND, Maine (CNS) — Bishop Joseph J. Gerry of Portland took what he called "a single small step" toward public reparation for damage done by priests who sexually abused minors in the diocese at an April 20 service of healing and reconciliation. The service at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland drew about 200 clergy, religious and lay people, including a woman who spoke publicly about the harm done to her decades earlier by a young priest who sexually abused her. The service came a week after Bishop Gerry issued a letter of apology for the sexual abuse of minors by some priests. The letter, published in the Church World diocesan newspaper, had been required by a settlement agreement with a victim who said he was one of several men abused by a Portland priest when they were boys. Although the letter had been legally required, the healing service was not.

Jesuit Universities Start Undergraduate Program In China

WASHINGTON (CNS) — This August the first group of undergraduate students from U.S. Jesuit universities will head to China for one to two semesters of special studies in Chinese culture. They will live and study at the Beijing Center, which will open this summer on the campus of Beijing University of Physical Education in the northwest suburbs of the Chinese capital. Each semester will include two trips to other parts of China, one for a week and one for two to three weeks. A scholar in residence will lead the longer trips, teaching the students about the history and culture of the places they visit. The undergraduate foreign study program is separate from a groundbreaking international master in business administration program recently announced as a joint program of Peking University, China's oldest and most prestigious university, and the graduate business schools of 26 U.S. Jesuit universities.

Vatican Official Says Israel Has Yet To Achieve Peace

ROME (CNS) — The Vatican's foreign minister said that after 50 years, Israel has yet to achieve lasting peace with its neighbors and within its borders. The foreign minister, Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, said peace in Israel "will become a reality when all are convinced that there cannot be good for someone at the cost of ill for others, that the security of some cannot be guaranteed to the detriment of the security of others." During an April 30 celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary, Israel's ambassador to the Holy See, Aharon Lopez, gave Archbishop Tauran a parchment scroll copy of the Israeli Declaration of Independence. Archbishop Tauran said the maintenance of peace was "the moral obligation of every person and of every state, even if the attainment of peace can require important compromises."

CNS photo from Reuters

ISRAEL CELEBRATION — An Israeli holding an inflatable hammer decorated with the Star of David joins revelers in Jerusalem April 29 to mark their state's 50th anniversary.

Clinton Urged To Sing D.C. School Vouchers Measure

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Supporters of a school voucher program in the District of Columbia urged President Clinton to sign the measure after it passed in the House by a 214-206 vote April 30. The District of Columbia Student Opportunity Scholarship Act would provide tuition scholarships of up to $3,200 for kindergarten through 12th grade to 2,000 children from low-income families who live in the District. The funds could be used to offset tuition costs to attend public schools in neighboring counties in Maryland and Virginia or to enroll in private schools, including religious ones. Another 2,000 district students would get financial assistance of up to $500 to pay for after-school help such as tutors.

Pope Preparing Document On Sunday As Day Of Holiness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II is preparing a document on Sunday and the need to maintain it as a day of holiness, Vatican sources said. The relatively brief papal document is said to emphasize the obligation of the faithful to attend Mass on Sunday, except for serious reason. It also touches on the sensitive issue of Sunday work. The church teaches that Sunday is to be a day of rest and grace, yet recognizes that abstaining from work is not possible for all. The document was still undergoing changes in early May and was expected to be published later this year, the sources said. In addition to the Sunday Mass obligation, the text describes Sunday as a day for reflection and meditation and says this risks being lost today. Pope John Paul has spoken about the Sunday obligation of Catholics on many occasions. Yet Mass attendance continues to drop in some parts of the world, particularly Europe.

Handbells Ring In Sweet Music At St. Leo

By SUSAN DEGUZMAN

WINSTON-SALEM — While bells ring weekdays in the halls of St. Leo School, a different ring is music to parishioners' ears on Sundays.

Thanks to parishioner Christine McKissick, music during selected Masses at St. Leo the Great Church now includes a handbell choir. McKissick heard a handbell choir perform at a Mass in Long Island, N.Y., several years ago, and immediately thought of how parishioners at St. Leo's would enjoy the music. She returned home to share her handbell choir idea with Betsy Meehan, St. Leo music director.

Meehan wasted no time pursuing the suggestion. First, she found out if other parishioners were interested. She borrowed five bells from the Konnoak Hills Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, and taught four willing teen-agers to play part of an Advent anthem. The teen ringers accompanied the adult voice choir at Mass, and parishioners responded enthusiastically to the performance. With St. Leo pastor Father Jim Solari's approval as well, the parish set out to form its own handbell choir.

Photo by Susan deGuzman

Lindsay Fox, Elizabeth Araman and Beth Tara, members of the Teentinnabulators, are shown during a recent handbell choir practice.

How to fund the new choir was the first question addressed by organizers. At an average cost of $182 per bell — and with most handbell music requiring three octaves of bells (12 bells in each octave) in order to be played, the project was no small venture. With the help of McKissick and fellow parishioner Carol Velmer, Meehan embarked on the "Give a Bell Campaign."

"Anyone interested in purchasing a bell, or part of a bell, could do so in honor or memory of a loved one," Meehan said. The person's name would then be inscribed on the inside of the bell handle. The church assisted by providing $1,000 to kick off the campaign.

In order to publicize the effort, Meehan went back to borrowing bells, this time from a distributor in Charlotte. She taught a handbell ringing course to a few parishioners and teenagers who performed one weekend at all Masses. The response was overwhelming, and the campaign raised enough money in six months to purchase three octaves of handbells.

There are four methods of playing handbells. The first and most frequent method is to simply ring the bell in the hand while it is suspended. The second is to pluck the clapper or tongue of the bell while the instrument is lying on its side. A third method is to hit the bell with a mallet while it is suspended or sitting on a table. The fourth is to merely shake the instrument.

Nine performers and Meehan, who also is conductor, currently compose the St. Leo Adult Handbell Choir. The group practices an hour a week during the school year, and the choir is looking for more members. Eleven ringers with three octaves of bells would be the perfect number, according to Meehan, which would leave her to concentrate solely on conducting.

"Right now we can't afford any absences for a performance," she said.

The Teentinnabulators, the teenage group of bellringers, currently has four members who have been with the choir since its inception. Meehan is currently teaching them advanced ensemble ringing. Other youths interested in the choir are also welcome to join.

For churches interested in starting a handbell choir, Meehan offers the following advice: "The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers is a beneficial group to join. Local and national bellringing events can be located through the monthly Bell Directory magazine."

There is a Bell Directors Seminar held every other year, which offers one week of college courses in bell directory, she added.

Susan deGuzman is a parishioner at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

Abbey College News

School to Bestow Degrees; Duke Energy Chair to Deliver Lecture

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College celebrates its 120th commencement exercises May 9 at 11 a.m. on the Abbey church piazza. Almost 150 students will receive bachelor's or master's degrees. A 9 a.m. baccalaureate Mass precedes the graduation ceremony.

In lieu of a guest speaker, this year the Benedictine institution honors its own. Three honorary doctorates will be awarded, and the Abbey's longest-serving faculty member will be recognized upon his retirement from teaching.

Receiving honorary doctorates will be the Most Rev. Daniel W. Kucera, a Benedictine priest and retired archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa, who will also deliver the homily at Mass; Mary S. Cook, assistant to six Abbey presidents and three abbot-chancellors; and business executive Roger R. Regelbrugge, a long-time advisor to and supporter of Belmont Abbey College.

Benedictine Father Anselm Biggs will be recognized for his 64 years of teaching service. A prolific historian, educator and translator, Father Biggs retired from the classroom this semester at the age of 84.

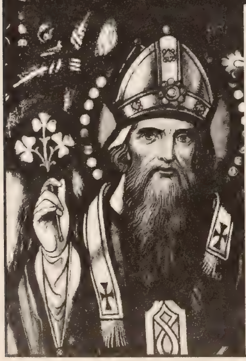
In other Belmont Abbey College news, chairman emeritus of Duke Energy Corporation William H. Grigg will speak to business executives and managers on leadership in a changing environment May 13 at noon on the second floor of the college's Student Commons.

His appearance is in conjunction with the James C. Holway Executive on Campus series. A limited number of tickets are on sale for $15 each. Call (704) 825-6735.

Grigg, who earned a law degree from Duke University, practiced law in Charlotte before joining Duke Power in 1963 as assistant general counsel. He has moved up steadily in the organization, becoming chairman and CEO in 1994. Now retired, he still serves on many corporate and nonprofit boards and is active in the community.

Ireland 98

Diocese of Charlotte



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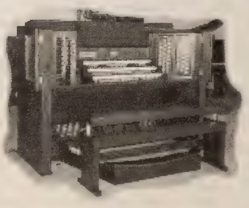

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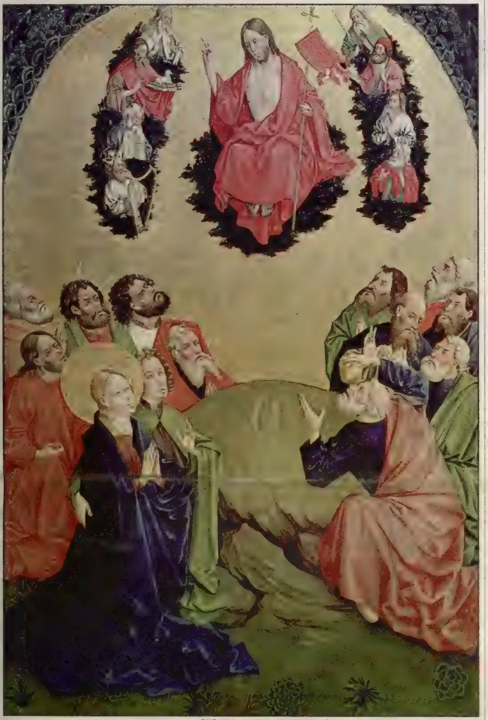

CNS photo courtesy the National Gallery of Art Samuel H Kress Collection

The Ascension of the Lord is depicted in this painting by 15th-century German artist Johann Koerbecke. The feast of the Ascension is celebrated May 21.

Indian Bishops At Synod 'Pleased' By Nuclear Tests, Cause Worldwide Alarm

By LYNNE WEIL

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Indian church leaders attending the Synod of Bishops for Asia were "pleased" at their country's nuclear tests, which caused worldwide alarm.

Archbishop Alan de Lastic of Delhi, chosen to speak on behalf of the group, told Catholic News Service May 12 that the underground detonation of three nuclear devices the previous day was "a sign that India has progressed."

The archbishop noted that the Indian bishops had "not formally discussed the matter. But it is clear that we are pleased about it."

In a brief announcement just after the explosions in a desert near India's border with Pakistan, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee congratulated "the scientists and engineers who have carried out these successful tests."

In April, Pakistan, India's rival since the two states were established 50 years ago, successfully tested a ballistic missile capable of striking India's major cities.

A Vajpayee aide, Brajesh Mishra, told journalists that the tests "established that India has a proven capability for a weaponized nuclear program."

The governments of Pakistan and the United States immediately condemned the Indian nuclear tests, and other countries followed suit.

Archbishop de Lastic said that his country intended to use nuclear power "only for peaceful purposes, and there is no way one can say that we have ever been belligerent about nuclear capability."

"Personally," he added, "I would like everyone to throw away their weapons. I do have some concerns about spending money on nuclear tests when it could go to support the poor. We are a nation of contrasts — we have high technology, and yet at the same time, so many people are poor."

In 1996, India refused to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, a document banning nuclear testing. The document was approved by the U.N. General Assembly and has been ratified by 13 countries. The document is under congressional consideration in the United States.

Citing India's refusal, Pakistan also rejected the treaty. Archbishop de Lastic said the test ban document was "only in the interest of the big, powerful countries."

Reminded that the Vatican gave the treaty its full approval by signing it in September 1996, the archbishop said. "Yes, the Vatican has a strong moral authority."

Msgr. Diarmuid Martin, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, told CNS May 12 that in signing the treaty, the Vatican "stressed that the banning of tests was clearly linked to the broader question of further development of nuclear weapons in today's world. The hope was that the banning of tests would be implemented as soon

See **Nuclear**, page 2

1998 Diocesan Support Appeal Tops $3 Million, Exceeds Goal

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

DSA '98

CHARLOTTE — Parishioners continue to demonstrate their generosity to the ministries that serve the 46-county area of western North Carolina. As a result, the 1998 Diocesan Support Appeal has topped $3 million, making it the most successful campaign in history.

"When I met with the Holy Father in March, I praised the extraordinary generosity of my brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Charlotte," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "The announcement that the DSA has surpassed its goal is proof of parishioners' commitment to diocesan ministries. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all who have made sacrifices to make this possible."

As of May 8, $3,190,000 had been pledged, putting the appeal at 116 percent of its $2,760,000 goal. To date, 60 parishes and missions have exceeded their goal; another five are at 90 percent of their targeted goals. All told, more than 18,000 households have donated to the campaign, making that the largest number to ever participate in the annual appeal.

The goal was also reached and surpassed in a record amount of time, added Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development. "This indicates parishioners are embracing stewardship as a way of life," she said. "People see themselves as part of the body of Christ and feel a need to reach beyond individual and parish needs, and share what they have with those less fortunate."

"Part of the purpose of the appeal is to spread the message about the availability of ministries in the diocese," Rohrman added. "This unprecedented response is further evidence that people are being educated as to the vast extent of our diocesan ministries and what they do to change people's lives."

Prayer is a focus of the DSA campaign as well. Prayer requests were at an all-time high as more than 6,000 individuals sent in prayer cards to Bishop Curlin. He remembers those petitions in daily Mass.

DSA funding allows 35 diocesan ministries to offer services in parishes and missions throughout the western part of the state. Each parish and mission was assigned a specific goal for the DSA. Once achieved, 100 percent of funds over and above the goal are returned to the parish. Missions and parishes that fall short will be assessed the difference from the weekly offertory.

Operational costs for the DSA are approximately 3 percent of the campaign goal. This amount ranks low when compared to other dioceses,

See **Support Appeal**, page 3

Message of the Holy Father

32nd World Communications Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks for the 32nd World Communications Day May 24:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

1. In this second of the three years leading to the Great Jubilee of the year 2000, we turn our attention to the Holy Spirit and to his action in the Church, in our lives and in the world. The Spirit is the "guardian of hope in the human heart" (*Dominum et Vivificantem,* 67). For this reason, then, the theme for the 32nd World Communications is "Sustained by the Holy Spirit, Communicate Hope."

The hope in which the Spirit sustains believers is above all eschatological. It is hope for salvation — hope of heaven, hope for perfect communion with God. Such hope is, as the Letter to the Hebrews puts it, "a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf" (Heb 6:19-20).

2. But the eschatological hope dwelling in Christian hearts is deeply related to the search for happiness and fulfillment in this life. Hope of heaven stirs genuine concern for the well being of men and women here and now. "If any one says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20). Redemption, which is God's healing of the divine-human relationship, goes hand in hand with the healing of our relationships with one another; and the hope born of the redemption looks to this double healing.

This is why it is so important that Christians prepare for the Great Jubilee of the dawn of the Third Millennium by renewing their hope in the final coming of the Kingdom of God, while also reading more perceptively the signs of hope found in the world around them. Among the signs of hope are these: scientific, technological and especially medical progress in the service of human life, a greater awareness of our responsibility for the environment, efforts to restore peace and justice where they have been violated, a desire for reconciliation and solidarity among peoples, particularly in the complex relationship between the North and South of the world. In the church too there are many signs of hope, among them a more attentive listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit prompting the acceptance of charisma and the promotion of the laity, a deeper commitment to Christian unity and a growing recognition of the importance of dialogue with other religions and with contemporary culture (cf. *Tertio Millennio Adveniente,* 46).

3. Christian communicators will communicate hope credibly if they first experience hope in their own lives, and this will happen only if they are men and women of prayer. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, prayer enables us to be "ready always with an answer to everyone who asks a reason for the hope they see in us" (1 Pt 3:15). This is how the Christian communicator learns to present the message of hope to the men and women of our times with the force of truth.

4. It can never be forgotten that communication through the media is not a utilitarian exercise intended simply to motivate, persuade or sell. Still less is it a vehicle for ideology. The media can at times reduce human beings to units of consumption or competing interest groups, or manipulate viewers and readers and listeners as mere ciphers from whom some advantage is sought, whether product sales or political support; and these things destroy community. It is the task of communication to bring people together and enrich their lives, not to isolate and exploit them. The means of social communication, properly used, can help to create and sustain a human community based on justice and charity; and, in so far as they do that, they will be signs of hope.

5. The means of social communication are indeed the new "Areopagus" of today's world — a great forum which, at its best, makes possible the exchange of truthful information, constructive ideas and sound values, and so creates community. This in turn challenges the church in her approach to communications not only to use the media to spread the Gospel but actually to integrate the Gospel message into the 'new culture' created by modern communications, with their "new languages, new techniques and a new psychology" (*Redemptoris Missio,* 37).

Christian communicators need a formation which enables them to work effectively in a media environment of this kind. Such a formation will have to be comprehensive: training in technical skills; training in ethics and morality, with particular attention to values and norms relevant to their professional work; training in human culture, in philosophy, history, social sciences and aesthetics. But, before all else, it will have to be a formation in the interior life, the life of the spirit.

Christian communicators need to be men and women of Spirit-filled prayer, entering ever more deeply into communion with God in order to grow in their ability to foster communion among their fellow human beings. They must be schooled in hope by the Holy Spirit, "the principal agent of the new evangelization" (*Tertio Millennio Adveniente,* 45), so that they can communicate hope to others.

The Virgin Mary is the perfect model of the hope which Christian communicators seek to stir in themselves and share with others. "Mary gave full expression to the longing of the poor of Yahweh and is a radiant model for those who entrust themselves with all their hearts to the promises of God" (*Tertio Millennio Adveniente,* 48). As the Church takes her pilgrim path towards the Great Jubilee, we turn to Mary whose deep listening to the Holy Spirit opened the world to the great event of the Incarnation, the source of all our hope.

Nuclear,
from page 1

as possible, would be extended to all nations and would take place under effective international controls.

"The need to proceed applies to all countries, both those officially considered nuclear states and others which have a nuclear capacity," Msgr. Martin said. "This obviously requires both effective international control and greater security and cooperation among states."

Members of the Asian synod discussed nuclear arms proliferation and other arms issues May 12.

In one of their final sessions before the April 19-May 14 meeting came to an end, the synod members advanced a series of propositions for Pope John Paul II's consideration as he formulated a message on the gathering.

One of the propositions read in part, "weapons of mass destruction, conventional and nuclear, are a wasteful expenditure in national budgets and exceed the moral requirements of self-defense."

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Scripture

Readings for the week of May 17 - 23, 1998

Sunday
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
John 14:23-29

Monday
Acts 16:11-15
John 15:26—16:4

Tuesday
Acts 16:22-34
John 16:5-11

Wednesday
Acts 17:15,22—18:1
John 16:12-15

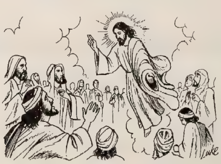
Ascension Thursday
Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Luke 24:46-53

Friday
Acts 18:9-18
John 16:20-23

Saturday
Acts 18:23-28
John 16:23-28

Ireland 98
Diocese of Charlotte
November 1 through 10
With
Father Mauricio West
Vicar General and Chancellor
No Blarney: Send more information
Send name, address, and phone number to:
Joann Keane
Director of Communications
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
Or E-mail: jskeane@aol.com

The Ascension



"Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God." (Luke 24:50-53) The feast of the Ascension is May 21.

Saints & Scripture

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CRISM Spring Fling

Vitality Springs Eternal During Annual Seniors Event

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Thelma Hatchet of St. Mary Parish in Greensboro listens intently as bingo caller Joan Shearer announces another number. Bingo was one of many CRISM Spring Fling activities.

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — For all intents and purposes, it could be considered the most anticipated senior event of the diocese. And on April 29, over 100 senior members of the diocese came to the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory for this annual senior gathering — the spring fling.

For many elders, it was their 12th consecutive year of participating in the gala affair sponsored by Catholic Social Services elder ministry.

On arrival, each participant was given a full itinerary of the day filled with a variety of activities. Attached to it was a white sheet of paper with a song title. As part of the ice-breaking activities, everyone was asked to sing their song out loud to find others with the same song. Spontaneous eruptions of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," and "Nothing Could Be Finer Than To Be In Carolina," brought together groups who would later sing their tunes in unison.

Those who have attended in previous years enjoyed some of the familiar activities which have become traditions such as bingo, the sing-a-long, walking tours and the closing Mass. New items were also added this year such as dancing — with a live band, crafts, and viewing a historical video on the diocese.

Gerry Carter, director of special ministries — 10 diocesan programs — worked with program director Sandra Breakfield to ensure the quality of those popular events for seniors. "This is a day of fellowship, a day of fun and I hope each one of you brings some special memories home," said Breakfield.

Adding to the playful atmosphere was the presence of Golden Classic Vending, who provided a booth of free popcorn, cotton candy and snowcones throughout the day. "Don't worry, there are no calories, they don't count today," joked Carter. Judging from the steady flow of business, many enjoyed a little indulging at the concession stand.

"I come [to the Spring Fling] to get out of town," said 91-year-old Harry Minnemeyer from St. Pius X Catholic Church in Greensboro with a smile. "This is my third year and I enjoy the line dancing, the good food and the wonderful people I meet," he said. While the live band played, Harry did not seem to tire as he danced all the three sessions with different partners. His only limitation: finding partners with his energy level.

Frank Bollero from St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville says this was his first, but not his last. He came with 10 other people from the Statesville senior's group. "It is a great opportunity to meet other Catholic seniors from different churches in the diocese," he said.

Concluding the day, as always, was a spiritually uplifting Mass, this year celebrated by Jesuit Father Vincent Alagia from Hot Springs Retreat House. Father Alagia seemed to connect immediately with the group as he reached out to everyone.

"They say that today there are more seniors in the emergency room because of sporting accidents," said Father Alagia, illustrating how seniors are living longer, fuller lives. "We have much to contribute and offer society but sometimes it takes society awhile to catch on."

Support Appeal, from page 1

some reporting expenses as high as 15 percent. "The local appeal is handled by the diocese. Many other dioceses and archdioceses use outside organizations," noted Rohrman.

Though the financial goal is a component of the campaign, it is not the appeal's only purpose, added Rohrman. "People are realizing by helping others in the diocese, they are living the Beatitudes — feeding the hungry, doing it for Christ."

Bishop Curlin agrees. "Everywhere we look, we see the outstretched arms of the church seeking to bring Christ to those in need. St. Paul said, 'In the twilight of life, God will judge us by the love we gave to the needy.' I truly believe He will give a rich reward to those who have so generously and unselfishly provided charitable outreach."

Meetings Scheduled For Triad School Survey Results

Results from the Triad-area Catholic Schools Survey will be presented at public meetings in High Point, Greensboro and Winston-Salem later this month.

More than 11,000 surveys were mailed in February to Triad-area Catholic parishioners and to parents of children who attend Catholic schools in the Triad to determine their opinions and attitudes about building new Catholic schools in the area.

The independent research study commissioned by the diocese was conducted by Epley Associates, a statewide communications and research firm. Return rates for the survey were substantial, with an overall return rate topping 50 percent.

According to Dr. Mitch Javidi, a N.C. State University Associate Professor and Epley researcher, the number of surveys returned indicate a high interest in the issue of Catholic Schools. Dr. Javidi will present survey results during the upcoming meetings.

Comprehensive results will help diocesan and local Triad leaders develop recommendations to Bishop William G. Curlin about Triad Catholic Schools early this fall.

Triad Catholic Schools Facilities Survey results will be presented May 26 — Greensboro — in the Holiday Inn Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center (Guilford Ballroom — use the South Lobby Entrance of the Convention Center); May 27 at Holy Family in Clemmons; and May 28 at Immaculate Heart of Mary in High Point. All meetings will be held from 7 - 9 pm.

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Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
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Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM, Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

Since the legalization of abortion in 1973 (Roe vs. Wade), over 35,000,000 pre-born babies have been murdered in the name of choice.

> *"When the sense of God is lost, there is also a tendency to lose the sense of man, of his dignity and his life; in turn, the systematic violation of the moral law, especially in the serious matter of respect for human life and its dignity, produces a kind of progressive darkening of the capacity to discern God's living and saving presence."*
>
> — John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience May 6.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis in preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we reflect today on Mary, our model and guide in faith. When she was asked to become the mother of the Messiah, Mary's faith enabled her to give a humble and generous response. The depth of her faith is shown in the Gospel account of the wedding feast of Cana. In obedience to an inner inspiration, she says to Jesus: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Although Jesus says that his hour has not yet come, Mary's understanding of the mystery of divine mercy prompts her to tell the servants to do whatever he commands them. In this way, she gives the example of a faith in Jesus which rises above all obstacles.

Mary's faith was frequently tested during the public life of Jesus, especially when she witnessed the rejection of her son. At the foot of the cross, her pilgrimage of faith had its moment of most severe testing. Mary continued to believe that, because Jesus was the Son of God, his sacrifice would bring salvation to humanity. The Resurrection was the definitive confirmation of Mary's faith, and it filled her heart with intense joy.

I warmly welcome the Lutheran visitors from Norway and Sweden and the members of the Swedish Christian Association for Religious Studies in Goteborg. I extend a special greeting to the delegation of the Ministry for the Interior of Thailand, led by the minister.

Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Thailand and the United States of America, I invoke the abundant blessings of Almighty God.

Pope To Revisit Croatia, Says Local Bishop's Conference

ROME (CNS) — Croatia's bishops have announced that Pope John Paul II will make his second pastoral visit to their country and will beatify a controversial cardinal.

Pope John Paul will visit the Croatian capital, Zagreb, the national shrine of Marija Bistrica and the coastal city of Split Oct. 3-4, said Archbishop Josip Bozanic of Zagreb. On the first day, he said, the pope will beatify Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac.

The communist government of what was then Yugoslavia tried Cardinal Stepinac after World War II and sentenced him to jail for collaborating with the puppet regime established by the Germans in Croatia during the war.

He died under house arrest in his hometown, Krasic, in 1962. Serbs consider Cardinal Stepinac a Nazi sympathizer, while Croat Catholics view him as a hero for resisting postwar communist attempts to suppress religion in Croatia.

During his two-day pastoral visit to Zagreb in September 1994, Pope John Paul asked Croatian Catholics to lead the way in reconciliation efforts in the former Yugoslavia. An estimated 70 percent of Croatia's 4.5 million people are Catholic.

Coming Of Age

Amy Welborn

You Are What You Write

Ellie sat outside my office, wads of tissues clutched in her hand and friends anxiously fluttering about.

"I have to talk to you," she hiccuped.

Accompanied by her "personal assistant," Ellie shot into my office and onto a chair even before I had the door fully open.

"It's OK," she gulped, waving what now looked like a giant spitball toward her friend. "She knows. She's a part of it, too."

Ellie and Jill were in big trouble. Not with a teacher or an administrator, mind you, but with a group with much more power: their peers.

It seems that Ellie and Jill kept a certain notebook. On the lines of this pure white paper, they penned pages and pages of none-too-complimentary words about classmates.

They also passed notes to each other with the same generous theme, and these notes were stuffed in the book — a slam book, as it's called in some places.

Can you guess why Ellie was upset (in a state of hysterical fear would be a more apt description).

The notebook had been found.

A classmate — not a friend, not an enemy — found the notebook, which one of the girls had left on top of the lockers.

The classmate read through it. Then for some strange reason, she did something odd. The girl herself described it as a sort of quest for justice, but whatever her reason she did it.

She took the notes that mocked Guy and handed them over to Guy. She sorted out the notes that made fun of Susan and helpfully passed them on. After she'd finished her mission of spreading those particular epistles to all concerned, she proceeded to share the notebook with a rapidly expanding group of interested parties.

This had started in the morning, and now, after lunch, Ellie and Jill were starting to hear about it.

People they'd called friends to their faces discovered that the girls gleefully dissed them behind their backs, made crude jokes about them and even insulted their parents.

Kids who weren't privileged to move in the exalted circles of the popular discovered why, and read what the movers and the shakers of their class really thought about them.

Of course Ellie was upset.

Now, Jill wasn't thrilled either, but being of a clearer head than her friend was able to take responsibility.

"We shouldn't have done it," she said to me simply. "It was wrong."

Ellie could admit it too, but neither could she stem her fury with the future private investigator who'd found the thing.

"It wasn't hers" she pouted, "and she shouldn't have taken it."

Granted, so the next period I found little Sherlock Holmes, talked with her and then got all three of them together after school for an apology session.

There wasn't any serious trouble that came out of it. One boy who was rather cruelly targeted in the "Collected Works of Ellie" assured me that he was OK, even though he didn't quite get why she had to be so mean.

Ellie gulped that yes, indeed, she had learned her lesson. She wouldn't ever write stuff like that down again so it could be found. And if she did write it, she'd throw it away as soon as possible.

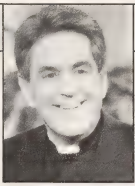
Was that the only lesson Ellie should have learned?

Shouldn't she have been alerted to the harm that the vicious side of her personality could inflict on others and even herself, and committed herself to doing something about it?

Amy Welborn is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Ten Romeo: Flying Fast And Fair

Dr. Millard Harmon has been a committed Christian all his life. In 1984 he took an early retirement from administering college campuses for the State University of New York to be a full-time humanitarian.

His lifelong avocation as a pilot, fueled by an innate desire to make a difference, literally took flight in 1985. You may already know about him and his aircraft, a single engine Beech-36, called Ten Romeo. He opened Soviet skies to Western light aircraft by flying into Moscow. Since then he has saved a children's summer camp in Tallinn, Estonia, by flying in food that wasn't available locally, brought a Soviet child to the United States for medical care and returned him home to a normal life. He has also flown 156 speed records in Ten Romeo, and has been twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

He says: "In all these humanitarian efforts and through the life-threatening experiences I often face, the Lord has indeed been my partner in attempting to make the world a better place."

Seventy-two-year-old Mil, Ten Romeo and the Lord aren't headed for the hangar yet. Over Easter 1997 Mil began a new mission. "The Spirit seemed to suggest that I attempt to build a 'Medicine Bridge' between Key West and Havana ... The real task is to remove medicine and food from sanctions that deny help to hospitalized children just 90 miles from our shores. These sanctions steal the generosity from American hearts!"

Mil's plan, however, nearly put him out of business as a humanitarian. Frustrated in four attempts to get State Department permission to land in Havana, he altered his plans. He made Grand Cayman his destination with an overflight of Havana in order to set another speed record. With $50,000 in donated medicines on board, he just knew the Lord would find a way to get the needed supplies from Grand Cayman to Havana.

And that's what happened. Over Cuba his engine began to run rough and developed an oil leak, and Mil was forced to make an emergency landing at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana.

In Havana, he immediately gave the penicillin and asthma medicines he had collected from doctors to Caritas Cubana, a religious organization that had agreed to distribute the medicine. Because the U.S. Federal agents were suspicious that his landing was "contrived" since he had been seeking entry for so long, Mil knew he would have to prove that his plane was indeed malfunctioning.

Landing in Albany, N. Y., he and his plane were surrounded by 12 customs officers and a covey of FAA officials as well as two chase planes that had tailed him from Miami. Mil produced documentation showing that Ten Romeo has blown a gasket, but his plane was confiscated and Mil was slapped with a $34,000 fine, not including legal fees.

I spoke with Mil by phone this week and am glad to report that Ten Romeo has been returned, but he had to remortgage his home to cover the penalties. But he is not bitter: "After all, Father Tom, I'm just doing the work of the Lord."

Many people say and believe that "God will find a way." And God does — especially when he works through people as determined as Mil Harmon. He is, for me, a singular example of someone who turns faith into action. Somehow, I don't think we've heard the last of Dr. Millard Harmon or Ten Romeo.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

A Young Woman Afraid to "Come Home" to Church

Q. A friend sent me your recent column about baby boomers and confession. I'm not a "boomer". I'm only 25, but I could relate to the person who wrote to you.

I grew up with a mother who was, and still is, angry at the Catholic Church. As a result, I was baptized and made first penance and Communion, but we had little involvement with the church.

I now live in a different town and have established a relationship with God, which I would like to deepen by joining a parish, going to confession and becoming a practicing Catholic.

But where do I start? I am asking for your brochure on confession, but it's deeper than that.

Father, I was a promiscuous young lady in my early 20s. I also aborted a child at 20. Several years ago I joined a 12-step program, found God and realized he was there for me all those years I rejected him.

I pray several times daily now. Each Sunday I walk the two blocks to church, only to walk back home. I feel I'm not a "real" Catholic because of the abortion and the premarital sex.

I consider myself pro-life now, but I feel I can't really be that because I already committed the sin.

My family is all fragmented — alcoholism, drug abuse, anger at God and others, and so on. In becoming a practicing Catholic I would be alone in it. I'm scared to be a young lady alone in pews full of whole families.

I guess I need advice, Father. What should be my first step? How can I, with all my sins, and not knowing how to do it, deepen my relationship with God and my church?

A. I was deeply moved by your letter, not only in compassion for you, but because so many other "baby boomers" or post-boomers responded to that column in ways similar to your own.

My only straight and honest answer for you is, God wants you back!

You have done some very wrong things. You obviously acknowledge that and are deeply repentant.

However, whatever you have done is past, and there's no possibility or need to unravel the degree of sinfulness. We just put that in God's hands in the sacrament of penance and rely with total trust on his forgiveness.

Please give yourself time to sit quietly and read slowly and reflectively the first part of the parable of the forgiving Father (Lk 15:11-24).

Do this two or three times. Realize this father Jesus is talking about is God. And the father's anxiety to be reconciled to his child is God's attitude toward you.

I hope others who think repentance, forgiveness and return are out of reach will do the same.

Finally, you can be sure you're not the only one in church with the same kind of story. There are many, and a number of them feel as alone as you do. Do what you know is right, pick up your life as a Catholic and move on.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Spirituality For Today

Father John Catoir

Who Jesus Is

Martin Buber once wrote, "The atheist, staring from his attic window, is often nearer to God than the believer caught up in his own false image of God."

That's the way I felt about the late astronomer Carl Sagan. He was a good man who was filled with a love of planet Earth. Compared to fire-breathing fundamentalists, he was a breath of fresh air.

However, he was an agnostic insisting that there is not a shred of evidence in the entire universe for the existence of the supernatural. True enough, there is no empirical evidence for God's existence, but science is not the only source of knowledge.

We have philosophy and the knowledge that comes to us in the form of faith.

Faith is the acceptance of revelation; it is not the product of reason alone. Some people have faith, but it is watered down. I know a woman who considers herself a Catholic, but she is totally immersed in New Age thinking. She believes in reincarnation and considers Jesus to be human, saying he was just like us, only holier.

This is an echo of the second-century heresy of Christian gnosticism which combined elements of Platonic philosophy and Eastern mysticism. It is an error that denies the divinity of Christ, and therefore any claim that he was unique.

Christological errors have been in the church since the beginning. People either exaggerated Christ's divinity to the point of denying his human nature, or they made him into a super human being, denying his divinity like the gnostics.

Believing that Jesus was a divine person takes a leap of faith that transcends reason. Faith is not the result of common sense or rational scientism. We do not believe because we understand fully, we believe so as to understand better.

Some Catholic theologians have gotten caught up in New Age thinking. I think one such author is Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Michael Morwood, who wrote, "Tomorrow's Catholic, Understanding God and Jesus in a New Millennium" (Twenty-Third Publications, Mystic, Conn. 1997).

Father Morwood is a good man who is probably a lot holier than I, but it seems he ended up denying original sin, the need for a savior, the role of Christ as redeemer, the divinity of Jesus and the doctrine of the Trinity. He presents his thinking as new knowledge based on recent Scriptural research, but it is as old as the church itself.

His archbishop was quick to say that his book is filled with serious errors. Father Morwood defended himself on the basis of freedom of conscience. In a sense he's right, anyone is free to believe anything he or she wants, but individual Catholics are not free to rewrite the Nicene Creed.

We need the magisterium to guide us in understanding the mysteries of our faith. Free-lance theologians have the mission to delve into the facts that surround the mysteries. We hope that in the process they do not throw out the mysteries as well.

Father John Catoir is a CNS columnist.

Church Teaching On Suicide Explained In Wake Of Deaths

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two recent suicides — of a Swiss Guard at the Vatican and of a bishop in Pakistan — prompted questions about Catholic Church teaching on suicide.

While the Catholic Church considers suicide an affront to God, the giver of life, and an offense against the bonds of love and friendship which tie people to one another, in most cases the church avoids passing moral judgment on a person who felt pushed to such an extreme.

Vatican officials were preparing May 7 to celebrate the funeral of a Swiss Guard who committed suicide after murdering his commander and the commander's wife when news reports came that a Pakistani bishop committed suicide May 6. The bishop reportedly took his own life to protest a death sentence issued against a Christian convicted of blasphemy.

A funeral Mass was celebrated for the young Swiss Guard in the Vatican's St. Anne Church the day after a funeral in St. Peter's Basilica for the Swiss Guard commander and his wife.

For much of this century, the Catholic Church prohibited public funerals and Catholic burials for those who committed suicide. The prohibition was contained in the 1917 Code of Canon Law, but was dropped from the new code promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1983.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman, said the change was in line with "a greater understanding of human psychology, especially regarding certain illnesses, including very serious forms of depression."

The spokesman, who trained as a medical doctor and holds a degree in psychiatry, said such illnesses could allow someone to appear to function normally, but to experience such interior anguish "that it seriously places in jeopardy human freedom and can lead to an act of suicide."

"Reflection on this has led to the conclusion that some forms of suicide can be considered the result of an illness in which human freedom was seriously damaged. This person does not have the fullness of his freedom. Therefore, if he is a victim because his freedom is not fully functioning, this act is not morally imputable," Navarro-Valls said.

The spokesman referred to the young Swiss Guard as "a victim, of himself, but still a victim."

Criminal guilt, he said, would be up legal authorities to determine and moral guilt would be determined "obviously, by God alone."

At the same time, he said, the church has a pastoral obligation to ensure that the Catholic burial of a victim of suicide does not give scandal and does not contribute to the anguish of others.

Vatican officials decided to hold separate funerals for the Swiss Guard members who died in the May 4 incident.

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" also gives the church's teaching on suicide.

"We are the stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of," the catechism says. "Suicide contradicts the natural inclination of the human being to preserve and perpetuate his life.

"It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations," it says.

While suicide is contrary to love of God and neighbor, the catechism says, "grave psychological disturbances, anguish or grave fear of hardship, suffering or torture can diminish the responsibility of one committing suicide."

"We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives," the catechism continues. "By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The church prays for those who have taken their own lives."

Pakistani Bishop Who Criticized Blasphemy Laws Commits Suicide

LAHORE, Pakistan (CNS) — Pakistani Bishop John Joseph of Faisalabad, a leading critic of Pakistan's harsh Islamic blasphemy laws, committed suicide May 6 in an apparent protest against an application of the law.

Pakistani police and a bishops' conference official said May 7 that Bishop Joseph shot himself to death in front of a court building in Sahiwal, 270 miles south of Islamabad, after visiting the family of Ayub Masih, a Christian condemned to death under the blasphemy law.

According Peter Jacob, executive secretary of the Pakistani bishops' National Commission for Justice and Peace, Bishop Joseph, 65, who chaired the commission, took his life in front of the court building.

Jacob told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that Bishop Joseph went to the court with Dominican Father Yaqoob Farooq. As they approached the building, the bishop asked the priest to stay behind, and he went on alone.

After hearing a shot, the priest ran to the scene and found the bishop dead of a gunshot wound to the neck, Jacob said.

The site is where Ayub — the name Masih is used to identify people as Christians — was shot at Nov. 6 while awaiting a hearing on his blasphemy case. Ayub was convicted April 27.

Pakistani laws stipulate a penalty of death or life imprisonment for defaming the Prophet Mohammed, founder of Islam, and life imprisonment for those who insult the Koran, Islam's holy book. The country's national court of Shariah, the Islamic law, has interpreted the law as requiring a mandatory death sentence for those convicted of blasphemy against the prophet.

Bishop Joseph told an interreligious seminar last summer that the law was unjust, and "we are ready even to sacrifice our lives for the change of this."

UCA News reported that earlier May 6, at Father Farooq's parish, Bishop Joseph addressed a meeting organized to pray for victims of the blasphemy laws.

"We have to do something big to undo the law and to be remembered" were Bishop Joseph's last words to the parishioners, reported one of them, Rubina Shjarif, who said the bishop urged continued prayers and fasting for Ayub.

At the Vatican, members of the Synod of Bishops for Asia were informed that Bishop Joseph had died, but the announcement made no mention of the cause of death.

Archbishop Armando Trindade of Lahore, president of the Pakistani bishops' conference, led the traditional Latin prayer for the dead in the synod hall.

The blasphemy laws were introduced in 1986 under an Islamization program pursued by the late president, Gen. Mohammad Zia ul-Haq. They have been widely criticized as discriminatory toward non-Muslims and as wide open to abuse by Muslims seeking retribution against their non-Muslim neighbors.

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Foto por Luis Wolf

El obispo Curlin impone las manos sobre la cabeza del seminarista Ricardo Sánchez. La Iglesia usa este gesto para conferir el Espíritu Santo.

Seminarista ordenado diácono en Charlotte

Por LUIS A. WOLF

CHARLOTTE – El pasado 19 de abril, en la Catedral de San Patricio, el obispo Monseñor Guillermo G. Curlin ordenó como diácono al seminarista Ricardo Fabio Sánchez.

La ceremonia de ordenación fue muy emocionante tanto para Ricardo como para los asistentes. La iglesia estaba llena con personas locales y de otras partes de la diócesis, principalmente del área de Morganton y Salisbury.

Después de su presentación como candidato a la ordenación y el consentimiento de los asistentes con su aplauso, el Obispo Curlin se dirigió a Ricardo con palabras muy elocuentes.

En su homilía, el Monseñor Curlin le dijo al seminarista "¿Qué es lo que yo, como tu obispo, quisiera que fueras tú? Yo te pido una sola cosa: que seas un santo". El obispo le pidió que centrara su vida en Jesucristo, en sus oraciones, en la Eucaristía, que leyera las escrituras y reflexionara lo que es amar al pueblo de Dios como Jesús lo amó. "De otra forma ser un diácono y un sacerdote no significa nada", dijo él.

El obispo terminó su homilía diciendo "cuando vengas al frente de este altar y te postres con la cara en el suelo, te pido que digas lo que yo dije cuando fui ordenado sacerdote y también cuando fui nombrado obispo hace 10 años. Yo dije, Señor ayúdame a ser un sacerdote santo. Oh Señor, ayúdame a ser un obispo santo. Yo te ruego que digas, Oh Señor, ayúdame a ser un sacerdote santo y que seas uno".

En el rito de ordenación Ricardo Sánchez prometió obedecer el celibato y obedecer y respetar al pastor de la diócesis y a sus sucesores.

Después de la letanía de los santos, durante la cual el candidato se postró como acto de humildad, siguió la imposición de las manos del obispo sobre la cabeza del candidato, la investidura con la estola y la dalmática, la presentación del libro de los evangelios y el beso de la paz.

El nuevo diácono nació en Costa Rica donde estudió teología en la Universidad Anselmo Llorente Lafuente, en San José. Fue miembro de la Congregación de Misioneros de San José, de la cual pidió dispensa de sus votos perpetuos, la que le fue concedida el año pasado en Roma. Seguidamente solicitó ser admitido como seminarista en la Diócesis de Charlotte, donde fue aceptado.

Sánchez estuvo cuatro meses en la parroquia de San Carlos Borromeo, en Morganton, con el Padre Kenneth Whittington y varios meses en la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón, en Salisbury, con el Padre Thomas Clements.

El se encuentra en su quinto año en el seminario de St. Meinrad, en St. Meinrad, Indiana, donde está terminando sus estudios para ser ordenado sacerdote el próximo año.

Padre Arturo de Aguilar: La vida por un solo día

Con motivo de haberse celebrado el pasado domingo el "Día de las Madres" reproducimos a continuación un artículo publicado en el "Comuniquémonos", en su edición del 12 de mayo de 1995, escrito por el que es hoy el Padre Arturo de Aguilar, cuando éste era un seminarista estudiando en Belmont Abbey y ayudando en la oficina del Centro Católico Hispano y en la confección de esta publicación.

Al comenzar a escribir este artículo no se me ocurría nada. Después de mucho pensar lo único que me vino a la mente fue una simpática poesía llamada «Mamá soy Paquito», que habla de un pequeñuelo arrepentido de sus travesuras y esto me recordó mi infancia. ¡Cuánto tuvo mi madre que batallar por las travesuras que mis hermanas y yo realizábamos, sin contar los líos en los que como todo niño, a veces nos metíamos! Pero ante cualquier situación, mi madre siempre estaba ahí para protegernos o para reprendernos cuando era necesario.

Si hay alguien de quién he estado siempre orgulloso ha sido de mi madre. No creo que ella sea la única madre que ha tenido que luchar contra viento y marea para sacar adelante su hogar y a su familia, pero al menos para mí siempre ha sido el gran ejemplo a seguir. Hoy día, algo que se ve cada vez más son mujeres pugnando a brazo partido por salir adelante, por no ser arrasadas por las corrientes de sociedades que las codifican y utilizan. A veces, dentro de las mismas familias la mujer es simplemente utilizada: la que lava, la que cocina, la que cuida a los niños, la que limpia la casa y además de todo eso, es la psicóloga familiar, la consejera y la amiga. ¡Vaya trabajo que se echa encima una mujer al casarse!

Como recompensa a todo su trabajo, lo que obtiene es el amor que los hijos y el esposo le dan. Otra recompensa más oficial es la que la sociedad, por tradición ha impuesto: el *día de las madres,* que muchas veces se convierte en *el día de más trabajo de las madres.* Las madres en *su día*, normalmente tienen que limpiar la casa, cocinar para los invitados a una fiesta que muchas veces ella misma tiene que organizar y al final limpiar todo. A pesar de todo esto, muchas de ellas son felices pues sus hijos se reúnen, les traen regalos y pasan *una* tarde agradable. Después, todo vuelve a la normalidad.

La vida por un solo día. Este es el título de esta reflexión: las mujeres, madres de familia, dan toda su vida de amor y de trabajo, de penas y alegrías por su familia: hijos y esposo y lo que reciben a cambio es *un solo día* de reconocimiento. Esto me hizo pensar ¿qué será lo que quisiera en realidad una madre? Por esto le hice esta pregunta a una señora amiga mía y lo que me contestó fue muy sencillo: «no quisiera un día para mí sola, sino mejor un minuto... pero un minuto de amor y agradecimiento de mi familia al día... o por lo menos a la semana». A la vez yo me pregunto ¿cuántas veces nos acordamos y agradecemos todo lo que nuestras madres hacen por nosotros? ¿O agradecemos lo que hicieron en nuestra infancia, soportarnos nuestras travesuras, llevándonos a la escuela, alimentándonos o simplemente escuchándonos? Yo no creo que un regalo material pueda demostrar del todo nuestro agradecimiento o nuestro amor, no creo que pueda más que una palabra amorosa, un abrazo o un beso... al día, o

Continuá en la paginá 2

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Amigos y amigas en Cristo:

En este mes de mayo celebramos muchas cosas: el día de las Madres; Pentecostés, cuando los apóstoles recibieron el Espíritu Santo; dos fiestas de María, la de Fátima y la de la Visitación.

Sabemos que mayo es el mes de María y por eso hoy vale la pena que centremos nuestras reflexiones en ella.

Todos los que venimos de pueblos latinos queremos mucho a María. La queremos cada uno a nuestro modo, pero todos la queremos de veras. Por eso hablar de María o escuchar algo que nos recuerde el amor que ella nos tiene, pienso que no será muy difícil.

Todos hemos recibido mucho de Dios a través de María. Sin embargo, no se trata de que amemos a María por los favores que nos pueda conseguir de Dios porque sería un amor egoísta. Se trata de amar a María porque sabemos que ella nos ama. Así que, en este mes de mayo, nuestra palabra tiene que ser de gratitud. Gratitud a Dios porque la ha creado, a Cristo porque nos la dio como Madre y gratitud a María porque continuamente cuida de nuestra fe, alimenta nuestra esperanza y mantiene vivo nuestro amor.

Hermanos y hermanas, María confió en Dios. ¿Cómo es nuestra confianza en Dios? De veras, de veras, quizá confiamos en pocas personas. ¿Confiamos de veras en Dios?

Cuando el Señor le habló a María, nada estaba claro para ella. Tendría que ser Madre misteriosamente, tendría que llevar a cabo la gran misión de ser Madre del Mesías. ¿Cómo fue posible que una mujer sencilla como ella pudiera decir que sí? Porque antes de haber escuchado a Dios, ya le amaba profundamente, por eso cuando le escuchó, confió plenamente en El. Esta es la invitación que María nos hace: confíen en Dios, aunque no vean claro. Confíen, aunque se queden solos confiando. Confíen, porque la única manera de que Dios siga creyendo en la humanidad es que, al menos, parte de la humanidad confíe en El.

Hermanos y hermanas, María ofreció a Dios lo que tenía: su sencillez, su disponibilidad, su tiempo y su vida. Esta actitud de María es un llamado a nuestro tiempo, a nuestras actitudes. ¿Qué ofrecemos a Dios y a los demás, lo que nos sobra o lo mejor que tenemos?

María vivió también rodeada de vecinos, de gente que era más pobre que ella, no vivió lejos de los enfermos, ni tampoco distante de los que estaban solos.

Esta es, pues, la invitación de María en este mes de mayo. Que sepamos hacer un mundo más humano, más de hermanos, con nuestra oración, con nuestra capacidad de pensar de que forma nos necesitan en la familia, en el trabajo, en las amistades. Que sepamos no sólo agradecerle a María que quiera ser nuestra Madre e intercesora, sino que también intentemos acercarnos a su vida, a la sencillez que practicó, a la acogida de la palabra y la voluntad de Dios, a la decisión de mantenerse siempre cerca de Jesús.

También quisiera recordarles que María sigue cerca de nosotros. Ella, que estuvo cerca de Jesús en los momentos difíciles, recibió de su Hijo, la misión de estar cerca de nosotros.

Si es cierto que todos pasamos mucha horas de soledad, de incertidumbre, de incomprensión, no es menos cierto que podemos compartir esa soledad, incomprensión o incertidumbre con María. Quien se acostumbre a hablar con María de una forma espontánea y natural, comprobará que su fe es más segura y que su vida tiene más claridad y serenidad.

En definitiva, que este mes de mayo nos haga recordar que al pronunciar el nombre de María, nos comprometemos con su sencillez, su confianza en Dios y su amor a los humildes.

Tú, María, que te ofreces a querernos como Madre buena, escucha nuestra oración en el día de hoy. No te alejes de nosotros, aunque nosotros nos alejemos de ti. Enséñanos a amar a Cristo como lo amaste tú".

Pentecostés

Dentro de dos semanas celebraremos la fiesta de Pentecostés. Año tras año la Iglesia se dispone a celebrar el aniversario de su nacimiento. Ella nació en la cruz el Viernes Santo, pero manifestó su nacimiento ante el mundo el día de Pentecostés, cuando los Apóstoles fueron "revestidos del poder desde lo alto".

El soplo oxigenador del Espíritu ha venido a despertar en la Iglesia energías escondidas, a levantar carismas adormecidas, a difundir aquel sentido de vitalidad y de alegría que hacen joven y actual a la Iglesia, dispuesta para anunciar su eterno mensaje a todas las personas de los tiempos nuevos.

"Como el Padre me ha enviado, así también los envío yo... Reciban el Espíritu Santo". El Espíritu Santo es el regalo que nos envía Cristo resucitado. Es la gran promesa del Padre. Hoy el Espíritu Santo quiere continuar su obra en la Iglesia, pero a través de nosotros. El es el alma y la vida de todo cristiano.

Reciban el Espíritu Santo

Somos los cristianos que debemos ir por todo el mundo y proclamar las maravillas de Dios. De un Dios que nos ha creado, que nos ama; que nos ha enviado a Jesús, que lo ha resucitado; que nos llama a todos a la vida plena.

Reafirmemos hoy nuestra fe y confianza en la acción del Espíritu Santo; esto es, en seguir a Jesús que camina con nosotros. Propongámonos con decisión firme tomar muy en serio todos los compromisos de nuestra vida diaria y de actuar siempre animados por la fuerza y vitalidad del Espíritu que hemos recibido. *(Tomado de "Unidos en la Oración", con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo).*

Manifestantes vuelven a instar por cierre de Escuela de las Américas

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Los organizadores de una asamblea y vigilia en Washington, que insta al cierre de la Escuela de las Américas en Fort Benning, Georgia, dijeron que los acontecimientos atrajeron a más de 1,000 manifestantes.

El 26 de abril se efectuó una asamblea de cinco horas en el Parque Lafayette, lugar de protestas frecuentes frente a la Casa Blanca. Una vigilia y acción de cabildeo fueron efectuadas el 27 de abril en los peldaños orientales del Capitolio; un segundo día para la vigilia y el cabildeo estaba señalado para el 28 de abril.

Los oradores de esos acontecimientos, organizados por SOA Watch, incluyeron a personas de los Estados Unidos así como a representantes de Colombia, Panamá y Honduras, que hablaron sobre las atrocidades que ellos alegaron que estaban siendo cometidas aún por militares graduados de la SOA en sus países.

Durante los años recientes, los opositores de la escuela han argumentado que la misma no cumple su papel de fomentar los derechos humanos para los latinoamericanos, sino que en vez de eso hace lo opuesto.

Heather Dean, director interino de SOA Watch en Washington, dijo al Catholic News Service que los participantes estadounidenses se proponían visitar a sus congresistas durante los días próximos para instarles a la aprobación de legislación a fin de cerrar la escuela.

Según dicha entidad, los graduados de la escuela regresan a sus países para torturas, encarcelar y matar a sus conciudadanos.

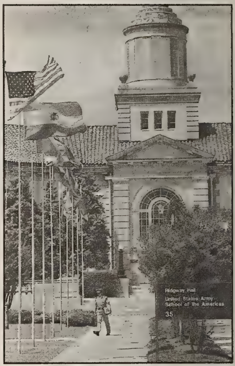


Foto CNS de Reuters

Un soldado camina frente a la Escuela de las Américas, del Ejército de los EE.UU., en Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia, el 24 de abril. Las protestas recientes sobre la escuela militar han destacado la controversia acerca de esa instalación.

viene de la paginá 1

por lo menos a la semana.

Concluyo mi reflexión pensando en que es a nuestra madre a la que debemos nuestro ser y por eso debemos estar totalmente agradecidos. La próxima vez no diré: « Mamá, soy Paquito ya no haré travesuras...» más bien le diré: «gracias mamá, te amo». Y trataré de ser mas explícito al demostrar ese amor. ***¡Felicidades a todas las madres!***

Foto por Carmen Hilton

Vista parcial de los asistentes al Foro Hispano

Foro Hispano en Charlotte

Por LUIS A. WOLF

CHARLOTTE – El pasado 30 de abril, con una asistencia de más de 100 personas, se llevó a cabo un Foro Hispano organizado por la Casa Internacional, en el edificio de los Ministerios Bautistas de Metrolina.

El programa, que fue muy informativo, mantuvo interesado a todos los asistentes.

Después de la bienvenida que dio Linda Holland, directora ejecutiva de la Casa Internacional, la señora Dawn Custalow Griffiths, administradora de los programas de inglés como segunda para adultos, lengua del Central Piedmont Community College presentó a Gilda Rubio-Festa, instructora de inglés de CPCC.

La señora Rubio-Festa hizo una presentación muy interesante sobre la perspectiva histórica de los hispanos en los Estados Unidos y de los diferentes grupos de inmigrantes. Ella completó su charla con información sobre las características y el número de la población hispana en el Condado de Mecklenburg.

El resto del programa trató sobre los problemas de trabajo, vivienda, salud, educación, seguridad pública y mujeres maltratadas. con unas escenas cortos de casos que ocurren o pueden ocurrir.

Para concluir el abogado Alan Gordon respondió a varias preguntas relacionadas con las leyes de inmigración.

(De acuerdo con varias fuentes de información se estima que hay 45,000 hispanos viviendo en el condado de Mecklenburg y aumentando diariamente. De acuerdo con un artículo del Business Journal de Diciembre de 1997 se estima que a Charlotte llegan 12 hispanos al día y que dentro de los próximos cuatro años la población hispana en Carolina del Norte será el grupo minoritario mas numeroso en el estado.)

Iglesia de Estados Unidos financia proyectos en America Latina

WASHINGTON (CNS)—El Comité de los Obispos Estadounidenses sobre la Iglesia de la América Latina anunció subvenciones en abril de casi $2.3 millones para financiar a 120 proyectos eclesiásticos en la América Latina.

Una segunda vuelta de subvenciones será aprobada en noviembre próximo.

Las subvenciones de primavera fluctuaron en importancia desde una de $1,000 para la enseñanza para cuatro hermanas de la Compañía de Santa Teresa de Jesús en Costa Rica hasta $550,000 para ayudar a financiar al Consejo Episcopal de la América Latina (CELAM) y tres de sus proyectos especiales para todo el continente en 1998.

La mayoría de los proyectos financiados estaban en la escala de $5,000 a $20,000. La mayor parte se halla en los terrenos de la evangelización, la catequización, el desarrollo pastoral o la enseñanza para los seminaristas, catequistas, maestros, dirigentes laicos, personal religioso o dirigencia diocesana.

Hubo también algunos proyectos de justicia y desarrollo social auspiciados por la Iglesia, tales como uno de $40,000 para la Arquidiócesis de Castries, Santa Lucía, para su proyecto de "Producción de Alimentos y Auto-Dependencia", y $30,000 a la Escuela de Derecho Diocesana de Jeremie, Haití, para su trabajo en la promoción de los derechos humanos y la dignidad a través de la ley en Haití.

La Conferencia Episcopal del Ecuador usará una subvención de $56,250 para producir y distribuir 50,000 Biblias. En la República Dominicana, una subvención de $21,332 se usará para comprar libros para la biblioteca del seminario nacional.

Documento del Vaticano explora el significado de las peregrinaciones

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Un nuevo documento del Vaticano explora la historia de las peregrinaciones y su significado, a la luz de las celebraciones de la Iglesia Católica para el año 2,000.

Varios funcionarios del Vaticano presentaron el documento, titulado "La Peregrinación en el Gran Jubileo" el 28 de abril. Ellos informaron que el último documento del Vaticano dedicado a las peregrinaciones había sido producido en 1936 por la oficina, que se convirtió después en la Congregación para el Clero.

El nuevo documento de 16 páginas, incluyendo a las notas aclaratorias, fue el fruto de la gestión de varios años por parte del Consejo Pontificio para los Migrantes y los Viajeros.

El Cardenal Giovanni Cheli, presidente del consejo, dijo: "Tenemos el deseo de que este documento apoye a la misión del Santo Padre y ayude a todos los peregrinos a aceptar su invitación" a conmemorar el año 2,000.

En su exposición sobre "la riqueza espiritual que se halla en la experiencia de las peregrinaciones", el documento empieza por la historia de la creación del hombre en el Libro del Génesis y continúa a través de las diversas etapas del éxodo de los antiguos hebreos desde Egipto, los relatos del Evangelio sobre la vida de Jesús y el desarrollo de las tradiciones de las peregrinaciones en la Iglesia del principio y en la Edad Media.

Después se refiere a las decisiones del Concilio Vaticano II que han ayudado a preparar a la Iglesia moderna para el tercer milenio, y hace notar de qué modo los medios de viaje y comunicaciones modernos han cambiado la naturaleza de las peregrinaciones al Vaticano, la Tierra Santa y los santuarios de todo el mundo.

Las últimas páginas del documento contienen varios modos de interpretar las peregrinaciones, recomendando asuntos que podrían exigir atención pastoral especial.

Papa entristecido ora porcomandante de guardia y esposa asesinados

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El entristecido Papa Juan Pablo II oró ante tres féretros, pidiendo la misericordia de Dios para el guardia suizo que asesinó a su comandante y a la esposa de éste antes de suicidarse.

El Vaticano dijo que el asesinato del Coronel Alois Estermann y de su esposa, Gladys Meza Romero, fué el producto de "demencia momentánea" por parte de un miembro disgustado del cuerpo papal selecto, Cedric Tornay, de 23 años de edad.

El Papa se arrodilló en oración el 6 de mayo en la capilla de la Guardia Suiza en el Vaticano, donde yacían los cadáveres de los tres. En un telegrama anterior, el Pontífice calificó a los asesinatos de "humanamente incomprensibles".

Estermann, designado por el Papa como jefe de la Guardia Suiza solamente horas antes de que fuera muerto, habría de ser homenajeado en una ceremonia del Vaticano por su ascenso. En vez de eso, cerca de 200 familiares y amigos estuvieron asistiendo a los servicios fúnebres en el Vaticano. El Papa les dirigió algunas observaciones emocionadas en una audiencia general el 6 de mayo.

"Lo que debería haber sido una reunión alegre se ha transformado en una tragedia dolorosa, que oprime los corazones de todos y que ha sido causa de gran sufrimiento para mí", dijo el Papa en alemán.

El ofreció sus condolencias a las familias de Estermann y de su esposa, diciendo que él oraba porque Dios "les diera la bienvenida a sus almas en paz".

El Papa dijo que también simpatizaba con el sufrimiento de la familia Tornay. Agregó que Tornay "se halla ahora ante el juicio de Dios, a cuya misericordia le encomiendo".

Después de haber sido puestas sobre aviso por un vecino a últimas horas del 4 de mayo, las autoridades del Vaticano descubrieron los cadáveres de Estermann, de 43 años de edad; de su esposa de 49 años y de Tornay, en un recibidor del apartamento de los Estermann, inmediatamente debajo del edificio residencial del Papa.

Foto CNS de Reuters

MUJERES GUATEMALTECAS — Mujeres de Guatemala observan el cortejo fúnebre de Monseñor Juan Gerardi Conedera el 29 de abril en Ciudad Guatemala. El Obispo Auxiliar de esa ciudad fue asesinado el 26 de abril, dos días después de haber presentado un informe sobre los abusos contra los derechos humanos durante la guerra civil de 36 años en Guatemala.

Llamado a unidad de guatemaltecos en funerales de obispo

CIUDAD GUATEMALA (CNS) — Un obispo pidió a los guatemaltecos que sepulten sus diferencias y se unan para superar "este momento delicado" de la nación centroamericana, a continuación del asesinato de Monseñor Juan Gerardi Conedera, Obispo Auxiliar de Ciudad Guatemala.

"El dar paso a las divisiones ... las rupturas, las indecisiones, o las luchas internas en busca de plazas privilegiadas en este momento, sería hundirse nuevamente en el caos de la muerte y del sufrimiento", advirtió Monseñor Gerardo Flores Reyes, Obispo de Verapaz, el 29 de abril en los funerales del Obispo Auxiliar.

Al dirigirse a los millares de personas reunidas dentro y fuera de la catedral de la capital, él dijo que Monseñor Gerardi fue asesinado porque "él combatía por la reconciliación y la paz verdadera ... ésa es la razón de que trataran de silenciar su voz".

"Su muerte debe ser un llamado muy serio para todos nosotros, los que hemos optado por la vida, por la verdad y por la justicia, para que mantengamos nuestra unidad en este momento altamente delicado para nuestra nación", dijo Monseñor Flores.

El llamado a la unidad llegó mientras los guatemaltecos se hallan aún estremecidos por el asesinato del 26 de abril, que envió ondas de sacudida y tristeza a través de la población, profundamente religiosa. Pero el asesinato produjo también un fervor renovado dentro de la Iglesia de Guatemala, así como expresiones de apoyo desde el exterior.

Por primera vez en la historia reciente, la capital, Ciudad Guatemala, quedó paralizada virtualmente durante el entierro de tres horas el 29 de abril. En escenas que recordaban al entierro en 1980 del Arzobispo asesinado, Monseñor Oscar A. Romero, de San Salvador, las personas lloraban en las calles. Más de 250 obispos y sacerdotes de toda Guatemala y alrededor del Hemisferio Occidental asistieron a las ceremonias.

En las calles frente a la catedral, después de la Misa de Funerales, las personas lloraban mientras el féretro era sacado y puesto en un coche fúnebre. A su paso, los concurrentes lanzaron rosas y claveles, y las personas empezaron a aplaudir.

El coche fúnebre dio la vuelta a la plaza, rodeado por estudiantes universitarios a quienes se había dado el día libre. Monseñor Gerardi fue sepultado en la cripta bajo la catedral.

Un mensaje enviado por el Consejo de los Obispos de la América Latina (CELAM), dijo que "este crimen terrible ... junto con el ejemplo de la vida de Monseñor Gerardi, fortalecen nuestro compromiso de trabajar para aquéllos que no tienen voz, y aquéllos que sufren en todo el continente".

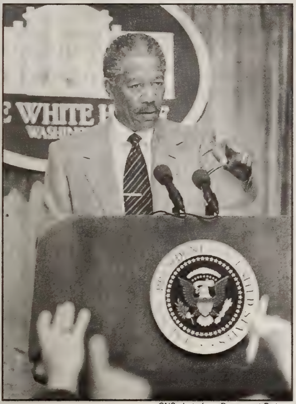
NOTA DEL EDITOR

El "Comuniquémonos" no se publicará durantes los meses de junio, julio y agosto. La próxima edición será en el mes de septiembre. "The Catholic News and Herald" se publicará cada dos semanas durantes estos meses.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO *St. Joseph*, 326 S. Park St. (910) 629-0221	todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE *St. Lawrence*, 97 Haywood St. (704) 252-6042	todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE *Our Lady of the Americas,* 105 Hayde Rd. (910) 428-3051	los domingos 11:30 am y 2 pm confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE *Sacred Heart,* Main St. & Summit	3er. domingo del mes 6 pm
CHARLOTTE *Centro Católico Hispano* Shenandoah Ave.y The Plaza (704) 335-1281	todos los sábados 7 pm domingos 10 am, 12 pm, 2pm y 7 pm confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS *Holy Family*, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. (910) 766-8133	todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON *Sagrado Corazón*, Rt. 601 (910) 632-8009	todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY *Immaculate Conception,* 1024 W. Main St. (704) 245-4017	todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA *St. Michael*, 708 St.Michael's Ln. (704) 867 6212	3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO *St. Mary*, 812 Duke St., (910) 272-8650	todos los domingos 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE *Immaculate Conception*, 208 7th. Ave.W.. (704)693-6901	todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT *Cristo Rey,* 1505 East Kivett Dr. (910) 884-0244	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
JEFFERSON *San Francisco de Asis,* Main y Ivy (910) 246-9151	2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS *St. Joseph,* 108 St.Joseph St.	todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE *Holy Cross,* 616 S.Cherry St. (910) 996-5109	todos los domingos 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON *St. Dorothy,* 148 St.Dorothy's Lane (704) 735-5575	todos los domingos 12 pm
MONROE *Our Lady of Lourdes,* Deese y Franklin Streets	todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON *St. Charles Borromeo,* 714 W. Union St. (704) 437-3108	todos los domingos 5 pm
MOUNT AIRY *Holy Angels,* 1208 North Main St. (910) 786-8147	todos los domingos 6 pm
NEWTON *St. Joseph,* 720 West 13th. St., (704) 464-9207	todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO *St. John Church,* 275 C.C. Wright School Rd. (910)838-5562	1er., 3er., 5to. domingo del mes 6 pm
REIDSVILLE *Holy Infant,* 1042 Freeway Dr., (910) 342-1448	todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY *Sacred Heart,* 128 N.Fulton St. (704) 633-0591	todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA *St.Francis of Rome,* Hendrix Rd. (910) 372-8846	1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE *St. Phillip the Apostle,* 525 Camden Dr (704) 872-2579	1er. domingo del mes 2 pm
TAYLORSVILLE *Holy Trinity,* 665 W. Main Ave. (704) 632-8009	2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE *Our Lady of the Highways,* 943 Ball Park Rd. (910)475-2732	todos los domingos 12 pm
WINSTON-SALEM *Our Lady of Mercy,* 1919 S. Main St. (704) 722-7001	todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE *Christ the King,* U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd. (910) 463-5533	todos los domingos 12 pm

Entertainment



Morgan Freeman stars as President Beck in the action thriller "Deep Impact."" The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

CNS photo from Paramount Pictures

"Deep Impact" Thrills Are Few And Far Between

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — A death toll in the millions is predicted when a comet larger than Mount Everest is discovered on a direct collision course with the Earth in "Deep Impact" (Paramount).

First observed by high school astronomy buff Leo (Elijah Wood) and confirmed by an astronomer (Charles Martin Smith) —whose death in a fiery car crash provides a gratuitous action movie opening — the comet's existence has been kept secret from the public.

Enter ambitious network reporter Jenny (Tea Leoni), who stumbles onto the literally earth-shattering story, forcing the president (Morgan Freeman) to admit to the world it is true, but that a manned spacecraft (led by Robert Duvall) loaded with eight nuclear warheads is being sent to explode the comet.

As directed by Mimi Leder, the movie then follows four story threads as Armageddon approaches. There is the White House plan to save a million people, most chosen by lottery, in an underground cave should the spacecraft's mission fail.

Meanwhile, Jenny's career soars but her relationship with her divorced parents (Vanessa Redgrave and Maximillian Schell) changes dramatically. Young Leo is chosen in the lifesaving lottery and can bring his family but is more concerned about his girlfriend (Leelee Sobieski, looking like a juvenile Helen Hunt).

Lastly, the "Messiah" spacecraft lands on the comet and four crew members try to set the warheads deep in its surface — and fail. With only four implanted, the resulting explosion simply creates two comets still on course, one of which will hit off the Carolinas, creating a tidal wave that will drown the entire Eastern seaboard, the other's power even more devastating and final.

Unfortunately, as a disaster epic, the thrills are few and fleeting while the personal stories appear contrived — and are allowed to become schmaltzy.

However, the action scenes involving the spacecraft landing on the comet are effective and command attention.

Since the real danger of an earth-comet collision, while remote, exists, it is almost welcome that there is not the typical last-minute, completely happy ending.

Small moments of individual self-sacrifice and courage would probably be more moving were they not lumped together and accompanied by stridently cloying music meant to tug at the viewer's emotions.

While sure to have a big impact on its box-office opening weekends, "Deep Impact" may have only slight impact on viewers' memories.

Because of a massive natural catastrophe, suicidal and sexual references, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language, The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

MOVIE 1-800 311-4CCC REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Black Angel" (1946)

Dark crime story from the Cornell Woolrich novel in which the wife (June Vincent) of a man convicted of murder joins forces with the victim's estranged husband (Dan Duryea) to find the real killer whom they suspect is a shady nightclub owner (Peter Lorre). Director Roy William Neill goes for atmosphere rather than action, with plodding results and an unsurprising twist ending. More menace than violence and an alcoholic central character. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Gattaca" (1997)

Weak sci-fi yarn of a future in which genetic engineering has created a master race that treats those conceived naturally as inferiors, one of whom (Ethan Hawke) carries off an elaborate masquerade to become a trusted member of the genetic elite until a murder investigation threatens to reveal his true identity. Writer-director Andrew Niccols sets up the premise of a regimented world ruled by dispassionate logic but succeeds too well in showing how dull such a place would be, despite all manner of complications caused by computerized identity checks and swarms of investigators on the trail of an impostor. Stylized violence, sexual situations and occasional rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Not in This Town" (1997)

Stirring fact-based drama in which an ordinary housewife (Kathy Baker), shaken by acts of violence against Jews and other minorities in 1993 Billings, Mont., stirs her community into taking action to stop such crimes of hate. Directed by Donald Wrye, the television movie presents an absorbing account of how one woman's efforts gained support from those of many faiths in uniting the town against racists and hatemongers, with successful results that leave viewers a little more thoughtful about the nature of hate crimes and how to stop them. Some racist violence and rhetoric. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"A Personal Journey with Martin Scorsese Through American Movies" (1994)

After recalling the Hollywood movies that most impressed him as a youth, director Scorsese focuses on the Western, gangster films and musicals as the American contribution to world cinema, then turns in the second part to the great directors of the silent era, concluding with a program devoted to Hollywood rebels from D.W. Griffith to Billy Wilder. Produced by Florence Dauman for the British Film Institute, the three-volume documentary runs three hours and 46 minutes, offering a choice collection of film excerpts to illustrate Scorsese's idiosyncratic selection of Hollywood's most important movies from the early silents to the 1960s, intermixing venerable screen classics with trashy B-movies whose influence on the director helps explain the uneven quality of his own body of work. Stylized violence, sexual innuendo and instances of rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Phantom Lady" (1944)

Intriguing crime thriller in which an engineer (Alan Curtis) is convicted of murdering his wife until cleared by his faithful secretary (Ella Raines) who finally locates a missing witness, thereby flushing the real killer (Franchot Tone). Director Robert Siodmak ratchets the suspense as the secretary comes to rely for help on a man whom viewers already know is the unbalanced killer. More menace than violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Rescuers: Stories of Courage — Two Women" (1997)

Fact-based dramatization about two Catholic women who risk their lives to save Jews during World War II, one of whom is a Polish governess (Elizabeth Perkins) who protects her late employer's only child from Nazi round-ups, then raises him as a Jew, the other a Frenchwoman (Sela Ward) who hides a Jewish family in the attic of her home until the liberation. Directed by Peter Bogdanovich, the Showtime pay cable movie convincingly re-creates the terrors of the era in which these desperate activities took place, poignantly evoking the human drama in each story with fine performances from the two leads. Heart-wrenching depiction of the plight of Holocaust victims, considerable menace and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

People In The News

CNS photo from the Vatican

Pope John Paul II prays May 6 before the coffins of the three victims of a double-murder and suicide that occurred May 4 in the Vatican. Swiss Guard Commandant Alois Estermann and his wife, Gladys Meza Romero, apparently were shot dead by Swiss Guard Cedric Tornay before he turned the gun on himself.

Funeral Masses Held For Three Slain In Vatican Murder-Suicide

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — They should have been reveling in their proudest celebration of the year, but instead the Swiss Guard members gathered May 6 to grieve for their commander, shot to death along with his wife by a member of the corps. At a funeral Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, relatives of Col. Alois Estermann and his wife, Gladys Meza Romero, joined envoys of the Swiss government and the Swiss military, Vatican officials and the army of 100 whose claim to fame had always been protecting the pope. Each year on May 6, new recruits to the Swiss Guard are sworn in at a ceremony marking the their predecessors' valor in the service of Pope Clement VII during the Sack of Rome. But this year, surprised to learn he was to be denied a pay raise and promotion that would go to some of his comrades at that ceremony, 23-year-old Cedric Tornay apparently acted out a grudge against his commanding officer.

Retired Sen. Dole Pays Visit To Catholic School Students

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (CNS) — Retired Sen. Bob Dole has met some interesting people in his long years of public service, including Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa and Polish leader Lech Walesa. But he told students at Holy Redeemer School, in the Washington suburb of College Park, that often it's the people he meets every day who interest him. "It's not always the people on top, but oftentimes it's everyday people with a problem that needs to be solved," he said. During his visit to the school, Dole spoke to an assembly of fifth- through eighth-graders and then visited children in the lower grades April 30. He was invited by his Capitol Hill barber, Antonio Calabro, who is married to Holy Redeemer second-grade teacher Christine Calabro.

Suspect Arrested For Bishop Gerardi's Murder Denies Charges

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — The man accused of murdering Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City denied the charges and said he was threatened to confess while in detention. "I'm innocent, I don't know anything, I don't know why they accuse me ... I don't even know who he (Bishop Gerardi) is," 24-year-old Carlos Enrique Vielman told reporters minutes before his first court appearance May 5. Vielman, who has a previous criminal record for rape, assault, and drunk-and-disorderly conduct; was the first suspect arrested in what has become the country's biggest-ever murder investigation.

Catholic Woman Israeli Soldier Works As Liaison At Checkpoint

EREZ CROSSING, Gaza (CNS) — Palestinians crossing the checkpoint at Erez Crossing will find at least one Israeli solider who speaks their language. In her green army uniform, a silver ring on her thumb and her long auburn hair tied loosely in a ponytail, Caroline Kharman, 21, looks just like any other Israeli woman soldier. The only thing that distinguishes her from her colleagues is the little gold crucifix dangling at her throat and the struggle she went through to enlist in the army. Kharman, a Melkite Catholic from the northern Galilee village of Usifya, is the first Arab woman and first Christian woman to become an officer in the Israeli Defense Forces. Kharman works as a liaison between Palestinian workers from Gaza and the Israeli administration at the Erez Crossing, where tens of thousands of Palestinians pass every day. Her job, she said, is to help both sides.

Raleigh Pastor Welcomes His Father Into Catholic Church

By JOHN STRANGE

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) — After years of sharing the same name, father and son now share the same Catholic faith.

During the Easter Vigil this year, Father David Dean Brockman, pastor of St. Luke Church in Raleigh, welcomed his father, Dr. David Dean Brockman, into the Catholic Church.

For Dr. Brockman, a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who has a practice in the Chicago area, the journey to Catholicism has been "a long and circuitous one," he said.

A catalyst in his journey was his son's decision to become a Catholic — the family was active in the United Church of Christ in Glenview, Ill. — and his subsequent ordination.

"Children influence parents, and parents grow and evolve through their children," Dr. Brockman told the N.C. Catholic, newspaper of the Raleigh Diocese. "I think the same applies to religious development."

Father Brockman's connection with the Catholic Church began, ironically, while he was attending a school affiliated with the Southern Baptist Church, Furman University in Greenville, S.C. He was the 27th Brockman to attend the school, where four generations of Brockmans had been educated.

In his sophomore year, Father Brockman joined a fraternity — Pi Kappa Phi, his father's fraternity — which at the time had many Catholic students. There was a Newman Club on campus, and Father Brockman participated with his fraternity brothers, attending Mass in Greenville.

"Gradually over time I became more and more associated with the parish, and I enjoyed it very much," he said. "To me the parish had a profound sense of the sacred. I was very attracted to the Eucharist. I believed in the real presence of Christ even though I didn't know anything about it."

Late in 1980, his junior year, Father Brockman decided he wanted to be a Catholic. He entered the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program in the fall of 1981.

He did not tell his parents of his decision, and when he went home to Chicago on school breaks, he would attend Mass secretively. On Pentecost of 1982, he was confirmed and received his first Communion.

Father Brockman's parents did not learn about their son's decision until that summer. Father Brockman described their reaction as "mixed."

For Dr. Brockman, the issue wasn't so much leaving the family's church for another, but rather the secrecy. "It was more that he had not confided in us," he said.

Father Brockman went on to the University of South Carolina School of Medicine to study microbiology, but by 1986 he had decided he wanted to be a priest.

Again, he said, his parents' reaction was mixed. "Mom was quiet: 'If it makes you happy,'" said Father Brockman. "But Dad was pretty upset by it."

"I was disappointed that this meant he would not be a parent," said Dr. Brockman. "It was a wound from not getting grandchildren, but it is a wound totally healed.

"When he was ordained I was the proudest father you can imagine," he added.

According to Dr. Brockman, his son's ordination re-awakened a feeling that something had been missing in his own religious life.

A number of years after the ordination and before Martha, his wife and Father Brockman's mother, became ill, Dr. Brockman suggested to Martha that the two of them become Catholics. Martha Brockman declined, but not for doctrinal reasons, Dr. Brockman said. "It would have meant abandoning her friends (in their church), whom she dearly loved. So I postponed my thinking in that direction."

Martha Ann Brockman died in 1997 on her son's birthday, Feb. 16. A few months later, Dr. Brockman entered the RCIA program.

"There's something about the Mass that's so peaceful, that's so graceful, so comforting," he said.

Dr. Brockman said he finds comfort from his grief for his wife within the church, but the peace he finds goes beyond that. "It answers something that has been there since I was as little boy."

For Father Brockman, their story affirms the Holy Spirit's role in human existence. When he told his parents he wanted to be a priest, he said, his father told him, "No matter what, love will determine the answer. If you love me, you won't do this."

Father Brockman smiled. "He was right: love did determine the answer. God's love brought this about. It wasn't something I was doing to be rebellious. In fact, this is nothing I did. It's kind of overwhelming, actually."

At the Easter Vigil April 11, Father Brockman anointed his father with the chrism, and the two embraced and kissed each other on the cheek. "I love you, Dad," Father Brockman said. "I love you," his father answered.

Dr. Brockman watched as the priest moved away to administer the sacrament to the other candidates. "My son," he murmured. Later Father Brockman gave his father his first Communion.

Parking Improvements Included In Project

St. Pius X Church Grows With New Parish Center, School Addition

GREENSBORO — Since its opening last fall, the new parish center at St. Pius X Church has been a place bustling with activity. The building is used for a variety of gatherings, including meetings, hospitality Sunday, pancake breakfasts sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, youth retreats, school functions, a monthly movie series and much more.

Bishop William G. Curlin visited St. Pius last November for a candlelight dedication service. Hundreds of parishioners and friends attended the liturgy, then toured the parish center and two other capital improvements: a new wing at St. Pius X School and a new parking lot for the parish.

"Our people needed a new place to gather," said Father Frank Connolly, pastor, of the parish center. "We had outgrown our other meeting places. This was very much needed, and it gives us the room to effectively carry out our various ministries."

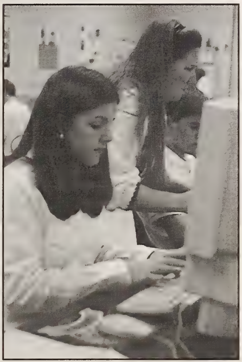


Photo by Joann Keane

St. Pius X school students work in a new computer lab in the school's new wing.

The 850 families who compose the St. Pius X Church family and non-parish members of the school raised more than $1.2 million to pay for the additions. Pat Spivey, current chairman of the church's parish council and co-chairman of the dedication activities, said the campaign to raise funds for the projects was a joint effort. "So many parishioners helped raise money," Spivey said. "The school and parish center enable us to more effectively minister both within the parish and in our outreach programs as well."

The parish center features a large meeting room that can be divided into smaller rooms, a full kitchen, other meeting rooms, a nursery and a large youth room. Plans are now underway for a parish resource room in the center that would house books, tapes and computer programs that parish members would have access to. St. Pius X Church is located on the corner of Elm and Cornwallis streets in Greensboro.

Children's Beliefs About God Solicited For New Book

WEST SALEM, Ohio (CNS) — An Ohio author is looking for the views of children 10 and under on their beliefs about God.

Dandi Daley MacKall, who has written more than two dozen books for children and adults, is working on a new book for Prima Publishing called "Why Kids Believe."

"What I need are kids 10 and under to write a page or two on God — anything they want to," says MacKall. "They could be triggered with 'Explain God.' Or maybe 'How does God work?' I'm looking for unrehearsed, childlike honesty."

Children should write on regular-size paper, in case the handwriting is photographed for the book. Those too young to write can dictate their answers to their parents.

Each submission should include the child's name, age, school, city and state — some or all of which could be included in the book — as well as a note of permission from the parent and a phone number and/or address where a free book could be sent if the submission is published.

MacKall's previous books include a 1993 collaboration with Art Linkletter called "Kids Are Still Saying the Darnedest Things," religious books for beginning readers, "Kindred Sisters: New Testament Women Speak to Us Today: A Book for Meditation and Reflection," and the Cinnamon Lake Mysteries series for children.

All submissions should be mailed to Dandi MacKall, 1254 Tupelo Lane, West Salem, OH 44287.

Employment Opportunities

Faith Formation:

Director of Faith Formation, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community, is seeking a knowledgeable, experienced, creative, enthusiastic person to lead its 1800+ family parish program. Student enrollment exceeds 1200. Median age of the parish is young; parish is vibrant and fast-growing. Responsibilities include organization of classes 1-9, sacrament formation, recruitment of volunteer teachers/assistants and parent formation. MA in religious education and/or theology required, five years experience in parish administration or equivalent. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resumes by May 29 to: Office of Faith Formation, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 1400 Suther Road, Charlotte, NC 28213 or fax to: (704)549-1614 attn: Sister Margaret Straney.

Director of Religious Education at Asheville Catholic School:

This is a full-time position for the 1998-99 academic year with responsibility for the administration of the ACS faith formation program which includes a variety of faith-filled objectives and outreach. A degree in Religious Education in the Catholic faith or a related field is preferred. Some experience in the field of Catholic religious education is beneficial. Applicant must be committed to implementing the ideals of the Catholic Faith as outlined in the documents of Vatican II and as directed by the Diocese of Charlotte, and to working with the staff, students, and parents in a collaborative manner. The salary is based on experience and educational background and includes a diocesan benefit package. Send your resume to: DRE Search Committee, Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern Street, Asheville, NC 28804.

Organist — Pianist:

St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28115. Two choir rehearsals and masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard, Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Elementary Principal:

Asheville Catholic School, located in the mountains of western North Carolina, seeks a principal for its Pre-K — 8 program. Desire a creative, highly motivated principal for our 250 students who is a strong leader, solid administrator with skills to assist both faculty and curricular development and the building of the faith community. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with at least a Master's Degree in educational administration. Prior administration experience desirable. Salary is negotiable. Diocese offers a generous benefits package. Send resume or letter of inquiry to Principal Search, P.O. Box 8160, Asheville, NC 28814. Position August 1.

Campus Ministry Intern:

Full-time position. Intern will develop Catholic Campus Ministry at Wingate University, a Baptist institution, through collaboration with the local parish and the Catholic students, staff and faculty. Requirements: practicing Catholic; Bachelor's Degree; enrollment in LIMEX (Loyola Institute of Ministry extension program), a four-year graduate program leading to Master's Degree in Religious Education — application to LIMEX will be sent upon receipt of resume. Benefits: Rm/Bd; $400/mo stipend (to be increased annually); health insurance; $2000 tuition grant for LIMEX. Send resume and cover letter by June 1 to Colleen McDermott, Director of Campus Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Phone: (704) 370-3212. E-mail: campusmin@charlottediocese.org

Teaching Position:

Charlotte Catholic High School has the following teaching positions and counselor position open beginning in August, 1998: Full-time Spanish and Part-time Spanish, Business/Computer, Physical Science, Part-time Drama and Part-time Counselor. Please send resume and request for application to: Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Photo by Chloe Van Aken

Mercy Sister Margaret Straney, center, has been elected to the office of president of the Albany Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She will leave her present ministry as director of faith formation at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, and will begin her four-year term July 1. Also pictured are Mercy Sisters Peg Sullivan, left, and Helen Dillon, right, who will join the leadership team as counselors.

Veterans Benefit Seminar

ARDEN — The Rev. Ralph F. Neagle Post 1914, Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A. hosts the Fourth Annual Veteran's Benefit Seminar at St. Barnabas Church May 28 at 7 p.m. for all veterans, their families and other interested persons. Several presenters will offer information on veteran compensation, pension programs, survivors' benefits, scholarship and educational assistance, and more. For more information, call (828) 667-5722.

Young Adult Group

ASHEVILLE — An Asheville area young adult group, "CYAA," for single and married 20- to 40-year-olds, gathers on Saturdays after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Eugene Church. For details call David Hill, (828) 252-7118.

Choir Members Needed

CHARLOTTE — Members are needed for a diocesan choir to help celebrate the ordination Mass of Rev. Mrs. Dean Cesa, Christopher Davis, Matthew Leonard and Peter Pham June 6 at 10 a.m. in St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. If you are interested in singing, call Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, (704) 334-2283, ext. 22.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins July 24. For further information, call Nick or Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Bereavement Ministry Training

CHARLOTTE — Basic bereavement training sessions for those interested in becoming involved in bereavement ministry in their parishes or congregations are in the St. Gabriel Church Fellowship Hall on May 28, June 4, 11 and 25 from 7-9:30 p.m. Cost is $15. To register, call (704) 362-5047, ext. 201.

Alive in the Spirit Seminar

CHARLOTTE — "Alive in the Spirit," a seven-week seminar on a fuller life in the Holy Spirit, is at St. Matthew Church Mondays from June 8-July 27. Cost is $5. To register, call Lisa Gray at (704) 543-0489.

Humor Program

GREENSBORO — "Amusing Grace — God's Incredible Gift of Laughter" is a program exploring Scriptural references to and the healing power of humor May 21 from 12:10-1 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. The Rev. Jay Hilbinger, pastor of First Lutheran Church in Greensboro, facilitates. A $3 donation, which includes lunch, is suggested. For more information and to register, call (336) 273-2554.

Adult Education Series

GREENSBORO — Franciscan Father Greg Gebbia of the Franciscan Center in Greensboro leads "Beyond Shamrocks and Other Understandings of God," an adult education discussion on a Christian understanding of God, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. Baby-sitting is available by calling Joe Casacchia, (336) 632-0729, to R.S.V.P.

Benefit Concert

HENDERSONVILLE — Zoltan Marczi, director of the music ministry at Immaculate Conception Church, and the Immaculata Youth Choir are featured at a benefit organ concert at First Baptist Church, 312 5th Ave. W., on May 29 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 and can be purchased by calling (828) 891-1497. Proceeds will be applied towards the purchase of a new organ for the new Immaculate Conception Church building, scheduled for completion this fall.

Living Waters Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — "The Hills are Alive" is a May 22-28 nature retreat focusing on the experience of God's love in a springtime mountain setting. Dominican Father Martin Iott facilitates with Dominican Sister Jeannette Stang. Cost is $260. "Healing Touch" is a May 29-31 retreat focusing on holistic health. All are invited, especially health care personnel and those interested in physical healing. Concepts of human energy fields will be introduced, and therapeutic touch will be explained and demonstrated. Irene C. Morelli, NABRS member, facilitates. Cost is $95.

To register, get more information, or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Ordination Celebration

MOUNT HOLLY — Father John Vianney Hoover of New Creation Monastery invites you to celebrate the 22nd anniversary of his ordination May 24 at St. Joseph Church on Highway 273, six miles north of Belmont Abbey. Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. with an outdoor picnic (bring your own). For more information, call (336) 699-4005.

Our Lady Of Lourdes To Host Novena

MONROE — A nine-day Novena of the Holy Spirit will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe from May 22 — May 30. It will begin at 7 p.m. each evening.

The tradition of the Novena was established by the apostles when, at Jesus' direction, they gathered in prayer to await the Holy Spirit in the days leading up to the Pentecost. The Second Vatican Council emphasizes the honor and also the duty, especially of lay people, to pray and invoke the Holy Spirit in every phase of their life.

There will be hymns, prayers, scripture, intercessions and guest homilists each night.

Spanish Rosary

NEWTON — The rosary is prayed in Spanish at St. Joseph Church every Friday at 6:30 p.m.

"Schola Cantorum" Performs

REIDSVILLE — The "Schola Cantorum Carolinae Borealis" sings at the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Infant Church May 31. Music will be provided for the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei. Among the hymns are the Gregorian chant version of "Ave Maria" and "Salve Regina," Ramondi's "O Sacrum Convivium," and a "Schola" original price, "Veni Creator Spiritus."

Vacation Raffle

SYLVA — St. Mary Church is conducting a raffle for an all-inclusive, week-long vacation at a Sandals resort. Tickets are $5 each or six for $25, and are on sale until May 30. The drawing will be held May 31. For tickets or more information, call or write to St. Mary Church at (828) 586-9499, 22 Bartlett St., Sylva, NC 28779.

Around The Diocese

School News

ASHEVILLE — The following students at Asheville Catholic School have been named to the A Honor Roll: seventh-graders Ann Marie Coddington and Elizabeth Lamy and eighth-grader Richard Thompson. Named to the A/B Honor Roll are: seventh-graders Brandon Adams, Andrea Brown, Molly Campbell, Elizabeth Dray, Melanie Fann, Kathryn Gravatt, John Green, Ellen Lennox, Katie Lenzen, Michael Maloney, Nicole Minkin, Andrew Nix, Keith Obergfell, Travis Pace, Holly Reed, Jack Rutland, Stephen Sanchagrin and James Stickney; and eighth-graders Joanna Ball, Tyler Whatmore, Grant Caffrey, Kelli Stahl, Chris Engle, Courtney Sinsky, Morgan Garner, Brandon Powell, Patrick Kelly and Emily Kuhns.

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School annual Spring Fine Arts Festival is May 19 in the gymnasium beginning at 7:30 p.m., with presentations in choral, dance, band and visual arts. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend.

WINSTON-SALEM — Nineteen Bishop McGuinness High School students who took the 1998 National Latin Exam have been honored with special recognition awards. Receiving the highest award by BMHS students, the "Silver Maxima Cum Laude" honor, were William Ketcham in the Latin I exam, Christine Davis and Laura Hoeing in the Latin II exam, and Stephanie Moser and Keith Gatlin in the Latin III exam.

Forty-two BMHS students were among the more than 103,000 students in the U.S. and abroad who participated in the exam. The BMHS Latin program was created and developed by Linda Kennedy, who has taught at the school for 15 years.

World And National News Briefs

Virgin Islands Coadjutor, Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Named

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Chicago Auxiliary Bishop George V. Murry, one of the 12 active U.S. African-American Catholic bishops, has been appointed coadjutor bishop of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, by Pope John Paul II. The pope also named Father Joseph N. Perry, pastor of All Saints Parish in Milwaukee, as auxiliary bishop of Chicago. He will become the 13th active U.S. black Catholic bishop. The appointments were announced May 5 in Washington by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States.

Theologian Calls Irish Police Force Sick Day Immoral

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Thousands of police officers in the Irish Republic who called in sick for a day in lieu of going on strike for a pay increase were acting "doubly immorally," said a Catholic theologian. About 5,000 police, 80 percent of the force, refused to go on duty May 1. In some police stations not one member of the police force, or Garda, turned up for duty. Msgr. Denis Faul, a moral theologian, said, "It is not a good standard of behavior from people who are there to uphold and enforce the law. It is dishonest and doubly immoral because they are telling lies and denying the truth, while also receiving sick pay under false pretenses."

Alaska Hospital Monitoring Constitutional Amendment on Abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic hospital in Anchorage, Alaska, has become increasingly interested in a proposed state constitutional amendment that would permit hospitals to refuse to perform legal abortions, according to a hospital official. Janet Oates said Providence Alaska Medical Center, run by the Sisters of Providence in Anchorage, "initially was not concerned about the constitutional amendment" recently passed by the state Senate and currently under consideration in the House. But a state Supreme Court decision last November changed that. In a ruling involving Valley Hospital, a private facility in Palmer, Alaska, the court upheld a lower court ruling and permanently enjoined enforcement of a new hospital policy that limited lawful abortions.

Outdoor Confirmation Of 2,800 Draws 20,000 To Wichita

WICHITA, Kan. (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's personal representative to the United States challenged thousands of confirmation candidates May 3 to accept the responsibility of publicly professing their faith and accepting God in their lives. While a crowd estimated at more than 20,000 people looked on, Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, papal pro-nuncio to the United States, delivered that message during an outdoor Mass in Wichita, where nearly 2,800 young people received the sacrament of confirmation. The archbishop asked those gathered to seek the "superior perspective" in all things of life, including the human quest for beauty, power and riches that the world's young people seem to find so attractive today.

N. Ireland Catholics' Discrimination Case In European Court

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Two Northern Ireland building firms owned by Catholics have taken a case to the European Court of Human Rights, alleging they were denied government contracts because of sectarian discrimination. The British government is contesting the claims on the grounds that the decisions to refuse the contracts were made for "security reasons" on the advice of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's police force. But lawyers for the two firms say that since their clients may not appeal against such decisions, they are denied natural justice. After they submitted the lowest bid, John Tinnelly and Sons were awarded a contract by Northern Ireland Electrical Services in March 1995 for work involving the demolition of a power station. The contract was revoked and went to the second-lowest bidder. The Tinnellys complained to the Northern Irish Fair Employment Commission, alleging that "sectarian trade union pressure was involved."

Caribbean Church Assembly Urges Action On Violence

KINGSTON, Jamaica (CNS) — Capital punishment, violence and poverty were among the topics raised at the Caribbean Catholic Church's celebration of the Year of the Holy Spirit. Speakers at the final session of the mid-April Antilles Catholic Assembly '98 in Kingston emphasized the work of the Holy Spirit and urged participants not to be concerned only with issues like evangelization and religious education, but to look at social issues. Bishop Charles Dufour of Montego Bay, Jamaica, said the Holy Spirit is alive and active and can "change human hearts, bring repentance, transform the social structure of sin, and bring about the new heaven and the new earth." He broke into song twice in his homily at the closing Mass.

98 Head For Iraq With Medical Supplies; 5 Protestors Arrested

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As 98 Americans, including Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton, left late May 6 for Iraq with medical supplies, five people were arrested the same day outside the White House for protesting ongoing U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq. Representatives from 10 peace groups, including Pax Christi USA, were among the 40 people at the park. Estimates of the deaths at least indirectly caused by the sanctions number up to 1.25 million, including 700,000 children, according to protest organizer Art Laffin of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker house in Washington. Laffin was one of the five arrested for not having a demonstration permit. "The economic sanctions against Iraq are an act of counterpopulation warfare which is prohibited under international law," Laffin said. "These sanctions are a genocidal weapon of mass destruction which must be eliminated."

CNS photo by Jeanne Devlin, Sooner Catholic

A memorial statue showing Jesus weeping stands in front of a building that was damaged in the Oklahoma City bombing in April 1995. The statue was dedicated recently by Oklahoma City Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran.

News Reports On RU-486 Testing Said To Not Tell Whole Story

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A pro-life spokeswoman for the U.S. Catholic bishops said news reports on results of U.S. testing of RU-486 are incomplete and fail to examine what she called "the appalling psychological ordeal" that use of the abortion regimen causes. Helen M. Alvare, director of planning and information for the U.S. Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, was commenting on recently released data on the Federal Drug Administration's first formal testing of RU-486. The Associated Press reported April 29 that the U.S. testing found that the drug ended pregnancies in 92 percent of test subjects. The study was conducted on 2,121 women at clinics and university hospitals around the country. The procedure was considered a success if pregnancies were ended within 15 days of taking the drug.In the study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the drug was slightly less effective in this trial than in earlier European studies. Abortions in the earlier trials were triggered in 96 to 99 percent of women.

U.S., Church Officials Stress Support For Cuban People

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. government and church officials said it was important to find ways to support the people of Cuba while not strengthening the island's communist regime. At an April 30 policy forum in Washington sponsored by the Institute for U.S.-Cuba Relations, speakers who were in Cuba during Pope John Paul II's January visit addressed the implications of the visit on U.S.-Cuba policy. Roger Noriega, a staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urged international support for Catholic Church relief efforts in Cuba and warned that when Pope John Paul left Cuba, a "window of opportunity" was shut. Noriega said a Cuban church official told him that within hours of the pope's departure, university students were instructed that "the words of the pope are not to be repeated."

Vatican Denies Reports That Swiss Guard Spied For East Germany

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Within days of the shooting death of the Swiss Guard commander, the Vatican issued a terse denial to reports that the officer had spied for a communist government. In a two-sentence statement May 8, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said a report by a Berlin tabloid newspaper that Col. Alois Estermann had passed documents to the former East German secret police was "not being given the least consideration." "It is not the first time that incongruities (have been) written about an honest man," the spokesman added. The Berliner Kurier said May 7 that files kept by the government in East Berlin, which were archived after German unification, showed that from 1981 to 1984 Estermann sent at least seven reports to the secret police agency known as the Stasi.

Nuns, Priests Join Student Protests Over Indonesian Crisis

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — Catholic nuns in habits and seminarians and priests wearing white robes have given a new look to student rallies for reform in Indonesia. The nuns, seminarians and priests first joined a student demonstration April 21 at the campus of Yogyakarta's Jesuit-run Sanata Dharma University, where most of them are studying. Since then, their presence has been routine in student protests. They have been seen marching through streets to join rallies in other campuses, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Student protests over Indonesia's economic crisis began in February and developed into demands for President Suharto to step down and take responsibility for widespread job losses, skyrocketing prices and the collapse of the rupiah.

Diocese To Sponsor LIMEX

The Diocese of Charlotte has taken up sponsorship of the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program, or LIMEX, and facilitators hope new groups of students will begin pursuing master's degrees in religious education or pastoral studies throughout western North Carolina in the fall.

The program is currently being implemented in more than 40 dioceses nationwide.

The Raleigh and Charleston dioceses are now sponsors, with learning groups already in place.

For now, a Charlotte-based group is the only LIMEX program in western N.C. The program is locally sponsored by the Oratory: Center for Spirituality in Rock Hill, S.C., and sessions are currently held at Charlotte Catholic High School.

For further details on course work, prerequisites, cost and other information, call diocesan liaison Joanna Case, (704) 362-0013, or diocesan committee member Connie Milligan, (704) 364-3344.

— Jimmy Rostar

Extension Program Offers Challenges, Rewards

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

From left, Clarence Fox of Davidson, John Kummer of Rock Hill, S.C., and Doris Nicholson of Columbia, S.C., discuss an assignment during a recent LIMEX session at Charlotte Catholic High School.

CHARLOTTE — Doris Nicholson faces an hour-and-a-half drive from Columbia, S.C., to south Charlotte each Monday. She's up some nights until 3 a.m. putting the finishing touches on papers or reading the last lines of an assignment. Although two years into an intensive education extension program, she's still only halfway through. And while she admits the challenges are tough, she beams while saying so.

"What I've wanted to gain from this was to learn more about my faith and to grow closer to our Lord," says Nicholson. "And that has been the biggest gain for me. He knows all about me, and now I'm learning a little bit more about Him."

Nicholson is one of 14 adult students about to complete the fifth course in the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program, or LIMEX. When completely finished with their courses, the group will be awarded master's degrees in religious education or pastoral studies from Loyola University in New Orleans, La.

The extension program is composed of six theological core courses and four "ministry context" courses led by Loyola-certified facilitators. Among the course topics are Scripture, the sacraments, morality, and the sociocultural, personal and institutional contexts of ministry and religious education.

Students complete the program by taking two semi-independent courses in particular focus areas.

Like any master's-level curriculum, LIMEX is reading-, writing- and time-intensive. In preparation for each three-hour session, students put in 6 to 10 hours of reading time, plus the time needed to complete assigned papers. Tutors and Internet library resources are available.

Each course lasts 10 weeks.

Nicholson, who until recently lived in Charlotte and was a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation and, later, St. Peter churches, says the program appealed to her because of a yearning to teach.

"I thought maybe this is what God wanted me to do," she says of her considering the program after reading about it in a church bulletin. Already having years of religious education and other parish-level teaching experience, she looked forward to sharpening her skills — and deepening her understanding of Jesus and the church.

"I have grown closer to our Lord, but in a different way," she says. "A lot of times, you read about Jesus and you develop a relationship with Him. But this is sort of like digging into the depths of His personality."

Nicholson says the program encourages much discernment over how to apply the material learned. While she has more experience in religious education, she recognizes the need for pastoral ministry in her parish and community, too. She says she frequently receives guidance and reassurance through prayer.

Several of Nicholson's classmates voice similar experiences of pilgrimage. "I have a real sense of being on a faith journey right now, and this (program) is providing me with the equipment I need to get wherever it is that I'm going," says Jan Blodgett of Davidson. Confirmed in the Episcopal Church a decade ago, she has also taken a keen interest in the Quaker faith.

Blodgett, who recently completed doctorate work in contemporary religious fiction, says the LIMEX program has given her a better grasp of church history and has enhanced her perspective on her involvement in civic and community relations groups.

"The journey really is as important as the destination," says Blodgett's husband, Clarence Fox. A lifelong Episcopalian, he says he entered the program for specialized training he could apply at his church, St. Alban's Episcopal in Davidson, where he is involved in lay ministry.

"I have gotten even more of a sense that what God wants us to get is the questions, and not necessarily all the answers," he says. "I have a real sense that this is preparing me to do whatever comes next."

The LIMEX program is tailored to meet a variety of participants' needs and interests. Charlotte resident Don Allen, who converted to Catholicism in 1993, says his background in the medical field prompted a curiosity in "the practical aspects of pastoral ministry."

"The theology is what I was really interested in, but we're learning a lot more than that," Allen adds. The LIMEX program was recommended to him after he expressed a desire to gain additional knowledge about the faith after converting.

"This (program) really whets your appetite to learn more," he says. "You have to be committed to do this; it takes time. But anybody who wants to learn and grow and expand can take this. It is a learning process, and something will come out of it."

For Doris Nicholson, the benefits of the learning experience far outweigh the obstacles. "My life has been enriched just by the people that I have met here," she says. "The (course work) is very challenging, but it challenges you to look a little deeper into your faith — and to look a little bit deeper at yourself and why you believe what you believe."

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Lay Ministry Graduates Eager To Share Ministry of Christ

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Carl and Leslie Brown were looking for a way to get re-educated about their faith. Members of Good Shepherd Church in King, they spent the past four years serving on the parish council and working in youth ministry. Still, they felt they a need for continuing education as Catholics; thus they joined the Diocese of Charlotte's Lay Ministry Training Program.

"Bringing Christ to people is very important to us," Carl Brown explained. "That's why we decided to be a part of this (class) and get energized to teach."

On May 16, the Browns and 92 others received certificates at St. Gabriel Church acknowledging them as graduates of the Lay Ministry Training Program. The class is the fourth group to graduate, bringing the total number of individuals who have participated in the program to 406.

Photo by Patrick Henry

Jane Ray of Christ the King Church in High Point receives her degree upon completion of the diocesan lay ministry program from Bishop William G. Curlin. Also shown is Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, Office of Lay Ministry director.

As one of the directives of the 1986-87 Diocesan Synod, the lay ministry program was designed for men and women who desire to grow in competence and confidence as they minister to others in their families, the church, and the marketplace, said Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, Office of Lay Ministry director. The program is also a prerequisite for individuals entering the permanent diaconate, and for individuals who want to be upgraded in their certification as catechists and religion teachers.

"The academic program was designed to help participants appreciate and understand more fully that they are called to and gifted for ministry by virtue of their baptism, be affirmed in their present ministries (both in the church and marketplace), explore their giftedness and how their gifts may be used in response to their baptismal call, and grow in faith," Sister Timothy added.

Over the last two years, graduates have given readily of their time, meeting on designated Saturdays each month. Courses offered included: Introduction to Ministry; Introduction to Scripture; Christology; Church & Church History; Social Ministry; Vatican II Documents; Liturgy & Sacraments; Prayer; and Christian Morality. The classes totaled more than 100 hours of lay ministry training.

Jane Ray, who has served as a catechist and choir member at Christ the King Church in High Point, said she found the training to be invaluable. "It was important for me to be a part of the program because I wanted to deepen my understanding of the traditions of our church, where we come from, where we are, and where we might be going in the future," she said. "I also wanted to deepen my own personal prayer life. This was a good springboard for that."

In his homily, Bishop William G. Curlin urged the graduates to bring people the love of Jesus Christ. "Today you are saying, my life and gifts are yours, Jesus," the bishop added. "Make Him the foundation of your ministry. I promise if you have that faith, you will leave this church and take the light of Jesus into your parish, your community, and the world."

The class of 2000 begins training in the fall, with classes offered at three sites: St. Barnabas in Arden, St. Gabriel in Charlotte and Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro.

For more information, contact Mercy Sister Timothy Warren, Office of Lay Ministry, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28209, or (704) 370-3213.

See related photo, page 3.

Priest Officiates At Historic Disinterment Ceremony

By MAUREEN McGUINNESS

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Neither military rules nor church rituals gave much guidance to Father Leo Joseph O'Keeffe during the recent historic disinterment ceremony of the remains of the Vietnam Unknown.

A priest of the Albany Diocese, Father O'Keeffe is a colonel in the Army and command chaplain of the military district of Washington. He delivered the prayer at the brief ceremony held May 14 under sunny skies in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

While there were no precedents to guide him, Father O'Keeffe knew what he wanted to do. "I wanted a dignified, appropriate and brief prayer," he told The Evangelist, Albany diocesan newspaper in a telephone interview.

In his 45-second prayer he hoped to reach out to people of many faith traditions. "I wanted to be sensitive to Christians, Jews as well as (other) non-Christians," the chaplain said. "I tried to weave the basic idea of the Lord's Prayer with the nation's motto."

The disinterment ceremony is the only one ever held, the chaplain said. "It's never been done before and it will never be done again," he said, adding that all service personnel now have DNA information listed in their medical records so that all remains can be identified.

The remains of the Vietnam Unknown were removed so that they could be tested since recent evidence indicates the remains are of one of nine combatants killed in May 1972 at An Loc, 80 miles north of Saigon.

The DNA tests have the potential to allow one family to have certainty to the fate of their loved one, the priest said.

The chaplain said dog tags aren't a foolproof way of identifying a soldier. "Whether a submarine like the Thresher, or an airplane crew lost at sea, or on a battlefield where a person is literally blown apart, we carry dog tags but even steel disappears," he said.

The Tomb of the Unknowns is an important place for many families, the chaplain said.

"Every mother or father whose child did not come back has a place where their child is remembered," he said. "People come to pay honor to the people who put their lives on the line, who were willing to pay the ultimate price."

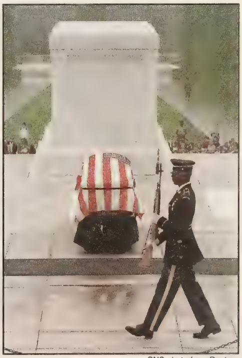
Father O'Keeffe, who will complete 20 years in the Army in July, has memories of being a young man during the Vietnam War era. A native of Glens Falls, which is in the Albany Diocese, he remembers a number of childhood classmates as well as two college classmates who were killed in Vietnam.

Had he not been in the seminary after graduating from Fordham in 1965 where he had been commissioned as a second lieutenant through Army ROTC, he too may have gone to Vietnam.

"I would have gone by '67," he said. "Why the Lord called me to be a priest is still a mystery."

The priest said there were many contrasts in the crowd assembled for the ceremony at Arlington. "As I looked out at people I saw congressional Medal of

See **Disinterment,** page 2


CNS photo from Reuters

The coffin of an unidentified U.S. serviceman is removed from the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery May 14. The remains were exhumed for high-tech identification tests.

Sanction Concerns In India

Archbishop Urges U.S. To Exempt Aid

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. bishops' official urged the Clinton administration to exempt humanitarian and development aid if the U.S. government imposes restrictions on India because of its nuclear tests.

Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee, also said that the United States' moral credibility in urging India to forgo nuclear weapons depended on U.S. willingness to ratify the comprehensive test ban treaty.

Archbishop McCarrick's letter to National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, dated May 15 and released May 19, quoted the U.S. bishops' 1993 pastoral letter, "The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace."

In that letter, the bishops said "an active commitment by the United States to nuclear disarmament and the strengthening of collective security is the only moral basis for temporarily retaining our deterrent and our insistence that other nations forgo these weapons."

Archbishop McCarrick told Berger he shared "the dismay of the Clinton administration and so many others at the decision of the Indian government to test nuclear weapons."

But he said the government must "take due care to avoid imposing burdens" that the poor "can scarcely bear."

"It is regrettable that India has diverted scarce resources to develop weapons of mass destruction when so many of its own people suffer intolerable misery," the archbishop said. "Nevertheless, U.S. government aid is vital for large numbers of India's most vulnerable people."

Meanwhile in Tokyo, the Japanese bishops' Council for Justice and Peace said India had destroyed its heritage by conducting the nuclear tests, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

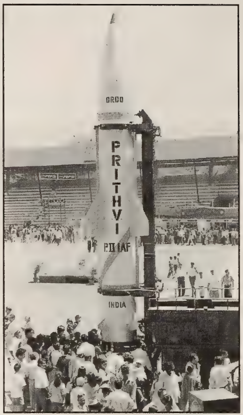
In a May 12 letter addressed to the Indian ambassador to Japan, Siddharth Singh, the council said, "As a nation with Mahatma Gandhi's vision of nonviolence, it is tragic to witness India destroy its own heritage of liberation and national identity.

"We have admired the great religions of your nation and their traditions of nonviolence. It was with your leadership that we, along with others, had hoped to bring our world into a truly peaceful era," the council said.

"Where now will the world find a voice of peace on behalf of those people and those nations who stand in the threat of your nuclear weapons?" it asked.

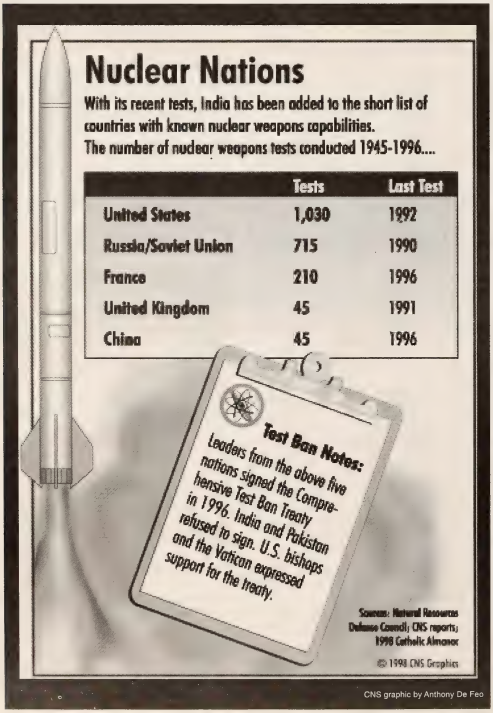
Speaking as "the only nation that has experienced the hell and destruction of nuclear weapons," the Japanese group wrote that India's blasts have damaged "the fragile efforts" toward "the future destruction of all nuclear weapons."

An Indian government statement said the three underground nuclear tests May 11 at Pokhran, a desert region in the northwestern state of Rajasthan, demonstrated India's capability to manufacture nuclear weapons. On May 13, India performed two more nuclear tests in the same region.



CNS photo from Reuters

Visitors to an Indian Army exhibit look over an exact-scale replica of the Prithvi missile in Bombay in April.



Nuclear Nations

With its recent tests, India has been added to the short list of countries with known nuclear weapons capabilities.
The number of nuclear weapons tests conducted 1945-1996....

	Tests	Last Test
United States	1,030	1992
Russia/Soviet Union	715	1990
France	210	1996
United Kingdom	45	1991
China	45	1996

Test Ban Notes: Leaders from the above five nations signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996. India and Pakistan refused to sign. U.S. bishops and the Vatican expressed support for the treaty.

Sources: Natural Resources Defense Council; CNS reports; 1998 Catholic Almanac

© 1998 CNS Graphics

CNS graphic by Anthony De Feo

Pentecost

"They were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit...."
(Acts 2:1-4)

Pentecost is commemorated May 31.

Saints & Scripture

© 1998 CNS Graphics

Disinterment,

from page 1

Honor winners, Green Berets with combat awards, a man with long hair standing next to a man with a crew cut wearing a suit and tie," he said.

"The passion for the war and the issues that divided us have been resolved," he added. "What lingers are the effects on the soldiers who fought in the war for 12 months and then were discharged.

"It was kill or be killed and then be transformed into a civilian and face the people and protests," Father O'Keeffe said. "When the soldiers came home from World War II and Korea it took two weeks to come home so they had time to transition. The effects (of Vietnam) are still present in VA hospitals."

While his career has taken him around the world, he said he has always had priestly responsibilities. "In my 20 years as an Army chaplain I've always been a pastor," he said. "I always have a parish on Sunday and that parish connects me. It keeps me in touch with where people really are."

He said he enjoys participating in baptisms, first Communions, and weddings but also finds he does a lot of counseling.

"The military is a dangerous business," he said. "It's stressful and challenging but the Army has been very good to me."

Father O'Keeffe, who has served in Korea, Hong Kong, Panama and Somalia, said he has become convinced over the past two decades that living in the United States is a blessing.

"Until you go overseas you have no concept of the poverty and lack of opportunity," he said. "We take so much for granted. I've seen what war does and seen what poverty is. We are so blessed as a nation."

Scripture

Readings for the week of May 24 - 30, 1998

Sunday
Acts 7:55-60
Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20
John 17:20-26

Monday
Acts 19:1-8
John 16:29-33

Tuesday
Acts 20:17-27
John 17:1-11

Wednesday
Acts 20:28-38
John 17:11-19

Thursday
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
John 17:20-26

Friday
Acts 25:13-21
John 21:15-19

Saturday
Acts 28:16-20,30-31
John 21:20-25

Letter Of Intent Signed To Transfer Ownership Of St. Joseph's Hospital

ASHEVILLE — The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina and Memorial Mission Medical Center have jointly signed a letter of intent to transfer ownership of St. Joseph's Hospital to Mission St. Joseph's Health System. The purchase price to be paid to the Sisters of Mercy is approximately $90 million.

The Sisters' decision to redirect their efforts from acute health care to a broader mission was the result of an ongoing process of mission evaluation, said Mercy Sister Rosalind Picot RSM, president of the North Carolina Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

"When we came to Asheville nearly 100 years ago, we came with the intention of starting a school. Instead our sisters saw a need for health care and built a tuberculosis sanitarium. In 1938, we opened an acute care hospital. Today, we feel that the need for acute medical care is being well met. We are shifting our mission and focus to meet the broader needs of improving community health. Our commitment to this community is moving in a slightly different direction, but it's continuing in a strong and very meaningful way."

All proceeds from the transfer of ownership will go to the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation and substantially all of the proceeds will be earmarked to address unserved and underserved health, social and human needs in western North Carolina, especially with respect to women, children, the elderly and those who are poor.

Chairman of the Board of Mission St. Joseph's John S. Stevens said, "We applaud the sisters' significant health care accomplishments in the past century and we look forward to their expanded community service and influence in the future. It is especially gratifying to know that substantially all of the funds they receive will be earmarked for the needs of Western North Carolina."

Having a single ownership for the health system would streamline its operation and enable it to continue to produce community benefits, Stevens said. It would make it easier for the system to achieve the three goals that were part of its formation in 1995, and required by the state in its regulatory review under the Certificate of Public Advantage process:

- Improved access to care
- Better control of costs
- Continuing high quality

Mission St. Joseph's will continue as a not-for-profit community-owned corporation, directed by a board of community volunteers. St. Joseph's will continue its practice of not performing abortions, life-terminating procedures or assisted suicide on any of the premises currently owned by St. Joseph's.

The ownership transfer process will require due diligence, regulatory approval and the approval of the Catholic Church and is expected to take several months. The transaction does not include St. Joseph's Health Services; options for its strategic direction are currently being evaluated by the Sisters of Mercy.

The State of North Carolina issued a Certificate of Public Advantage in December 1995 which approved the collaborative agreement between St. Joseph's Hospital and Memorial Mission Hospital. Assets were not merged, and the Sisters of Mercy retained ownership of St. Joseph's Hospital. The state required the new health system to document that it would save nearly $75 million in its first five years of operation. The combined hospitals will continue to be subject to the state oversight required by the terms of the Certificate of Public Advantage.

Since the establishment of the collaboration, overlapping services and departments have been consolidated at Mission St. Joseph's and services to the community have been expanded. The new Mission St. Joseph's has nearly met its five-year savings requirement after two years of operation.

Photo by Patrick Henry

Diocese of Charlotte Lay Ministry Program graduates are pictured with Bishop William G. Curlin after receiving their diplomas May 16 at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Laity Say They're Looking For Their Place In The Church

By BILL BRITT

MUNDELEIN, Ill. (CNS) — For actors to be effective they need to know their lines, understand their motivation and receive clear direction. Without these basics, a play, act or skit would bomb.

But that is the position lay Catholics find themselves in as members of the church, according to several speakers at a national laity conference held at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein.

Lay parishioners and religious from across the country and Canada met May 6-8 at the Center for Development in Ministry to discuss the mission of the laity in the world.

The seventh annual "Salt and Light of the World" conference addressed the issue of lay responsibility, purpose and meaning in the church.

"The laity are the members of the body of Christ who are most intimately connected to the world," said Juan Hinojosa, director of the Hillenbrand Institute, which sponsored the conference. He went on to discuss some impressions people have about how the laity's mission and vocation is understood in the church today.

Some think, Hinojosa said, the laity's role is generally not understood, affirmed or supported by the church, and that there is a fundamental difference between lay experiences at church and in their ordinary lives.

He added that some also think that traditional spiritual resources — retreats, spiritual direction, discernment — generally do not serve the needs of the people, and there is a general lack of mission focus and consciousness on the part of the laity.

In many parishes, worship is seen as ineffective in providing spiritual sustenance needed to transform the world in the light of the Gospel, he added.

He also noted that the focus at the parish and diocesan level, following Vatican II, shifted toward affirming those laity who serve the pastoral task, but almost totally neglected the mission of the laity in the world.

"The primary pastoral task which is called for by the centrality of the laity's role in the mission of the church is the development of a practical spirituality which will enable people to find and serve God in their ordinary lives," Hinojosa said.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

Visit our website at www.stpatricks.org

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Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

"You matter. I matter. It is the hardest thing in theology to believe."

— G.K. Chesterton

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 26 — 10 a.m.
Priests Personnel Committee Meeting
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Charlotte

5 p.m.
Dinner honoring Capuchin Father Robert Grix
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

May 28 — 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Board Meeting
Foundation of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Charlotte
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Charlotte

May 29 — 7 p.m.
Participation in the
Novena to the Holy Spirit
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe

May 30 — 5:30 p.m.
Confirmation
Holy Spirit Church
Denver

May 31 — 12:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience May 13.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we begin today a reflection on the Holy Spirit, to whom this year is particularly dedicated.

The Holy Spirit's action and identity are gradually revealed in sacred Scripture. The Hebrew word "ruach" refers to the life-giving breath of God. This breath was active at the moment of creation and continually sustains and renews created reality. In the Old Testament, "ruach" often indicates the action of God's spirit, who guides the people. The spirit transforms weak men into the charismatic judges of Israel and descends in a more permanent way on the kings. God engages in dialogue with his people "by his spirit through the former prophets" (Zec 7, 12). Isaiah foretells the birth of one on whom the spirit of the Lord would rest, thus pointing to the New Testament understanding of the Spirit as person and as gift. Already the Old Testament emphasized two marks of the Spirit: his absolute transcendence, and his great power. Nothing that is good, true and holy in the world can be understood without reference to the spirit of God.

I warmly welcome to this audience the ecumenical groups from England and Wales and the Lutheran visitors from Denmark. I extend a special greeting to the priests and laity from the Diocese of Thamarasserry and to the Brothers of St. Gabriel from India. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Wales, Denmark, India, the Philippines, Australia, Thailand, Canada and the United States of America, I invoke the abundant blessings of Almighty God.

Pope Prays For Calm, Dialogue In Indonesia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II prayed for calm and dialogue in Indonesia after demonstrations and riots claimed hundreds of lives.

During his midday address May 17 at the Vatican, the pope said he had been following the events in Indonesia "with profound concern."

"The violence of these past few days has provoked the deaths of many people, along with enormous destruction, carrying the country along dangerous paths," the pope said.

"All of our human and Christian solidarity goes to that noble nation at this moment," he said. "We pray that with dialogue and mutual respect for persons and laws, the common good of the Indonesian people will be assured."

After police violently broke up student demonstrations calling for political and economic reforms May 12, more demonstrations paralyzed Indonesia's capital. Machine-gun bearing troops were called in, and a rioting and looting rampage resulted in the deaths of some 500 people.

President Suharto, who has ruled the country for 32 years, promised to reverse partially the recent heavy increase on fuel prices and to make changes in his Cabinet, which has been criticized widely.

Student groups, however, said they would continue their protests, demanding wide-ranging reforms in the government and the economy.

Pope Reminds Paulines To Keep Media Projects Faithful To Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II reminded members of the Society of St. Paul, who came into conflict with the church last year, to remain faithful to the magisterium in their media projects. Speaking at the end of the order's general chapter meeting May 15, the pope said modern society needs "evangelizers capable of guiding with attention and sympathy, but ready also to offer authentically evangelical responses, endorsed by the guarantee of full communion with the church and with its pastors." Mass media are considered the Paulines' charism. Among their Italian publications is the glossy magazine Famiglia Cristiana —which, with sales of more than 1 million copies a week, is second in popularity only to the television guides.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

Ministry in a Place of Business

Out of bad news often comes good news. When a person gets downsized after 27 years of service, that's bad news. But finding a shop that is unusual enough to write home about is good news.

"This is a ministry, not just a business," Tony Detje, owner of Stephanos Christian Bookstore in Bridgeport, Conn., said. "If somebody needs a place to come and talk about God, we're here. We'll stop and talk. It doesn't matter what religion anyone is. We want people to know this store is for everybody."

The first thing you see when you enter the store is a "prayer box," inviting you to leave a petition there. Detje and his staff Marie Paradise and Terry Earles open each day with prayer for the people who have left messages in the box.

Detje is a deacon at St. Joseph's Church in Brookfield, Conn., and for the past 11 years he has served as formation director in the Permanent Diaconate Program of the Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn.

He named his store "Stephanos" after the first deacon and martyr, St. Stephen, and the small wooden cross called the "Stephanos Cross" that many early Christians wore. To avoid identification by those persecuting Christians, "they wrapped the cross in leather thongs and hung jewelry from the thongs" Detje explained.

Detje, father of two, served in the National Guard, had an advanced degree in accounting and had worked 27 years with the same company when he found himself downsized a few years ago. At first, he said, "it hurt." He went on interviews and kept getting rejected. He came to believe, as a psychiatrist told him, that downsizing after a long-time position leaves a person "permanently scarred."

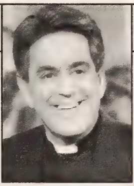
He said that his father, a convert to Catholicism, had taught him to value commitment and not walk away from life because you were "dealt a hard time." So, he started to visualize a new path.

With encouragement from his wife Isabelle, a teacher, he began to focus on something he always loved — books, specifically spiritual ones. He started a Christian book mail-order business and did exhibits and sales at local churches. He soon became a regional representative for the Liturgical Press of Collegeville, Minn. After two successful years, he took a deeper plunge. He got a small business loan from a community bank, found a place with reasonable rent and, in December 1996, Stephanos was born.

Although it is a Christian resource center, he emphasizes that "people of all religions come here and are welcome. In most social situations, people avoid talking about religion." In this store he hopes they are finding "a place to open up about their religious beliefs."

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Of Flags, Flowers, And The Fallen

As the barbecues come rolling out on decks and driveways, convertible tops come down, big sales are touted at the local mall, and cut-offs and tee shirts are retrieved from somewhere back in the closet — Memorial Day, the dividing line between spring and summer, signals the kickoff of the season.

With all the shopping and picnics, there may be reason to fear that the meaning and purpose of Memorial Day is getting lost. If we are to find it, we must start in a cemetery and a little history. There are 24 cities — north and south — that lay claim to being the place where Memorial Day originated. But as a native Pennsylvanian, I have a special fondness for the assertion made by the villagers of a quaint community situated in Centre County, Pennsylvania, just off Route 322, in the picturesque foothills of the Alleghenies. There a small marker by the side of the road boasts: "Boalsburg — Birthplace of Memorial Day."

According to their account, it happened in October 1864, while the Civil War was still raging, a full two years earlier than Waterloo, N.Y., which was sanctioned as the "official" birthplace because its 1866 observance was so "well planned and complete." But, in Boalsburg, they say that Memorial Day was born in a tiny Pennsylvania graveyard where a proud mother and a grieving daughter met to scatter flowers over the final resting places of a brave son and a gallant father.

Mrs. Elizabeth Meyer's son Amos, who was a private, had fallen on the last day of battle at Gettysburg. He had enlisted in the Union Army at the outbreak of the war and fought bravely. The young girl, Emma Hunter, was still reeling from the death of her father, Dr. Reuben Hunter, a Union Army surgeon.

Timing was everything. They met at the cemetery on a Sunday afternoon and began sharing their stories and common grief. They knelt together in that little burial ground, and each spontaneously took a few flowers to the other loved one's grave. Their sympathy for one another seemed to lighten their burdens.

The story goes that before the two women left each other, they agreed to meet again on the same day the following year in order to honor not only their own two loved ones, but others who might have no one left to kneel at their lonely graves. They discussed their plans with friends and neighbors, and the following year every grave in the little cemetery was decorated with flowers and flags. Not a single one was neglected.

Since the first Memorial Day, the service has grown to embrace the men who fought in gray as well as in blue, finally to include all heroes — men and women — who have made the supreme sacrifice in all American conflicts from the Revolutionary War to Desert Storm. And, over the years, respect began to include all who have died, in war or peace, as soldiers or as civilians.

Increasingly, Memorial Day is losing not only its purely military significance, but also its place as the one day in the year when all of us pause collectively in tribute to those who have walked these paths before, all who lived and died trying to build a better future and a better world.

We don't have to decorate a grave or march in a parade to mark the significance of this holiday. But we can stop long enough in our long weekend to acknowledge that Memorial means we should remember — and be truly grateful.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

The Bread for Communion

Q. We look forward to your articles. My question concerns the host we receive at Communion.

In our area we receive a very small white wafer, and have been always taught to let it melt in our mouth and say a prayer.

When I visit my son's family, the host is a larger round host, which looks like it is made from whole wheat. I feel uncomfortable seeing everyone walking back from the altar looking as if they're chewing.

A. Your question may appear trivial to some, but it has significant implications that are worth considering.

First, the teaching you remember was at one time not unusual. When I was in elementary school, in fact, we were told it was a sin to let the host touch one's teeth.

At very least, these sorts of strange teachings never had real foundation in Catholic doctrine or authentic practice.

Jesus told the disciples several times that his Eucharistic body was to be their food, which they were to eat.

The church's rules about the nature of bread for the Eucharist reflects that belief. Regulations in the General Instruction on the Roman Missal, for example, require that the bread used in the Eucharistic celebration "appear as actual food" (No. 283).

In other words, it should look and taste like bread people actually eat.

There's nothing at all unusual in this rule. A fundamental principle in the theology and celebration of the sacraments is that the signs — oil, water, gestures, bread, words — should reflect as genuinely as possible the reality they signify.

Dirty baptismal water or gummy oil, for example, while perhaps valid for the sacraments, are, to say the least, inappropriate and defective sacramental signs.

Similarly, bread which no one would otherwise recognize as bread isn't what the church urges for the celebration of Mass. As one child first communicant said when asked whether he believed the bread is now Jesus, "I believe it is Jesus, but I don't believe it was bread."

The hosts you experience at your son's parish are common. They attempt to honor as well as possible the requirement that Eucharistic bread be made only of water and wheat, with no added ingredients, and still "appear as actual food," as real bread.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Celebrating Life and Love

Yesterday we celebrated our daughter's 16th birthday. A milestone for Andréa and us, she's entered into a new phase of life at the age of sixteen, and we commemorate our embarking on the journey of parenthood sixteen years ago. For Andréa it is a time of looking ahead to new privileges and responsibilities. For us it has been a time of looking back, reminiscing and reflecting. In both purviews, God's grace empowers, the Spirit orchestrates, and Jesus shows us the way to live.

The "double D's" (dating and driving) are what's in store for Andréa, and probably what she's looked forward to most. She will need to rely on her good judgment in both. We will need to trust her and give her the appropriate space to try out her wings. Andréa, being our first child, will at times have to be patient with us as we try out our wings as parents entering another phase of our life cycle. She's the trailblazer who teaches us all about family transition.

We're planning a party for her. Actually the party is for us, too. Her friends and our family and friends will be there to celebrate our milestones. While discussing details of the affair, we found ourselves reminiscing how Andrew's family hosted Terri's 16th birthday party. Our friendship having spanned three decades, there is a sense of interrelatedness arriving at this point in our lives.

We also remember the party we (over)planned for Andréa's first birthday. It too was as much a party for us as it was for her. Then we celebrated God's deliverance from the fears we had about have children. We feared we didn't have what it would take to be good parents. It was our willingness to be the clay that time and circumstances would mold through faith into a loving family. Feeling that "molding" in our lives then, we had reason to celebrate.

Present were friends who were also new parents along with their babies. They were people who had stepped out in faith with us. Sharing our stories, our hopes and fears, we felt very connected with them. They comforted us. Present in our lives were our Marriage Encounter community who were role models for us. Their stories encouraged us. And there were our family members and friends who were emotionally invested in our small family circle. They empowered us. Overjoyed by the gift that Andréa was in our lives that first year, her first birthday party was a celebration of faith.

Still the clay being molded, we plan the upcoming party as a celebration of 16 years of parenthood, and the community of family and friends who have shaped our family life. We are still comforted, encouraged and empowered by them and many more. With the excitement we remember from Terri's 16th birthday party so many years ago and the celebration of faith so much a part of Andréa's first birthday party, today we celebrate life and love, and 16 years of grace from God. "We remember; we celebrate; we believe!"

Andrew & Terri Lyke are CNS columnists.

Asian Synod's Final Message Calls For 'Missionary Spirituality'

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Synod of Bishops for Asia said church growth on the continent will depend on a "missionary spirituality" that combines a sense of service with the duty to proclaim Christ.

The synod's five-page concluding message, issued May 13, described the synod as a time of grace and as a foundation for the future. It said the monthlong assembly illustrated challenges, but it also showed that "particular churches in Asia are very much alive, and some of them manifest an extraordinary dynamism."

On the central issue of evangelization, the message emphasized that "all Christians have the duty to proclaim Christ." It said the synod discussed many creative ways to present Christ in Asia as "the personification of God's love and forgiveness."

Most importantly, it said, evangelization "calls for a deep missionary spirituality, rooted in Christ, with special emphasis on compassion and harmony, detachment and self-emptying, solidarity with the poor and the suffering, and respect for the integrity of creation."

The message said the bishops felt that liturgy, which has a key role in evangelization, should be participatory and "take more and more into account the local cultures."

It said the church, which is a small minority in most of Asia, must continue its dialogue with other religions, such as Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam, in an attitude of respect for the spiritual values of these longstanding faiths.

At the same time, it said, for Christians, such dialogue "will include the desire of sharing the saving message of Christ."

"We consider our faith as the greatest treasure and would like to share it with all, fully respecting their religious beliefs and their freedom," it said.

The message cited a number of social problems in Asia, in particular the attack on family values.

"The family is the most endangered institution in Asia. Population control tends to discriminate against the girl child in some countries and targets the poor of the Third World," it said.

"Traditional family values are being overturned and replaced by egotism, hedonism, materialism and greed. Direct assaults on life are made by contraception, sterilization and abortion. We must save the family," it said.

It said the church must take an interest in other key social problem areas: ecological damage, which it said was primarily a product of "unbridled greed"; the harmful effects of economic globalization; the political regimes that have denied basic rights in some Asian countries; the expansion of the weapons industry; and the fate of millions of migrants and refugees throughout the continent.

It called for alleviation of the "crushing burden" of the foreign debt for countries in Asia and elsewhere.

The message emphasized that Catholic lay people should take the lead in addressing and correcting these problems. It said there were many signs that the laity are being empowered by the Spirit for an even greater role in the coming millennium, which it said could be called "the Age of the Laity." For that reason, their formation — especially in the church's social teaching — is extremely important, it said.

The church's schools in Asia should foster critical thinking, so that students can analyze social forces and identify situations in which people are exploited, the message said. It said Catholic media, including press, television, radio and Internet sites, can have a prophetic role and help the church become the voice of the voiceless.

The message highlighted the greater awareness of women's equal dignity and equality with men and said if the church is to be a credible sign of women's respect, it must encourage their active participation as "equally responsible for Christ's mission of love and service."

While the synod dealt with pastoral problems, the message highlighted the many positive aspects of church life in Asia, including a high number of vocations, the deep religiousness of Asian Catholics, increasing lay activity and the impressive record of social service by church institutions. The greatest reason for hope is Jesus Christ, it said.

"So let us be confident. The spirit of the Lord is obviously at work in Asia, and the church is quite active in this continent," it said.

On Eve Of 78th Birthday, Pope Reminds Young People They'll Age

ROME (CNS) — On the eve of his 78th birthday, Pope John Paul II told young people it was important for him to remember he was once young, but it was also important for them to remember they will grow old.

The children of Assumption Parish on the northeast outskirts of Rome sang "Happy Birthday" in Italian to the visiting pope May 17, the day before his birthday.

Pope John Paul described himself to the children as an "elderly priest."

"This morning, when I met the children, I thought, 'You, too, were once like this,'" he told parishioners after Mass. "Now I am a peer of those who are more elderly."

The pope told young people in the parish, "Do not forget that one day you, too, will be elderly, just as I do not forget that I was once young."

During his homily, Pope John Paul told parishioners that like the apostles, they must be open to the Holy Spirit as they seek to spread the Gospel in their neighborhood and care for their hurting neighbors, especially the elderly who are alone and young people addicted to drugs.

He prayed that they would follow the Spirit's lead as they evangelize "where people live, study and work, in the places of joy and suffering, in celebrations and in the daily unfolding of events."

"Do not be discouraged if sometimes your strengths seem limited or inadequate for the breadth of the mission," the pope said. "In today's Gospel, Jesus assures us that the Consoler, the Holy Spirit sent by the Father in the name of Jesus, is always with us."

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Entertainment

"Little Men" Sequel A Disappoinment Without Any Fresh Insights

By HENRY HERX

NEW YORK (CNS) — The joys and tribulations of those in a rural boarding school in 1871 Massachusetts are retold in Louisa May Alcott's "Little Men" (Legacy).

This sequel to "Little Women" follows Jo March (Mariel Hemingway) after she marries Professor Fritz Bhaer (Chris Sarandon) and they open a school for children who are willing to learn.

One of the school's benefactors saves Nat (Michael Caloz), a Boston street urchin, from arrest by sending him to the Bhaers as a prospective student.

Nat, a likable boy who plays the violin like a virtuoso, is grateful for the opportunity and, after a bit of hazing, fits in easily with the other pupils.

Soon, however, his fellow street urchin and best friend, Dan (Ben Cook), shows up and seeks admittance to the school.

The kindly Bhaers take him in without knowing that Dan, unlike Nat, is a scrappy pickpocket with decidedly bad habits, such as drinking, smoking, swearing and gambling.

After a series of incidents, the last of which almost burns the place down, Dan is sent to a school more accustomed to dealing with rowdy youths.

Naturally, Dan runs away and returns to the Bhaers, who give him one last chance. But a nasty student steals some money and makes it appear that Dan is the culprit.

How the innocent Dan is exonerated provides the tale's heartwarming conclusion.

Directed by Rodney Gibbons from a script by Mark Evan Schwartz, the result is an uneven dramatization which succeeds as period piece but fails to give the story any dramatic life.

Though Nat gets little to do but appear as a proper waif, Dan holds the center of attention as the troubled youngster who is the proverbial diamond in the rough.

Young Ben Cook manages to portray a sympathetic scamp but lacks the flair of a young Mickey Rooney in the part.

The other young actors perform well enough but their roles are one-dimensional and the school setting rarely becomes convincing.

The story is admittedly sentimental and the situations are much more artificial than the family interplay of "Little Women."

But the results here are disappointing and without any fresh insights into these 1871 characters.

Because of a bloody fist fight, a dangerous game with a knife and a few curse words, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS photo from Touchstone Pictures

Robert Redford and Scarlett Johansson star in the romantic drama "The Horse Whisperer." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"As Good As It Gets" (1997)

Acerbic comedy in which a misanthropic author (Jack Nicholson) tries to rejoin the human race after falling in love with a tolerant waitress (Helen Hunt) and befriending a broke homosexual artist (Greg Kinnear). Directed by James L. Brooks, the thin plot begins with the mean-spirited humor of Nicholson's nasty, self-centered sociopath, then turns mushy as he attempts to reform, but the proceedings are overlong and only sporadically amusing. Stylized violence, sexual situations, recurring rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"On the Avenue" (1937)

Musical fluff about a socialite (Madeleine Carroll) falling in love with a Broadway musical star (Dick Powell), despite his lead in a new show which pokes fun at her stuffy family. Directed by Roy Del Ruth, the on-again, off-again romance meanders amiably through an uneven collection of Irving Berlin songs, with Alice Faye and the Ritz Brothers notable in supporting roles. Romantic complications. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"A Rat's Tale" (1998)

Disappointing family fantasy in which a pair of enterprising rats save their community from a new rodent poison by finding an antidote in the flowers of a long-lost magical garden hidden in the subterranean rock beneath Manhattan. Directed by Michael F. Huse, the German production mixes American actors and live-action settings with beautifully crafted German marionettes and studio backgrounds, but the thin story of talking animals and magical powers is too belabored to hold much interest or charm. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Rose of Washington Square" (1939)

In a romantic melodrama loosely paralleling events in singer Fanny Brice's life, a promising vocalist (Alice Faye) marries a suave crook (Tyrone Power), becomes a Broadway star thanks to a former partner (Al Jolson), then sticks by her weak-willed husband when he's sent to prison. Directed by Gregory Ratoff, the Prohibition-era sudser is saved by Faye's cheerful singing, Jolson's enthusiastic performance and Power's handsome insincerity. Romantic complications. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Stowaway" (1936)

After her missionary parents die in war-torn China, a little girl (Shirley Temple) makes her way to Shanghai, winds up by accident on a U.S.-bound ocean liner and helps a rich idler (Robert Young) and an earnest maiden (Alice Faye) find true love after they wed to adopt the child who otherwise will be deported. Directed by William A. Seiter, the hokey vehicle relies entirely on the child star's appeal as a spunky orphan who is fluent in Chinese, sings like a professional and knows more proverbs than Charlie Chan. Convoluted romantic complications. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Tin Pan Alley" (1940)

Standard musical in which struggling song publishers (John Payne and Jack Oakie) in 1915 New York get singing sisters (Alice Faye and Betty Grable) to plug their songs, but Grable soon leaves to become a star, and Faye follows after the overly ambitious Payne breaks her heart, then all four are reunited as the boys go off to fight in World War I. Directed by Walter Lang, the soggy romance is bolstered by the colorful period backgrounds, enjoyable songs and a running gag with Oakie struggling to find words for a tune which finally becomes "K-K-K-Katy." Romantic complications. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

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FAITH alive!

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The top six changes in Catholic-Jewish relations

By Eugene Fisher
Catholic News Service

The world's bishops voted overwhelmingly "placet" ("it pleases") when a short document titled *In Our Time* (*Nostra Aetate*) was placed before them for final action. That was Oct. 28, 1965, during Vatican Council II. The document would forever change the church's perception of its relationship to non-Christian religions.

Section 4 of that document, the section around which the rest of it was built, concerned the relationship between the church and the Jewish people — the people on whose history, as the document acknowledges, the salvation history of all humanity is erected.

It is amazing, in retrospect, that it was felt necessary in such a document to devote one of the total of 15 sentences (in Latin) to affirming the fact that Jesus, Mary and the apostles were Jews, and that their Jewishness was part of the divine plan.

So this is the first point on my "top-six" list of the changes in Catholic-Jewish relations over the past three decades:

1. The acceptance by Catholics that Jesus was a Jew — a pious, observant Jew.

Before the council, Jesus' Jewishness, while not denied, was hardly mentioned in Catholic preaching and teaching. Today, this is a key element in Catholic educational materials.

This is a historically simple yet theologically pregnant point. For if Jesus adhered to his ancestors' faith and tradition, then the faith and practices of our Jewish neighbors today is relevant to how we understand our own Catholic life and faith.

> **"There now are hundreds of local parish/synagogue dialogue groups meeting on a regular basis in U.S. dioceses. Never before have so many Catholics been involved directly with Jews for the sake of mutual spiritual enrichment."**

We need dialogue with the Jews to understand who we are as Catholics. Of no other religion, as the pope has reiterated, can this be said in quite the same way.

2. In 1986 the pope — bishop of Rome — visited the Great Synagogue of Rome and prayed there with its people. It was the first time since St. Peter that a bishop of Rome had done such a thing.

Given the nearly 2,000 years of history in between those visits, this one man's "small step" was indeed a "giant leap" for humankind.

3. Studies of Catholic textbooks produced since Vatican Council II reflect the remarkable nature of the change in what is actually taught about Jews and Judaism. An entire structure of polemics against Judaism, termed by scholars the "teaching of contempt" and dating back to the fathers of the church in the second century, has virtually disappeared.

It has been replaced by a more positive, more accurate portrait of Jewish faith. The infamous "deicide" charge of collective Jewish guilt for Jesus' crucifixion is no more, as Vatican II mandated.

4. Centers and institutes of Jewish-Christian studies have proliferated. The first such institute ever was established in the United States at a Catholic university, Seton Hall in New Jersey, in the mid 1950s, with a couple following in Europe in the 1960s.

The vision of mutual spiritual and academic enrichment between Jews and Christians embodied by these small institutions remained isolated to a few pockets of hope until the mid-1970s.

When I returned to Detroit after completing my doctoral studies in Judaica at New York University's Institute of Hebrew Studies (where I was often the only non-Jew in the classroom), I was asked to teach courses in the Hebrew Bible at the major seminary — but only after some close scrutiny to make sure that my faith had not been tainted by the experience of learning how the Jews understand the Scriptures their ancestors wrote!

But now there are dozens of institutes for Jewish-Christian studies at Catholic colleges in the United States alone, along with departments of Jewish studies at other Christian and even secular universities where Christian and Jewish scholars learn from and with one another.

5. Also, there now are hundreds of local parish/synagogue dialogue groups meeting on a regular basis in U.S. dioceses. Never before have so many Catholics been involved directly with Jews for the sake of mutual spiritual enrichment. The active involvement of the laity in Jewish-Christian dialogue is vital to its long-term success.

CNS photo by Michael Okoniewski

6. Proliferating, too, have been Holocaust centers. In Washington, the U.S. Holocaust Museum regularly hosts groups of Catholic high school students for visits which are part of Holocaust study programs in their schools.

Catholic teachers in numerous communities with Holocaust museums are taking advantage of similar educational opportunities. The pope has called this "the century of the 'Shoah' (Holocaust)." The 1998 Vatican statement on the "Shoah," affirms this strongly. It expresses the church's repentance for what was done — and not done — vis-a-vis the Jews in this century and those preceding it by Christians on all levels of the church.

All in all it can be said that Vatican Council II's call for a renewal of attitude toward Jews and Judaism is being implemented. Much remains to be done. But the beginning has been quite impressive, thanks in large part to the personal interest of Pope John Paul II.

(Fisher is the associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. His book with Rabbi Leon Klenicki, "Pope John Paul II: Spiritual Pilgrimage, Texts and Documents 1979-1995," Crossroad, 1995, received a National Jewish Book Council Award.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"The spoiled seeds of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism must never again be allowed to take root in any human heart." Those words concluded the March 1998 document on the "Shoah" (Holocaust) from the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews.

Earlier, in October 1997, Pope John Paul II spoke similarly: "The church firmly condemns all forms of genocide as well as the racist theories that have inspired and claimed to justify them," he said; to genocide's moral malice "is added, with the 'Shoah,' the malice of a hatred which does violence to God's salvific plan in history."

Coupled with their unequivocal rejections of anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism, the same documents called on Catholics to become more aware of their faith's Hebrew roots.

The pope cautioned that "those who consider the reality that Jesus was a Jew and that his milieu was the Jewish world to be simple contingent cultural facts ... misunderstand the meaning of the history of salvation" and "do damage to the very truth of the incarnation."

And the Vatican commission asked Catholics to bear in mind that "the Virgin Mary and the apostles belonged to the Jewish people" and "that the Jews are our dearly beloved brothers."

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH alive!

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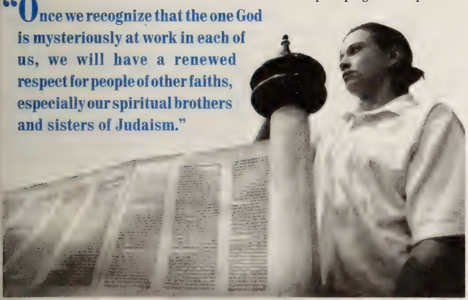
Ours is a dialogue of life

By Father Paul D. Lee
Catholic News Service

Annunciation Parish in Washington works with the Washington Hebrew Congregation and nearby St. Alban's Episcopal Parish to celebrate an annual *Kristallnacht* service. It commemorates the terrifying night in November 1938 when the Nazis in Germany and Austria seized and destroyed property owned by Jews, escalating the violence against Jews that would lead toward the Holocaust.

> **"Once we recognize that the one God is mysteriously at work in each of us, we will have a renewed respect for people of other faiths, especially our spiritual brothers and sisters of Judaism."**



CNS photo by Karen Callaway

Over the years, the people of these three Washington communities have gotten together and enjoyed each other's company and friendship, even as they commemorated this solemn event. The gathering is a celebration of food, wonderful conversation, exquisite music, inspiring talks and shared prayer.

Ecumenical and interreligious dialogue is more than an exchange of theological ideas. Dialogue involves the sharing of life, action and religious experience.

The Archdiocese of Washington is blessed. Almost every religious group is represented in the area. The potential for mutual enrichment and common growth is great.

Theologians and Scripture scholars for years have appreciated the unique spiritual kinship of Christians and Jews. Yet, on a parish or grassroots level this spiritual kinship is still largely an untapped treasure.

Most of the popular Jewish-Christian endeavors seem to have focused up to the present time on correcting the negative: prejudice; misunderstanding; the venom of racism.

One successful endeavor, the Bearing Witness program for Catholic educators, deals with anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and other contemporary issues. It is a pilot program co-sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, the Archdiocese of Washington and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In addition, the Washington archdiocese's Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs organized a priests' tour of the Holocaust Museum that was well received.

However, worthy as such efforts may be, I believe parishes can do more than counteract the negative. Aren't there opportunities for positive formation through thoughtful education and interaction between Catholics and Jews?

There are several local examples of this. One is the Priest-Rabbi Forum organized by the Washington archdiocese's ecumenical and interreligious affairs office and the local board of rabbis.

On two occasions, local priests and rabbis met to reflect on the progress of Catholic-Jewish relations as illustrated by the new Catechism of the Catholic Church. The priests and rabbis also discussed pastoral concerns and procedures related to mixed marriages.

Another example is a recent joint fund-raising banquet to help in creating a lectureship on Jewish studies at The Catholic University of America.

Finally, recent events involving priests and others to mark the 30th anniversary of the Vatican Council II document calling for improved interreligious relations demonstrated that the vision of improved Catholic-Jewish relations is still refreshing.

Washington, as the nation's capital, offers a unique setting for interfaith events. "Three Women From Jerusalem," a program at the Finnish embassy, was such an event held earlier this year. The program involved a poignant conversation among three mothers representing Islamic, Christian and Jewish traditions, and sharing a common hope for peace and understanding in their ancestral city.

Christians and Jews long lived with mistrust, perceiving each other as a threat. But shouldn't our efforts now focus, as Pope John Paul II suggested, on how they can be "a blessing to each other" (April 6, 1993)?

Joint Scripture studies, inviting each other to interfaith Thanksgiving Day services or Seders at Passover time, have proven helpful.

Once we recognize that the one God is mysteriously at work in each of us, we will have a renewed respect for people of other faiths, especially our spiritual brothers and sisters of Judaism.

(Father Lee is director of the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in the Archdiocese of Washington.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Describe a program in your parish or diocese that promotes Jewish-Christian understanding.

"Usually during the Lenten season we have an interfaith lecture series, a four-week series sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the archdiocese with other Christian institutions.... This year's theme was 'The Prophets.' We also have a Catholic clergy-rabbi dialogue that goes into a number of difficult topics like intermarriage and how we explain each other's traditions to our communities." — Father Vincent Heier, St. Louis, Mo.

"We have the Interfaith Lay Dialogue Project, cosponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Jewish Community Relations Council. It's been in place for 15 years, involving Catholic, Protestant and Jewish people who meet ... once a week for six weeks. Discussion covers the basics of the beliefs and traditions, and the history of the relationship between Christians and Jews." — Sister Josephine Case, IHM, Philadelphia, Pa.

"We have a Jewish-Catholic scholars dialogue group ... of about 15 each from the Catholic and Jewish communities.... It's an ongoing permanent group that meets every two months. Agendas vary; there have been discussions on Scripture, law, current issues like the recent Vatican document (on the Holocaust)." — Sister Joan McGuire, OP, Chicago, Ill.

An upcoming edition asks: Do you think a better understanding of a particular past time period would help Catholics today better understand their own times? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Roots

By Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
Catholic News Service

Jesus was a Jew. So were Mary and Joseph. So were the apostles and the early Christians.

The New Testament shows how they observed the law, attended the synagogue on the Sabbath and made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for feasts such as Passover and Pentecost.

In those days there was no New Testament. For Jesus and the early Christians, the Scriptures were what later would be called the Old Testament.

For the early Christians, including Paul and the evangelists, the Book of Psalms was the basic hymnbook for worship as well as their prayerbook.

For us, the Book of Psalms is still the basic worship hymnbook. The Old Testament, like the New Testament, is part of the Christian Scriptures.

Think of the Mass. On most Sundays and weekdays, the first reading is from the Old Testament. The second reading and the Gospel reading are from the New Testament.

In our liturgy, the reading from the Old Testament points to the readings from the New Testament. These New Testament readings interpret the Old Testament reading in light of the Gospel.

As Christians, our personal identity comes from our relationship to Christ, the Son of God. But that does not mean that we should deny the Jewish roots of our faith.

St. Paul was a devout, zealous Jew. Through Jesus, the Son of David, he related to his Jewish heritage. Through Jesus, the Son of God, he related to the church.

As Christians, our roots are in the early church, in the circle of Jesus' first disciples.

Through Jesus of Nazareth and the early church, we who are Christians also trace our roots to the Jewish people living in Judea, Galilee and elsewhere. Through them we are related to their ancestors, the Israelites. Ultimately, we can trace our roots to the early Hebrews, beginning with Abraham and Sarah.

Jews have a very special relationship to Christians. Remember that Jesus of Nazareth was a Jew. That is why anti-Semitism or anti-Jewish sentiment has no legitimate place in Christianity.

Anti-Semitism represents a rejection, even hatred, of our own faith heritage. Sometimes people try to justify anti-Semitism, accusing the Jews of killing Christ.

Who killed Christ?

Human beings, both gentiles and Jews, killed Christ. In the Passion accounts, Pontius Pilate and the Roman soldiers represented the gentiles. The high priests and the leaders of the people represented the Jews.

Instead of pointing to the Jews, we should point to ourselves. The Jews did not kill Christ. We killed Christ. Blaming the Jews, we use them as scapegoats, denying our own part in the death of Christ.

Denial can be a powerful escape mechanism!

(Father LaVerdiere, a Blessed Sacrament priest, is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)

In a Nutshell

- ***Catholic textbooks since Vatican Council II reflect remarkable change in how we teach about Judaism.***
- ***Vatican Council II's call for a renewal of attitude toward Jews and Judaism is being implemented, though much remains to be done.***
- ***Christians have roots in the early church. And through Jesus, Christians also trace their roots to the Jewish people.***

People In The News

Mordecai Waxman First Rabbi To Get Papal Knighthood

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, for more than 30 years a tireless promoter of Catholic-Jewish dialogue, was made a Knight Commander of St. Gregory the Great May 5 at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He was the fifth Jew and the first rabbi to be enrolled in the 167-year-old papal equestrian order, to which non-Catholics have been admitted only in recent years. Acting on behalf of Pope John Paul II, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore draped the gold-trimmed, enameled medallion of the order around Rabbi Waxman's neck in ceremonies at the end of a meeting of the National Catholic-Jewish Consultation. The rabbi and the cardinal co-chair the consultation.

Kung Foundation Cautiously Welcomes Release Of Bishop, Priest

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Cardinal Kung Foundation welcomed the release of an imprisoned underground Chinese bishop and a priest, but said the transfer of the bishop "from a labor detention center to house arrest can hardly be called a true release." The foundation's May 10 statement added that Bishop Thomas Zeng Jingmu of Yujiang, who has spent more than 30 years in jail, "is very sick at present." It added that Father Lu Genyou of Baoding was also released, but said details were not available. The priest was arrested April 5 while preparing to celebrate Mass in a private home. The statement also urged the release of other imprisoned Catholics and non-Catholics in China.

Irish Archbishops Urge Voting In Peace Agreement Referendum

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Ireland's four archbishops urged voter participation in the upcoming referendum on the Good Friday peace agreement to end the Northern Irish conflict. "It is important that people read the text of the agreement for themselves and try to come to a responsible judgment. We ask all people, North and South, to use their vote after careful and prayerful consideration of the contribution which each of us has to make to a just and lasting peace on our island," said the archbishops from the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland. Both jurisdictions were to hold referendums on the agreement May 22. The church leaders said it was not their role to support "any political viewpoint or to tell people how to vote," but that bishops had "a duty to place Gospel values before our people" when they were considering how to vote.

Guatemalan Church Workers Call Murder Investigation Flawed

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — The investigation into the murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City is "flawed" and could lead to the crime going unpunished, warned a leading member of the archdiocesan Human Rights Office. Edgar Gutierrez, coordinator of the office's Project for the Recovery of the Historic Memory, said May 11 that the murder investigation carried out by the attorney general's office has been "deficient" and called the official in charge, Otto Ardon, "incapable and negligent."

Pakistani Court Suspends Death Sentence Of Christian

MULTAN, Pakistan (CNS) — A Pakistani court has suspended the death sentence of a Christian accused of blasphemy until his appeal is heard in June. The case gained prominence after Bishop John Joseph of Faisalabad, Pakistan, committed suicide to protest the death sentence. On May 12, the Multan section of the Lahore High Court suspended the lower court's sentence against Ayub Masih, who had been condemned to death for blasphemy after being accused of speaking favorably about British author Salman Rushdie's book, "The Satanic Verses." Ayub's defense, which requested the suspension, presented documents showing that he had studied the Koran, Islam's holy book, for years and holds no hostility toward Islam.

Bishops Vote For Three-Country Papal Trip To Conclude Synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Most members of the Synod of Bishops for Asia want Pope John Paul II to visit cities in three different Asian countries to formally conclude their work. But if time and health limit him to just one city, the bishops suggested a wide-ranging list of cities, including Jerusalem, Hong Kong, Calcutta, India, and Manila, Philippines. Participants in the April 19-May 14 synod session were asked to suggest possibilities for a papal trip that would include the publication of the pope's post-synodal apostolic exhortation. India topped the country list with 40 votes. Thirteen of those voters recommend the pope visit Bombay. The Philippines came in second with 30 votes, including 22 for Manila. Although the political situation would make the third choice — China — difficult to visit, 25 synod members included it on their list.

Father John Pollard To Leave National Catechetics Post

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Francis E. George has named Father John E. Pollard, first director of the U.S. bishops' Office for the Catechism, to head a newly created Chicago archdiocesan Department of Education. The appointment takes effect Aug. 15. Father Pollard, 50, has been on leave from the Chicago Archdiocese for the past six years to serve the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference. He was the USCC Department of Education representative for catechesis and leadership development for education from 1992 until 1995, when he was made head of the newly formed NCCB Office for the Catechism.

A Final Sinatra Wish: Memorial Donations To Catholic Charities

By NANCY HARTNAGEL

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Frank Sinatra, considered by many the century's greatest popular singer, personally requested that, in lieu of flowers at his death, people make donations to Catholic Charities agencies and a children's center named for his wife, according to a family spokeswoman.

The singer, known as "Ol' Blue Eyes" and "the Chairman of the Board," died of a heart attack May 14 in Los Angeles. He was 82, and had been in failing health since a heart attack in January 1997.

A private funeral Mass was set for May 20 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Beverly Hills, Calif. Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony was to be principal celebrant for the invitation-only Mass and for a vigil service the night before. The spokeswoman said burial would be private.

In a statement May 15, Catholic Charities USA said it "is extremely grateful to the Sinatra family for recognizing the good work of our agencies nationwide."

Susan V. Weight, deputy assistant of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, said the agency is "delighted that they've remembered us." A special post office box has been set up for responses, she said. The address is: Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 53330, Los Angeles, CA 90074-3330.

"The Sinatra family as a whole has always been very supportive of all charities and especially Catholic ones because they're Catholic," she told Catholic News Service May 15. "This way, his memory can live on in the good works Catholic Charities does. It's wonderful."

Sinatra also had asked that donations be directed to the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif. The center, founded by Sinatra and his wife in 1986, treats and counsels abused children.

Over a six-decade career, Sinatra sustained fame and success, first as a radio and big band singer, later as a movie actor and TV entertainer, and always as a recording artist. He made 60 movies and, in addition to recording countless hit singles, he recorded more than 50 albums. His records won 11 regular and special Grammys.

The entertainer also survived allegations of links to organized crime and casino gaming interests, and was a regular at the White House during the Kennedy and Reagan years.

Born Dec. 12, 1915, in Hoboken, N.J., Sinatra was baptized a Catholic, and because of the presiding priest's confusion, was christened Francis Albert instead of Martin Jr.

Despite three earlier marriages, his 1976 marriage to Barbara Marx subsequently was validated in a private ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, Catholic News Service reported in 1979. He had been photographed receiving Communion at St. Patrick's that year, which prompted questions about his Catholic status.

CNS file photo from Reuters

Legendary entertainer Frank Sinatra thanks the audience during his 80th birthday celebration on Nov. 19, 1995 at Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Sinatra died May 15 in Los Angeles at the age of 82.

The singer's first marriage to Nancy Barbato was annulled by the Catholic Church, CNS reported, and his subsequent marriages to actresses Ava Gardner and Mia Farrow never were recognized as valid in the eyes of the church.

In a 75th birthday tribute in 1990, Jesuit Father George W. Hunt, then editor of America magazine, celebrated the perfection, not of Sinatra's life, but of his work, which he called "that of the greatest popular singer of our century."

"I can honestly say that no other stranger has provided so much continual and renewable pleasure in my life as has he," Father Hunt wrote in his column in America.

He praised Sinatra's voice for its tonal quality and musical phrasing, which he called "unique in its smoothness, sense of nuance and expressiveness."

Sinatra wrote back, saying how much he enjoyed the column. In a letter published in the Feb. 2, 1991, issue of America, the crooner said, "I was deeply touched that you took the time to write this lovely tribute in honor of my 75th birthday, and it truly made my day a very special one! Appreciate your love and support."

Throughout his career, Sinatra reportedly contributed more than $1 billion to charities worldwide. He was a benefactor for individual Catholic churches, including St. Louis in Cathedral City, Calif., his mother's parish, and Holy Family in Las Vegas, which had been meeting in a casino until Sinatra and others put on benefits to raise building funds.

Sinatra received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1971 and was to receive the Sons of Italy Foundation Humanitarian Award May 21 at a gala in Washington. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Reagan in 1985.

The singer is survived by his wife and three children.

Our Lady of Mercy Students Assist Habitat for Humanity

By SUSAN deGUZMAN

WINSTON-SALEM — As part of a recent service project, Our Lady of Mercy School seventh graders used their creativity and craftsmanship to benefit the poor of the area. Students sold birdhouses at the Habitat for Humanity Annual Birdhouse Sale and Auction held April 30 - May 2.

Familiar with Habitat's fund-raising events, OLM school secretary Donna Kronner suggested the birdhouses as a fun and worthwhile art project for students to OLM art teacher Deidre Mullen. Habitat sells unfinished, preconstructed birdhouses for $5 each. The fee covers the cost of the materials. Individuals and groups buy, paint and decorate the houses, then return them to Habitat to be sold at the auction.

Mullen said that the students had to raise the money themselves to purchase the birdhouses. To acquire 15 houses, the seventh graders decided to hold a bake sale, which netted $130. The extra money was used to purchase additional science equipment for the school.

The students had two 90-minute art classes to design and paint their birdhouses. With few guidelines and lots of acrylic paint, they worked in pairs, Mullen said. "A lot of cooperative learning took place. The students worked very well together, sensing each other's strengths and weaknesses," she added.

One birdhouse had a carnival theme: A roller coaster was painted on one side, a cotton candy booth on a second. Another was designed like a cat's body with a mouth on the front, its body on the sides, and a tail on the back.

Habitat offered the finished birdhouses at the auction in three different ways. Some of the birdhouses were available for direct purchase with prices starting at $25. A second group was offered in a silent auction format. A third set was sold at a live auction.

A national, nonprofit organization that utilizes volunteers to help build homes for the poor, Habitat for Humanity homes are worth up to $65,000 and sold to carefully screened applicants with 20-year interest-free mortgages. The Forsyth County Chapter of Habitat has been in existence for 13 years and has never had a buyer foreclose on his or her home.

The money raised from this event goes into Habitat's building fund, which is used to purchase construction materials. Any birdhouses which do not sell are made available to the public at Habitat for Humanity headquarters in Winston-Salem. For more information, call the Habitat office at (336) 765-8854.

Susan deGuzman is a parishioner at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

Photo by Susan deGuzman

Our Lady of Mercy School students paint birdhouses for Habitat for Humanity.

Employment Opportunities

Chairperson — Religious Studies Department:

Charlotte Catholic High School, a diocesan school with 800 students, is seeking experienced, energetic full-time person to serve as Chairperson of the Religious Studies Department, teach religion part-time and serve part-time on established Campus Ministry Team. Must have Master's Degree in Theology or Religious Education from a Catholic college or university. Send resume, transcripts, letter or recommendation and request for an application to Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Organist:

Organist needed for the weekly 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass and Holy Day Masses. Familiarity with Roman Catholic liturgy would be beneficial. Other responsibilities would include accompanying and adult choir. The instrument is a Johannus organ from Holland. Salary is negotiable. If interested, please contact Rev. Fr. Peter Fitzgibbons, St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, 525 Camden Drive, Statesville, NC 28677. (704) 872-2579.

Youth Minister:

Vibrant, growing, diverse parish seeking qualified, talented, dedicated leader to coordinate jr. and sr. high school ministry. Part-time position to work collaboratively with staff to build upon and expand existing spiritual, social and service components. Prefer previous youth ministry experience. Please send resume to: Search Committe, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 226 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27603.

Director for Total Youth Ministry:

St. Mark Catholic Church in Wilmington, NC, is seeking a full-time person for youth ministry. Primary responsibilities for grades 6-12 in the 2000-family parish: Religious education classes, retreats, service projects, social events, and recruiting, training and supporting volunteer teachers and leaders. Will work closely with Director of Religious Education. Bachelor's Degree required with religious education background and experience preferred. A practicing Catholic in good standing with great enthusiasm for working with youth required. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send letter of application with resume to TYM Search Committe, St. Mark Catholic Church, 1011 Eastwood Road, Wilmington, NC 28403 by July 1, 1998.

Faith Formation:

Director of Faith Formation, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community, is seeking a knowledgeable, experienced, creative, enthusiastic person to lead its 1800+ family parish program. Student enrollment exceeds 1200. Median age of the parish is young; parish is vibrant and fast-growing. Responsibilities include organization of classes 1-9, sacrament formation, recruitment of volunteer teachers/assistants and parent formation. MA in religious education and/or theology required, five years experience in parish administration or equivalent. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resumes by May 29 to: Office of Faith Formation, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 1400 Suther Road, Charlotte, NC 28213 or fax to: (704)549-1614 attn: Sister Margaret Straney.

Director of Religious Education at Asheville Catholic School:

This is a full-time position for the 1998-99 academic year with responsibility for the administration of the ACS faith formation program which includes a variety of faith-filled objectives and outreach. A degree in Religious Education in the Catholic faith or a related field is preferred. Some experience in the field of Catholic religious education is beneficial. Applicant must be committed to implementing the ideals of the Catholic Faith as outlined in the documents of Vatican II and as directed by the Diocese of Charlotte, and to working with the staff, students, and parents in a collaborative manner. The salary is based on experience and educational background and includes a diocesan benefit package. Send your resume to: DRE Search Committee, Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern Street, Asheville, NC 28804.

Organist — Pianist:

St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28115. Two choir rehearsals and Masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard, Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Campus Ministry Intern:

Full-time position. Intern will develop Catholic Campus Ministry at Wingate University, a Baptist institution, through collaboration with the local parish and the Catholic students, staff and faculty. Requirements: practicing Catholic; Bachelor's Degree; enrollment in LIMEX (Loyola Institute of Ministry extension program), a four-year graduate program leading to Master's Degree in Religious Education — application to LIMEX will be sent upon receipt of resume. Benefits: Rm/Bd; $400/mo stipend (to be increased annually); health insurance; $2000 tuition grant for LIMEX. Send resume and cover letter by June 1 to Colleen McDermott, Director of Campus Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Phone: (704) 370-3212. E-mail: campusmin@charlottediocese.org

Teaching Position:

Charlotte Catholic High School has the following teaching positions and counselor position open beginning in August, 1998: Full-time Spanish and Part-time Spanish, Business/Computer, Physical Science, Part-time Drama and Part-time Counselor. Please send resume and request for application to: Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Choir Members Needed

Members are needed for a diocesan choir to help celebrate the ordination Mass of Rev. Misters Dean Cesa, Christopher Davis, Matthew Leonard and Peter Pham. Mass is June 6 at 10 a.m.in St. John Neumann Church on Idlewild Rd.

If interested, please call Dr. Larry Stratemeyer,
(704) 334-2283, ext. 22

Our Mission:

Providing Healing & Christian Service to North Carolinians for 50 Years

Ever since St. Joseph Hospital was founded in 1948 by Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh and Dr. Francis Owens of Southern Pines, our purpose has been to serve the health care needs of the residents of our communities.

We enter our second half-century of service with a renewed commitment to that mission. Our recent affiliations with Catholic Health East will allow us to do an even better job of ministering through caring.

Whether your health care needs involve long-term care, home health care in the 24 counties we serve, private duty nursing assistance, hospice, adult day health care, child care, senior housing or retirement living, think first of St. Joseph: the name you can trust.

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The Office of Faith Formation presents

Forming Disciples, A Communal Task

Dr. Mary Margaret Swogger

An overnight experience of prayer, stories, and conversation over wine and cheese facilitated by the dynamic Dr. Mary Margaret Swogger. Dr. Swogger who holds the record for attracting the greatest number of people in our diocese to these conferences is back by popular demand. She received her doctorate from St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore. She brings to us at least 25 years of experience as a parish DRE.

In her gentle but profoundly stimulating fashion, Dr. Swogger will deal with the issues connected with the formation of disciples. What does this task demand of us? Is the challenge purely a "skill issue?" Or, is there a prior but more foundational issue of spirituality? What spirituality flows from an authentic experience of the Sacraments of Initiation?

June 26-27, 1998
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Begins Friday at 6:30 p.m.
Ends Saturday celebrating Mass with
Very Rev. Mauricio West at 3:30 p.m.
Pre-registration required
Registration due by June 12, 1998

Name ____________________
Address ____________________
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Phone ____________________
Friday night event ONLY ($15.00 per person) ________
(With wine and cheese)
Saturday Commuter rates ($30.00 per person) ________
(Including meals and break.)
Lodging and Meals (Fri./Sat.)
Sgl: ($60.00 per person) ________
Dbl: ($48.00 per person) ________
Trpl: ($44.00 per person) ________
Quad: ($40.00 per person) ________
Roommate requests: ____________________
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Make checks payable to: **Office of Faith Formation** and mail to:
Pat Onaindia - 1123 South Church St. - Charlotte, NC - 28203-4003

If should have any questions, contact us at (704) 370-3244

Interreligious Group Backs Indonesian Protests

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — Four days after a student activist was killed at a protest rally, religious leaders in Yogyakarta called for an end to violence against activists demanding change.

The seven local Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Hindu, Confucian and Javanese mysticist leaders gathered May 12 at St. Albert the Great Church parish hall and issued a seven-point statement that also backed pro-change demonstrations staged in campuses throughout Indonesia.

The day of the meeting, six student activists were shot to death in clashes with security forces during protests at Trisakti University, a Catholic institution in Jakarta.

The May 12 statement, which the newly formed Yogyakarta Forum for the Solidarity of Believers called a "moral appeal to all believers," was read to some 300 religious and rights activists also present at the meeting.

"We share the common concern expressed by the students. We respect the students who voice out the people's grave concern," said Father Joseph Suyatno Hadiatmojo, coordinator of the forum. The other representative of the Catholic Church was Father Ignatius Jayasewaya, episcopal vicar of Semarang Archdiocese, which includes Yogyakarta.

Abdul Muhaimin, who spoke for Yogyakarta's Islamic religious leaders, read the statement's point denouncing the military's use of violence to quell activist opposition.

"We demand that the government stop its repressive actions against students," said Muhaimin, head of a "pesantren," or Islamic boarding school.

In their appeal, the religious leaders stated that the killing of Mozes Gatotkaca, a Christian protester who was allegedly clubbed to death by security officers at a May 8 rally, and the severe injuries suffered by many other activists prompted them to urge the government to stop the repression.

CNS photo from Reuters

An Indonesian man waves his country's flag as mobs loot and burn Chinese shops in central Jakarta May 14. Religious leaders, including Catholics, met May 12 in support of pro-reform demonstrations and demanded an end to the use of violence against protesters.

The violence against the students, according to the Yogyakarta forum, has created widespread fear among civilians, who have been affected by the economic crisis in the country. Noting broad popular support for the student rallies, the forum urged the government "to magnanimously respond to the demands" for reforms.

Some 10,000 people attended the funeral of Gatotkaca, the first fatality in the crisis-spurred rallies in Yogyakarta.

After the Christian burial service, Muslim activists asked for another service to be done in Islamic rites, saying that the late activist had died for the cause of reforms demanded by compatriots of all faiths.

Ireland 98

Diocese of Charlotte

Nobember 1 through 10

With
Father Mauricio West
Vicar General and Chancellor

No Blarney: Send more information

Send name, address, and phone number to:
Joann Keane
Director of Communications
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
Or E-mail: jskeane@aol.com

Belmont Abbey College Holds Annual Commencement

BELMONT — With family and friends looking on, Belmont Abbey College President Robert A. Preston lauded the nearly 150 seniors who marched across the church piazza lawn May 9 at the college's 120th commencement.

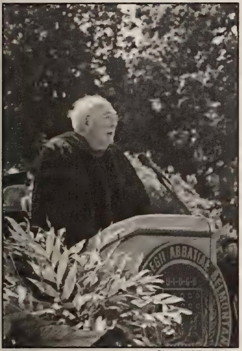

Photo by Mike Krokos

"The distance traveled might be four or more years in length, but it can only be measured in light years in terms of intellectual maturity and development," Belmont Abbey College President Robert A. Preston told members of the Class of 1998.

In his welcome, the college president told the graduates their growth since their first year at the Catholic college had "astounded" professors.

"The distance traveled might be four or more years in length, but it can only be measured in light years in terms of intellectual maturity and development," he said.

Belmont Abbey graduates and honored guests took center stage on a day when their achievements were recognized. Many onlookers hooted and cheered, and some sounded air horns, as members of the Class of 1998 crossed the stage.

Belmont Abbey senior Tucker Rollins Hearn of Charlotte was recognized as the class valedictorian. Fellow senior James Robert Coates of Gastonia was named the Abbey Person of the Year. Senior Kelly Gallagher of Charlotte was also recognized. She received not one, but two diplomas: one from Belmont Abbey in political science, the other from Winthrop University in music. To earn the degrees, Gallagher completed 73 classes and 183 credit hours in four years. The senior received both diplomas from her father, Robert Gallagher, chairman of the Belmont Abbey Board of Trustees.

Two retiring Belmont Abbey College faculty members were honored for their years of service to the Catholic institution. Benedictine Father Anselm Biggs received special recognition; he retired after 64 years of teaching at the Abbey. James Dubil, assistant professor of mathematics, was honored for his 15 years of service.

Mary Cook, retired assistant to Belmont Abbey College's presidents for 26 years (from 1954-1980), and Roger Regelbrugge, president and chief executive officer of Georgetown Industries in Charlotte and a member of the Belmont Abbey College Board of Trustees, received honorary doctor of laws degrees.

Retired Archbishop Daniel W. Kucera of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, received an honorary doctor of humane letters. He also delivered the homily at the baccalaureate Mass.

Photo by Mike Krokos

Graduating Belmont Abbey College seniors prepare to be led out in the recessional by the Loch Norman Bagpipe Band (foreground).

Natural Family Planning Introductory Classes

The Choice for a Healthy Marriage

Very Effective ◆ Medically Safe ◆ Morally Acceptable ◆ Easy to Learn ◆ Inexpensive ◆ Promotes Intimacy

To sign up for a class, please contact the individual listed for the desired date.

City	Date	Time	Location	Method	Fee	Contact Person
Asheville	June 2 (T)	7:30-9pm	CSS Regional Office	Creighton	$10	Ann Mines
	Sept. 1 (T)	7:30-9pm	CSS Regional Office	Creighton	$10	Ann Mines
	Dec. 1 (T)	7:30-9pm	CSS Regional Office	Creighton	$10	Ann Mines
Charlotte	May 13 (W)	7-8:30pm	Pastoral Center	Creighton	$10	Cathy Tepper
	May 14 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	June 10 (W)	7-8:30pm	Pastoral Center	Creighton	$10	Cathy Tepper
	June 11 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	July 9 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	August 8 (Sat)	10:30am-12noon	Pastoral Center	Creighton	$10	Cathy Tepper
	August 13 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	Sept. 10 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	Sept. 14 (M)	7-8:30pm	Pastoral Center	Creighton	$10	Cathy Tepper
	Oct. 8 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	Oct. 12 (M)	7-8:30pm	Pastoral Center	Creighton	$10	Cathy Tepper
	Nov. 11 (W)	7-8:30pm	Pastoral Center	Creighton	$10	Cathy Tepper
	Nov. 12 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	Dec. 10 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
Grover	By Appointment - contact Frieda Ashworth (Couple to Couple League) at 704.484.0997					
Mooresville	May 1 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Therese Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
	June 5 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Therese Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
	Sept. 4 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Therese Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
	Oct. 2 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Therese Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
Salisbury	By Appointment - contact Maria Perkins (Creighton Model) at 704.633.9551					
Statesville	August 7 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Philip Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
	Nov. 6 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Philip Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
	Dec 4 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Philip Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
Winston-Salem	May 20 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	June 17 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	July 15 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	August 19 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	Sept. 16 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	Oct. 21 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	Nov. 18 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	Dec 16 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young

Natural Family Planning Providers

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Grover
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Maria Muñoz
Charlotte
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Thomas & Mary Beth Young
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(336) 922-0479

Creighton Model
Ann Mines
Asheville
(828) 258-8807

Maria Perkins
Salisbury
(704) 633-9551

Cathy Tepper
Charlotte
(704) 364-3348

Mary Lynn Lawler
Charlotte
(704) 341-2280

Woomb Model (Billings Ovulation)
Jay & Carmen Hamilton
Mooresville/Statesville
(704) 663-6411

Natural Family Planning Program
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
704.370.3230/704.370.3377 (FAX)

Diocesan News Briefs

Photo by Susan deGuzman

Members of the Our Lady of Mercy School kindergarten class show off handmade Easter bonnets in this recent photo from Winston-Salem. Sporting their new headgear, the children led an Easter parade around the school.

Veterans Benefit Seminar

ARDEN — The Rev. Ralph F. Neagle Post 1914, Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A. hosts the Fourth Annual Veteran's Benefit Seminar at St. Barnabas Church May 28 at 7 p.m. for all veterans, their families and other interested persons. Several presenters will offer information on veteran compensation, pension programs, survivors' benefits, scholarship and educational assistance, and more. For more information, call (828) 667-5722.

Pentecost Celebration

BREVARD — Sacred Heart Church celebrates Pentecost by confirming 27 young people in the Brevard Music Center's Strauss Auditorium May 31 at 10 a.m. A covered-dish meal follows the Mass.

Choir Members Needed

CHARLOTTE — Members are needed for a diocesan choir to help celebrate the ordination Mass of Rev. Messrs. Dean Cesa, Christopher Davis, Matthew Leonard and Peter Pham June 6 at 10 a.m. in St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. If you are interested in singing, call Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, (704) 334-2283, ext. 22.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins July 24. For further information, call Nick or Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Bereavement Ministry Training

CHARLOTTE — Basic bereavement training sessions for those interested in becoming involved in bereavement ministry in their parishes or congregations are in the St. Gabriel Church Fellowship Hall on May 28, June 4, 11 and 25 from 7-9:30 p.m. Cost is $15. To register, call (704) 362-5047, ext. 201.

Medical Law Presentation

CHARLOTTE — Dana Cody, a lawyer and executive director of the Life Legal Defense Foundation in California, will speak at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., on June 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Cody will speak on pertinent life issues including bioethics and how trends in medicine influence the law. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. For more information, call Marie at (704) 341-5961.

Alive in the Spirit Seminar

CHARLOTTE — "Alive in the Spirit," a seven-week seminar on a fuller life in the Holy Spirit, is at St. Matthew Church Mondays from June 8-July 27. Cost is $5. To register, call Lisa Gray at (704) 543-0489.

Jubilee Retreat

GREENSBORO — "The Motivational Gifts of the Spirit" is a Jubilee retreat June 6 in the St. Pius X Church parish center. Hannah Hammer facilitates. Child care will be provided. For details, call (336) 272-4681.

Vacation Bible School

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle and First Lutheran churches present a vacation Bible school June 15-19 from 9 a.m.-noon for children age 3 through fifth grade. Call (336) 294-4696 for more information.

Single Again Catholics

GREENSBORO — The Single Again Catholics group meets regularly for spiritual and social events in Greensboro. Call Mike Bohen at (336) 373-7358 or Isabella Syracuse at (336) 294-9595 for more information.

Benefit Concert

HENDERSONVILLE — Zoltan Marczi, director of music ministry at Immaculate Conception Church, and the Immaculata Youth Choir are featured at a benefit organ concert at First Baptist Church, 312 5th Ave. W., on May 29 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 and can be purchased by calling (828) 891-1497. Proceeds will be applied towards the purchase of a new organ for the new Immaculate Conception Church building, scheduled for completion this fall.

Living Waters Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Discerning Your Vocation to Religious Life" is a June 1-5 retreat encouraging the exploration of being called to religious life in the Catholic Church. Individual and group prayer will focus on Scripture, art and movement to illustrate various aspects of God's work in participants' lives. Cost is $150. "Contemplative Prayer According to the Cloud of Unknowing" is a June 7-13 retreat exploring the basic theological and historical backgrounds of centering prayer and contemplative prayer. Cost is $220.

To register, get more information or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Spring Barbecue

MONROE — Our Lady of Lourdes Parish hosts its second annual spring barbecue June 13 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Call (704) 289-2773 for ticket information.

Novena of the Holy Spirit

MONROE — Our Lady of Lourdes Church hosts a nine-day novena to the Holy Spirit beginning May 22 and lasting until May 30 at 7 p.m. daily. The tradition of the novena was established by the apostles when, at Jesus' direction, they gathered in prayer to await the Holy Spirit in the days leading up to Pentecost. The Second Vatican Council emphasized the honor and duty, especially of laypeople, to pray to and invoke the Holy Spirit in every phase of life. The novena events will include hymns, prayer, Scripture, intercessions and guest homilists each night. Call (704) 289-2773 for more information.

Ordination Celebration

MOUNT HOLLY — Father John Vianney Hoover of New Creation Monastery invites you to celebrate the 22nd anniversary of his ordination May 24 at St. Joseph Church on Highway 273, six miles north of Belmont Abbey. Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. with an outdoor picnic (bring your own). For more information, call (336) 699-4005.

"Schola Cantorum" Performs

REIDSVILLE — The "Schola Cantorum Carolinae Borealis" sings at the 11 a.m. Mass at Holy Infant Church May 31. Music will be provided for the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei. Among the hymns are the Gregorian chant version of "Ave Maria" and "Salve Regina," Ramondi's "O Sacrum Convivium," and a "Schola" original piece, "Veni Creator Spiritus."

Vacation Raffle

SYLVA — St. Mary Church is conducting a raffle for an all-inclusive, week-long vacation at a Sandals resort. Tickets are $5 each or six for $25, and are on sale until May 30. The drawing will be held May 31. For tickets or more information, call or write to St. Mary Church at (828) 586-9499, 22 Bartlett St., Sylva, NC 28779.

Women's Bible Study

WINSTON-SALEM — A women's Bible study group begins the 10-week Little Rock Scripture Study series "Women in the Old Testament" June 1 from 7:30-9 p.m. at Joseph's House. For more information and to register, call Anne Gannon at (336) 768-9360.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the Diocesan News Briefs page. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Triad Schools Survey Results

A series of town meetings will be presented May 26-28 in the Triad to present the results of the recent Triad Catholic Schools Facilities Survey. Meetings are May 26 in Greensboro at the Holiday Inn Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center in the Guilford Ball Room (use the south lobby entrance of the convention center); May 27 at Holy Family Church in Clemmons; and May 28 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point. All meetings are 7-9 p.m. For more information, call Joann Keane, (704) 370-3336.

Estate Planning Seminars

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church is hosting an estate planning seminar on June 8 at 7:30 p.m. The focus will be on the will as one of the most important documents you'll ever sign. For details, call the parish office at (704) 543-7677.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church hosts an estate planning seminar June 9 at 7 p.m. The focus is on the will as one of the most important documents you'll ever sign. Call the parish office for more information at (828) 327-2341.

Newman Singers To Perform

The Newman Singers, a liturgical and concert group from the Newman Catholic Student Center in Iowa City, Iowa, perform several concerts in the Diocese of Charlotte later this month. The Singers have toured the country for the past 15 years and have recorded nine collections of liturgical music. They will perform May 30 and 31 at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill at all weekend Masses and at a special 6 p.m. performance May 31. Admission is free, and donations will be accepted. For more information on the Asheville concert, call (828) 254-5193; for Winston-Salem, call (336) 722-7001; and for Mint Hill, call (704) 545-1224.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo by Carlos Lopez

A double-decker bus in Belfast encourages citizens to vote "yes'" on the May 22 peace referendum for Northern Ireland. Voters will go to the polls in both Ireland and Northern Ireland to decide whether to accept the April 10 peace settlement.

Bishop Cummins Says Calls To Limit Citizenship Disturbing

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Any attempt to make it more difficult to become a naturalized U.S. citizen is unacceptable, said the chairman of the U.S. Catholic bishops' Migration Committee in a statement issued as Congress considers proposals to tighten the process. Bishop John S. Cummins of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the Migration Committee, said calls to restrict access to U.S. citizenship are particularly disturbing considering evidence that "the overwhelming majority of immigrants and refugees in this country are of good moral character, enrich our communities, are grateful to their adopted homeland and eager to become full-fledged citizens." Several bills introduced in Congress this session would make it more difficult to become a naturalized U.S. citizen.

Detroit Religious Leaders Join In Opposing Assisted Suicide

DETROIT (CNS) — Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida, the local Chaldean-rite bishop and area non-Catholic religious leaders signed a joint statement May 7 calling life a gift from God and warning that acceptance of a "right to die" could lead eventually to "a duty to die." At a signing ceremony and press conference, the cardinal was joined by Bishop Ibrahim N. Ibrahim of the Chaldean Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, based in Southfield; the president of the Michigan Board of Rabbis; local Episcopal and Lutheran bishops; and Presbyterian and American Baptist leaders. A Muslim cleric unable to attend the ceremony because of an Islamic holy day was to sign the statement at a later date.

Senate Partially Restores Food Stamps For Immigrants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Food stamps for 270,000 legal immigrants would be restored under a bill passed overwhelmingly by the Senate May 12. In a 92-8 vote, the Senate passed an agriculture research funding bill that included restoring food stamps to about one-third of the legal immigrants whose benefits were eliminated in the 1996 welfare overhaul. A House vote was not expected until after Memorial Day. Those covered by the bill include the elderly, children, people with disabilities and refugees who have lived in the United States since before Aug. 22, 1996. They were among about 900,000 legal immigrants who were made ineligible for food stamps as part of the 1996 welfare law. A broad coalition of churches, immigrant-rights organizations and service agencies pushed for benefits to be restored.

Army National Guard Desperately Short Of Catholic Chaplains

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — For 361 years, the civilian men and women of the Army National Guard have been activated to serve the country and their states in times of crisis — wars, disasters, emergency missions. But what happens when there is a crisis in the National Guard? According to Father Donald Hill, a colonel who is the Army National Guard's chief of chaplains, the guard currently is experiencing a desperate shortage of Catholic chaplains. To minister to nearly 83,000 professed Catholics in U.S. guard units, there are only 65 priests, he said. Forty-five percent of Catholic guard members are in Hawaii, with another 20 percent in Illinois, where there are no Catholic chaplains.

Cuba Charter, Humanitarian Cargo Flights Set To Resume

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Charter flights and direct sales of medical goods to Cuba may resume after the U.S. government slightly relaxed some restrictions May 13 in the 36-year-old embargo. President Clinton had announced in March that the changes would take place. His statement tied the move to the impact of Pope John Paul II's visit there in January and the U.S. government's interest in facilitating the Catholic Church's relief efforts in Cuba. Although the actions have been broadly welcomed by relief agencies and much of the Cuban-American community, some questioned whether the U.S. government's regulations and schedules for such flights will accommodate the demand. The changes include resumption of passenger charter flights from Miami to Cuba; resumption of direct cargo flights for humanitarian supplies; simplification of procedures for the sale of medicines and medical goods; and permission for family members to send relatives in Cuba up to $1,200 a year.

Better Records Needed On Assisted Suicide In Oregon, Lawmakers Say

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A committee of the Oregon Legislature may call for more public information about doctor-assisted suicides. Those troubled by assisted suicide, including Catholic officials, have long asked for more open records so that abuses can be prevented. They argue that elderly people, poor residents and disabled people may be coerced into hastened deaths by relatives or the health care establishment. Oregon's law, passed in 1994 as a voter initiative, allows doctors to prescribe lethal medication to terminally ill patients. State Sen. Ken Baker, a Republican who co-chairs the joint panel charged with fixing the suicide law, said the public and medical researchers need to know more about the patients who ask to die and the doctors who decide to help.

Death Squad Claims Responsibility For Bishop Gerardi's Murder

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — A former death squad that operated during the late 1980s and early 1990s has claimed responsibility for the brutal murder of Guatemala Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera and has threatened to continue the killings. Meanwhile, a church official has called for an "urgent investigation" of the activities of clandestine criminal groups and has warned of the "climate of terror" in the country. Church workers associated with the Guatemala Archdiocese's Human Rights Office report they have received death threats since Bishop Gerardi's April 26 murder. In letter sent to Carlos Catu Otzoy, a leftist candidate for mayor in the town of San Juan Comalapa, the group that identifies itself as "Jaguar Justiciero" or "Jaguar Avenger" warned: "We are sending you a little of Bishop Gerardi's blood, who we killed on Sunday night ... the same day that you were presented as candidate for the Marxist, Leninist, Communist Party of Guatemala."

Priest On Anti-Springer Crusade Says Faithful Must Combat Evil

KENNER, La. (CNS) — Father Michael Pfleger is a Chicago priest who loves to take on impossible causes. Take Jerry Springer, for instance. Please. During a powerful address May 9 to the second annual Catholic Men's Conference at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, Father Pfleger pledged that his battle against the king of raunchy daytime television would end in victory for those who are willing to stand up for Christian morality. "Somebody said about me, 'He is really crazy,' but you don't know how crazy I am," Father Pfleger told hundreds of men from the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Father Pfleger and other church leaders in the Chicago area have been waging holy war against Springer's nationally televised show, which originates in Chicago, because of its sexual and violent content.

Human Rights Group Asks Pope To Investigate Rwandan Genocide

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A human rights groups has asked Pope John Paul II to establish a special commission to investigate the possible involvement of two bishops and about 30 priests and nuns in Rwanda's 1994 genocide. African Rights, a group based in London, said it faxed its request through the Vatican Secretariat of State May 13; two days later, it had yet to receive any acknowledgment of the letter. The Vatican press office May 15 said it would have no comment on the letter or its contents. African Rights said justice for the victims required investigations into allegations of complicity and the punishment of the guilty. In addition, it said, an inadequate investigation could tarnish the memory of the heroic efforts of more than 100 Catholic priests and nuns who died to protect others.

Vatican Officials Criticize New EU Genetic Legislation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials criticized new European Union legislation on genetic and embryo research as not providing sufficient protection of human dignity. The measure passed May 12 by the European Parliament regulates the commercial use of such research, including matters such as copyright, industrial application of laboratory findings and species of plants and animals that should be exempt from research. The legislation specifies that research on isolated elements of the human body, such as sequences of genetic material, could be subject to patents in the European Union's 15 member-states. But it prohibits human cloning, the modification of human reproductive material, and the commercial or industrial use of human embryos. Before it goes into effect, the law must meet the approval of a council of European ministers and be ratified by the parliaments of all European Union states within two years.

First Communion Joy Turns To Terror As Man Opens Fire In Church

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — First Communion joy turned to terror in a suburban Dublin parish when a gunman opened fire in a church packed with children and their families. The offertory procession had just concluded at St. Joseph Church in Ballymun May 16 when Peter McCann, 24, walked in and fired two shots into the air. As children, parents and teachers dove for cover, McCann turned the gun toward anti-drug activist Larry O'Toole and shot him in the chest. The bullet missed O'Toole's heart, and he was recovering in a hospital. O'Toole had been sitting beside his 8-year-old granddaughter, Laura, who was about to receive her first Communion when the attack occurred.

Iowa Trappistine Nuns To Found Monastery In Norway

By STEVE McMAHON

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS) — An Iowa community of Trappistine nuns is bringing Cistercian monastic life back to a part of northern Europe that has been without it since the Reformation in the 16th century.

Early in 1999, the 28 Trappistine nuns at Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey south of Dubuque will send five of their members to found a monastery in Trondheim, Norway, where Lutheranism is the main religion.

"It's an adventure, a movement into the unknown for the foundresses who are going into something they have no idea how it will work out," said Mother Gail Fitzpatrick, abbess of the Iowa community whose nuns are members of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance.

"We know there will be many difficulties and adjustments," she told The Witness, newspaper of the Dubuque Archdiocese. "There's a lot of unknown in the whole project."

The foundresses, all 50 to 60 years old, are: Sisters Rosemary Durcan, the superior, Marjoe Backhus, Elizabeth Simmons, Gilchrist Lavigne and Nettie Louise Gamble. They will be joined by Sister Ina Andresen, a Norwegian who entered the Cistercian Order in France and always felt called to bring Cistercian life back to her homeland.

Mother Fitzpatrick said the Iowa community, founded in 1964, had "reached a point of maturation" and had the vitality to found an independent abbey. "If we wait much longer, we'll be too old," she said.

A new foundation becomes an autonomous abbey when it has enough members who are perpetually professed, who can support themselves and who have a novitiate to receive new members.

Sister Kathleen O'Neill, who is staying in Iowa, said that for several years the community had been considering making a foundation "out of a desire to spread our life, to give birth to something new."

"The discernment process was amazingly peaceful," she said. "And we're a normal bunch of human beings who don't easily agree on anything," she added with a laugh.

A contributing factor was that the Iowa community had no room for new members. They either had to create more space at the Dubuque abbey or send out part of the community to found a new abbey.

Mother Fitzpatrick said the community's discernment involved "a very deep prayerful movement." With the help of an outside facilitator, she said, "A strong majority felt that we were called to make a foundation."

The bishop, Sister O'Neill said, "is very engaged in ecumenical dialogue, very open to Lutherans, not looking to raise the numbers of the Catholic Church at the expense of the Lutherans." She said it is "an opportunity for an ecumenical witness, to be a prayer place for other Christians who are not Catholic."

The foundresses will not support themselves by making candy, the industry that sustains Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey. Instead, they will concentrate on a cottage industry such as making soap or candles or growing herbs.

To prepare, they also are learning the Norwegian language. Two parish volunteers from Trondheim will spend part of the summer in Iowa, working with the nuns on their language skills.

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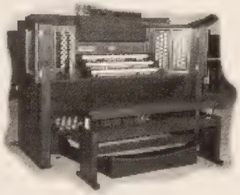

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Good Connections

Agency Is Easing Overseas Adoptions

By TIM FUNK
The Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTE — Just before their ninth wedding anniversary, in July 1994, Pat and Bea Staub of Charlotte flew to Russia to meet their new baby daughter.

In January 1997, they went back — this time, to pick up their new baby son.

Danielle is 4 now; Dylan turns 2 this month. And Bea and Pat mostly gush when asked how it's working out between them and their adopted kids.

"I never could have given birth to better children, Bea, 36, said one recent morning as Dylan waddled over for a hug and Danielle called for "Papa" to come and play. "They're happy little kids."

For both adoptions, the Staubs went through Charlotte's Catholic Social Services, which works with Moscow-area orphanages and the Russian courts. At a time when TV newsmagazines are exposing the wrong way to adopt foreign-born children — ABC's "Primetime Live" reported last month on a scheme in Louisiana to pay impoverished Russian women for their babies — the Charlotte agency is getting a reputation as a place to go to do it the right away.

It facilitated the adoption of 57 Russian children — and five Chinese kids — last year. Clients include non-Catholics and couples from as far away as Massachusetts and Michigan.

"It seems like every out-of-state placement we make has a ripple effect," said Carol Meyerriecks, director of the agency's international adoption program. "I'm amazed. We've gotten calls from Colorado, Utah, California. We don't advertise (out of state). We're not looking to become a huge program. It's always through word of mouth."

About half the adopting families are from North Carolina.

Charlotte Catholic Social Services has had an adoption program since 1948. It went international in 1993, when Meyerriecks and agency director Elizabeth Thurbee made their first trip to Russia. Now, they go every six months, to visit with orphanage staff members, accept referrals and videotape the children.

Still, even by-the-book foreign adoptions can be risky. Often, the medical history of the child's family is sketchy. And there's sometimes no way of telling what kind of care the child got before arriving at the orphanage.

Adopting a child from Russia or China can also be expensive. The Charlotte agency charges a family $1,500 to do a home study and $3,000 to place the child and offer support through his or her 18th birthday. Add to that the cost of the adoptive parents' trip to Russia — airfare, hotel, translators, legal fees — and a family could spend $17,000.

But those who have gone through it, or are about to, say it's worth it.

Tom and Jane Politte of Charlotte already have four children — ages 18, 17, 14, 12. But on May 5, they were scheduled to go into a Russian courtroom and adopt two kids — a boy, 7, and a girl, 10. Tom has already bolted two more seats in the family van.

"We can go out and get a new car or we can get two new children," he said. "It's not that important for us to have a new car...But we feel there's an opportunity to do some good for these children."

Pat Staub, 42, who runs a photography studio with his wife, said the Charlotte families who have adopted Russian children get together for picnics and Christmas parties — to celebrate.

Adopting Danielle and Dylan, he said, "has been the best experience of our lives. Bar none."

This article is reprinted with permission from The Charlotte Observer.

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

For more information:
Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
704-370-3353

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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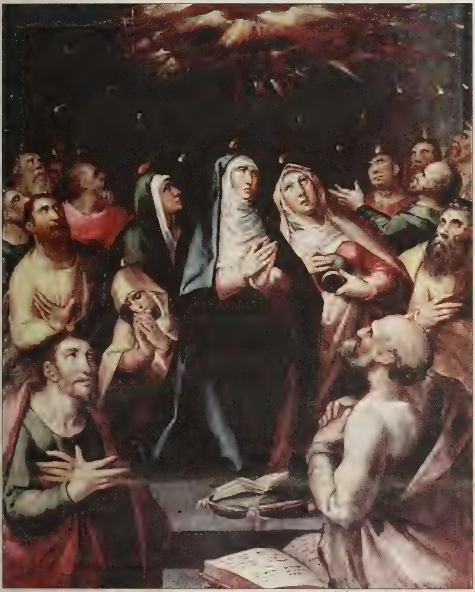


CNS photo courtesy Newark Museum

Tongues of fire rest on Mary and disciples of Jesus in this 15th-century depiction of the Pentecost by Jose Pessoa. The feast of Pentecost, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, is celebrated May 31 this year.

Church Leaders Welcome 'Yes' Vote On Northern Ireland Peace Agreement

By CHRISTINA COLCLOUGH

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Church leaders in all of Ireland welcomed the "yes" vote to the Good Friday peace agreement, and Ireland's primate said he hoped the vote takes the gun out of Irish politics.

A statement issued by Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, said: "I think we can now move on to work constructively for a better future. The prospects are good, hopes are high, the hand of cooperation has been offered. One day, hopefully it will become the hand of friendship.

"As far as the parties involved in the agreement are concerned, it should mean that the war is over, and it should take the gun out of Irish politics once and for all," Archbishop Brady said.

The archbishop, primate of all Ireland, was welcoming the result of the first all-Ireland poll since 1918. In the May 22 vote held in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, 85 percent of voters backed the peace agreement brokered to end the Northern Irish "Troubles." More than 3,000 people have been killed in nearly 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland.

Pope John Paul II, visiting the northern Italian city of Turin May 24, hailed the vote and said he hoped it would lead to lasting peace.

"I want to express my joy at the desire for peace and reconciliation that has emerged in the popular referendum in Ireland," he said. "I encourage that beloved people to continue with courage along the path they have taken up."

Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee, and the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church USA, called the vote a "significant risk" for peace and a "courageous step."

"The results of the two referenda demonstrate that the majority of unionists and nationalists, Protestants and Catholics, have made a decisive choice of dialogue over violence, compromise over intransigence. They have taken a significant risk for a future of peace in an effort to put aside generations of past conflict," the church leaders said in a joint statement May 26.

"The people and political leaders of Northern Ireland and the Republic have taken a courageous step, for which they deserve our heartfelt congratulations," they said.

However, Rev. Kirkpatrick and Archbishop McCarrick warned of remaining "critical challenges" and stressed the importance of continued American support "as the arduous process of healing and reconciliation proceeds."

Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston praised the referendum results, which he called a "yes" for "a future that moves beyond violence, the bullet and the bomb."

"The world owes a debt of gratitude to all those whose labors have brought us to this point," he said in a statement May 23. But he cautioned that "a great deal of work still remains" and called for people to pray that God will continue to bless peace efforts.

The final count of 71.12 percent in Northern Ireland in favor of the peace deal was announced May 23. More than 600,000 people turned out to vote, the highest election attendance ever in the British province of Northern Ireland.

In the Irish Republic, 96 percent of voters agreed to drop Articles 2 and 3, which represent the constitutional territorial claim over Northern Ireland.

Retired Bishop Edward Daly of Derry, Northern Ireland, interviewed on television shortly after results came in,

See **Peace Agreement,** page 3

Bishop To Ordain Four To Priesthood June 6

CHARLOTTE — A convert to the Catholic faith, a former Navy cook, a computer engineer, and a refugee who escaped communism in Vietnam are the seminarians to be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Charlotte in early June.

Rev. Mr. Dean Cesa and Rev. Mr. Peter Pham, who both attended St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., and Rev. Mr. Christopher Davis and Rev. Mr. Matthew Leonard, who both attended St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Md., will be ordained by Bishop William G. Curlin on June 6 at 10 a.m. at St. John Neumann Church. The four seminarians were ordained into the transitional diaconate in April 1997.

Father Eric Houseknecht, diocesan director of vocations, said the Class of 1998 represents a diverse group of individuals. "We celebrate our unity in our diversity. Here, we cross the lines of race, language and culture. As priests, these men will minister to a wide range of people in the diocese," he said.

Following are brief profiles of the four transitional deacons to be ordained to the priesthood.

Rev. Mr. Dean Cesa

Dean's vocation to the priesthood was realized while participating in parish life at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte through various prayer groups and choirs. He was also involved in Catholic Singles of Charlotte. While friends struggled with their faith, Dean appreciated the richness of the Catholic tradition. His various parish summer assignments as a seminarian further strengthened his call to ministry. Dean has a professional background in computers and engineering.

Rev. Mr. Christopher Davis

Chris grew up in a Lutheran household and is a convert to Catholicism, hav-

See **Ordination,** page 3

Hundreds Enter Catholic Church

Hundreds of men and women in western North Carolina were received into the Catholic Church this Easter through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

See special insert, pages 8-9

Eye on Cuba

Measuring Progress Four Months After Papal Visit

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Four months after Pope John Paul II's historic trip to Cuba, Vatican officials are cautiously optimistic that the Caribbean country is opening up to the world, but are less than satisfied with progress on church freedom. On a political level, the papal visit set off a chain of events that is still going on, the officials said in mid-May. They pointed to Cuba's release of several hundred political prisoners, the subsequent easing of the U.S. embargo to allow some humanitarian aid, the dropping of U.S. sanctions against European companies doing business with Cuba, observer status for Cuba at the Caribbean Forum trade organization, and several visits by world leaders to Cuba in the pope's wake.

But for the local church in Cuba, not much has changed during the same period.

"The government allowed a Holy Week procession and invited (Havana) Cardinal (Jaime) Ortega to May 1 celebrations, and that's about all. We're still waiting for movement on the main issues —free entry for church personnel, a church presence in the media and some degree of autonomy for the church's social agencies," said one informed Vatican source.

That assessment reflected a budding sense of frustration among the Vatican's Cuba-watchers. In the months following the pope's visit, the Vatican has patiently waited for church freedom to expand. But it just hasn't happened, at least not yet.

For example, the visa backlog for missionaries has increased. Some 110 non-Cuban religious are now awaiting permission to enter the country, and some have been on the waiting list for years.

Despite a personal request by Archbishop Paul Cordes, a Vatican official in charge of charitable activities, the Cuban government has refused to give church organizations like Caritas autonomy in distributing aid; Caritas must coordinate the distribution with government agencies.

And at this point, the government will not even hear about granting permission for the church to manage its own media institutions.

CNS photo

Religious education classes for children take place at the Havana cathedral in April. Vatican officials say they have been less than satisfied with progress of church freedom in Cuba since the historic visit of Pope John Paul II earlier this year.

For the present, the Vatican has decided not to complain publicly about these issues. One reason is that it does not want to upset the fragile opening for reform.

"We're walking on eggs right now. Fidel Castro is still politically strong," and the church does not want to make demands that could force a confrontation, said one church official. At the same time, the Vatican's patience is not infinite.

"Maybe the Cuban government is trying to let us know that things will not change overnight just because the pope came. But it cannot continue like this, with the advantages all on the government's side and none for the church," the official said. In the view of the Vatican, the advantages the papal visit generated for Cuba have been significant.

One important consequence has been a warming of relations between Cuba and its Caribbean neighbors, at a time when the European Union is about to negotiate trade benefits with the region. That could eventually open up a valuable economic pipeline to the island nation.

In April, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights voted down a U.S.-backed resolution criticizing Cuban human rights policies, for the first time in seven years. It was a tremendous victory for Cuba in the international forum.

The relaxation of the U.S. embargo is another important result, but ironically it has raised a new problem for the church. While U.S. officials have stressed the need for church agencies like Caritas to act as the "middle man" in humanitarian aid distribution, the church does not want that to turn into a political role.

"If that happened, the government would close it off immediately," said a church official.

Yet after Secretary of State Madeleine Albright held talks on this issue at the Vatican in March, a senior State Department official said the United States hoped the church would not only be able to distribute aid independently but provide an "alternative power center for the Cuban people."

Maybe some day, say Vatican officials, but not in the current delicate situation.

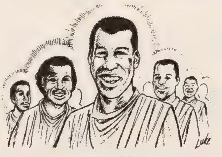
Cuban church leaders and the Vatican praised the easing of the U.S. embargo, but still want the embargo to be lifted completely. Vatican officials know this is a hot political issue in the United States, but have trouble understanding why.

They pointed out that even the Pentagon, in a report issued in May, declared that Cuba did not pose a threat to the United States or the Caribbean region. Given that, and the changing sentiments of Americans, why doesn't Congress simply roll back the sanctions, they wonder.

Behind the Vatican's thinking is not a naive hope that Castro will easily let go of his communist system. But the Vatican firmly believes that ending Cuba's isolation will bring economic reform, and that this will inevitably lead to political reform, with benefits to the church as well.

And if Pope John Paul's five days in Cuba turn out to be the catalyst for all this, Vatican sources say, it can only reflect well on the church.

Charles Lwanga



Charles Lwanga and his companions are venerated as the martyrs of Uganda. Charles was a master over court attendants under the rule of King Mwanga in 1885. He was a Catholic and had secretly baptized some of the young attendants. When they were ordered to comply with the sexual demands of their ruler, the young Christians refused. The king separated them from the others and order them to their deaths. Their feast day is June 3.

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

TWO WEEK SCHEDULE

Readings for the week of May 31 - June 6, 1998	*Readings for the week of June 7 - 13, 1998*
Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13 John 20:19-23	*Holy Trinity Sunday* Proverbs 8:22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
Monday 2 Peter 1:2-7 Mark 12:1-12	*Monday* 1 Kings 17:1-6 Matthew 5:1-12
Tuesday 2 Peter 3:12-15,17-18 Mark 12:13-17	*Tuesday* 1 Kings 17:7-16 Matthew 5:13-16
Wednesday 2 Timothy 1:1-3,6-12 Mark 12:18-27	*Wednesday* 1 Kings 18:20-39 Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Mark 12:28-34	*Thursday* Acts 11:21-26 Matthew 5:20-26
Friday 2 Timothy 3:10-17 Mark 12:35-37	*Friday* 1 Kings 19:9,11-16 Matthew 5:27-32
Saturday 2 Timothy 4:1-8 Mark 12:38-44	*Saturday* 1 Kings 19:19-21 Matthew 5:33-37

Bishop William G. Curlin
cordially invites the
Diocese of Charlotte
to the priestly ordination of

Rev. Mr. Dean Cesa

Rev. Mr. Christopher Davis

Rev. Mr. Matthew Leonard

Rev. Mr. Peter Pham

10 a.m., Saturday,
the 6th of June
St. John Neumann Church
Charlotte

Shown from left are Rev. Mr. Matthew Leonard, Rev. Mr. Peter Pham, Rev. Mr. Christopher Davis and Rev. Mr. Dean Cesa.

Ordination, from page 1

ing been baptized at St. Benedict Church during his college years at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he studied music. Chris said the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist helped bring about his conversion to the Catholic Church. He has a broad range of interests, including extensive studies in Spanish. His love of music and the languages also helped Chris to deepen his appreciation of the Catholic faith.

Rev. Mr. Matthew Leonard

Matt's calling came during a 10-year career in the culinary arts. He was a cook in the Navy for four years and, later, for six years in the Fraternal Order of Police in Washington, D.C. He read and studied the Bible during his years in the Navy and credits his late father for teaching him faith through example. "He was a holy man who prayed about everything," Matt has said. "His example was my inspiration." Matt earned degrees in theology and philosophy from the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

Rev. Mr. Peter Pham

Peter is a man whose faith has been tested and vocation strengthened through his experience in and escape from Vietnam. He responded to the call of living a life of priestly service as a teen-ager. He faced many obstacles in pursuit of his calling, including opposition from the communist regime in South Vietnam. In the midst of political turmoil, escape attempts, and refugee settlement camps, that calling remained constant. In the late 1980s, Peter felt he had no choice but to leave Vietnam and pursue his calling in the free world because he wanted to "give the Good News to everyone."

As their ordination day approaches, Father Houseknecht says the transitional deacons all exhibit signs of fear for the unknown, but also share an excitement of future possibilities. "They are all anxious to begin their ministries in the Diocese of Charlotte," he added.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

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Peace Agreement, from page 1

Telegra
SPECIAL LATE POLL EDITION
IT'S YES
a resounding result

CNS photo from Reuters

Leader of the Ulster Unionists Party, David Trimble, holds up a newspaper announcing the outcome of the Irish peace referendum May 23 in Belfast. Seventy-one percent of voters in Northern Ireland voted in support of the peace deals signed on Good Friday.

said, "I think there is a great desire for most people to focus on the future rather than the past.

"I think the significance of today's events is that 71 percent of this community anonymously, irrespective of religious background, voted 'yes' for the agreement. And that is the message that should go out from today, and that is what young people want to hear," he said.

At a press conference, Archbishop Desmond Connell of Dublin, Ireland, welcomed referendum results but stressed that "courage and sincere determination" were necessary to implement the agreement.

"In this time of new political structures, the churches can play an important part and can make an important contribution in combating sectarianism, social exclusion and injustice," Archbishop Connell said.

The Church of Ireland primate, Archbishop Robin Eames, echoed Archbishop Connell's sentiments, saying, "the silent majority has spoken" but that much work still needed to be done.

"I pray that we may never have to face endless funerals and broken hearts. The future under God is open to Catholic and Protestant, nationalist and unionist. May we move forward together with a new respect for each other," he added.

The main obstacles to be overcome immediately include the elections to the new 108-seat Northern Ireland assembly June 25 and how the parades issue is resolved.

But not all church leaders were optimistic.

Msgr. Denis Faul of Dungannon, a prominent spokesman on the peace issue, described the vote as "good news," but warned that much remains to be done before there can be a lasting peace.

"The British and the world now know where the real trouble is — the 50 percent of unionists who voted 'No.' They are the troublemakers," he said.

"It has been unfair to blame Catholics all along. The British spent their time saying there would be peace if Catholics abandoned their Catholic schools, their culture and their nationalism; the solution to violence would be if Catholics went into integrated schools and abandoned their culture," said Msgr. Faul.

Msgr. Faul also claimed that some Protestants have a vested interest in maintaining the unrest because of their careers in security industries.

"It is reckoned that 60,000 Protestant jobs depend on the security industry when you also include the prison officers, the civil servants and private security men. A fifth of the Protestant people depend on security jobs, and we are not too sure they want peace with equality of treatment. It sticks in their guts to think of us being equal to them," he said.

Contributing to this story was Cian Molloy in Dublin, Ireland.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

Christians:

Your sins were paid for with the
blood of Christ

Your freedom was paid for with the
blood of Patriots

Your silence is paid for with the
blood of The Unborn

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 30 — 5:30 p.m.
Confirmation
Holy Spirit Church, Denver

May 31 — 12:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

June 3 — 7:30 p.m.
Baccalaureate Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

June 4 — 7:30 p.m.
Baccalaureate Mass
Bishop McGuinness High School
Holy Family Church, Clemmons

June 5 — 7:15 a.m.
First Friday Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

7 p.m.
Dinner honoring 1998 ordination class
Charlotte

June 6 — 10 a.m.
Priestly Ordination of Rev. Messrs. Dean Cesa, Chris Davis, Matthew Leonard and Peter Pham
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

THE CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience May 20.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we reflect today on the revelation of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. In the Gospel of St. Luke, we see clearly that Jesus alone possesses the fullness of the Spirit. In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus applies to himself Isaiah's prophecy: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach the Good News to the poor" (Lk 4:18). The entire life and evangelizing activity of Jesus is guided by the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit comes upon the apostles at Pentecost and ever after sustains the church's mission.

For St. Paul, the Holy Spirit is the source of the new and eternal life which Jesus communicates to his church. The Spirit gives rise to faith, guides the prayer of Christians and pours charity into our hearts.

The Holy Spirit is the source of the new and eternal life which Jesus communicates to his church. The Spirit gives rise to faith, guides the prayer of Christians and pours charity into our hearts.

The Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, defends the cause of Jesus and convinces the world "of sin, of righteousness and of judgment" (Jn 16:8). He leads Christ's followers to a deeper understanding of the truth of the Gospel and to full acceptance of it. That is what we ask for as we prepare for the great jubilee.

I warmly welcome the group "Up With People," and I encourage you in your efforts to promote greater cooperation and understanding among peoples through your art and community service. I extend a special greeting to the Buddhist group from Chiang Mai in Thailand. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Canada and the United States of America, I invoke the abundant blessings of almighty God.

Pope Tells U.S. Bishops To Help Explain Teaching On Women Priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. bishops must explain to their faithful why the Catholic Church cannot ordain women to the priesthood, Pope John Paul II said. Catholics in the United States also must know that the church's practice of ordaining only men is not a matter of discrimination, but of fidelity to Christ, the pope told a group of bishops from Michigan and Ohio in Rome for their "ad limina" visits May 21. "The 'genius' of women must be ever more a vital strength of the church of the next millennium, just as it was in the first communities of Christ's disciples," he said.

Coming Of Age

Amy Welborn

When Great-Looking Kids Think They're Not

Jen is 14.

She is a lovely girl, with, as they say, every advantage. She's intelligent and accomplished. Her family is well off. And her parents' solid values have given Jen a good foundation and a proper perspective.

No one would say Jen is spoiled. She's generous and good-hearted and a loyal friend.

So why is Jen upset?

One of her teachers was trying to answer that very question. Jen, normally a good student, has been slipping. Her English notebook is due, and she's lost the whole darn thing. She's pulling a "D" in math.

What's wrong?

When confronted with this uncharacteristic behavior, Jen is, at first, at a loss.

"I don't know," she says, flustered, "I just can't think. I've gotten so disorganized all of a sudden..." Her voice trails off, and the teacher knows that Jen does indeed know, and all she needs is a little time to bring it out.

A few minutes later, when she does, it is heartbreaking.

This conversation is occurring in April, and that means summer is fast approaching. Summertime means swimming. It means hanging out by the pool.

Jen is in a panic about how she's going to look in her bathing suit this year. "I've been trying to lose weight, but it just isn't doing any good."

Mind you, Jen is not heavy. She's physically mature, but she's not heavy at all.

But Jen's friends, for the most part, are sticks, to put it bluntly. It's not that they're anorexic — they just happen naturally to be little tiny girls.

Jen compares herself to them, and she sees herself as a giant. She compares herself to the pictures of the waif-like models in the fashion magazines, and she thinks she is nothing less than grotesque.

So here we have a perfectly lovely, normal-sized girl losing sleep and letting her grades slip because she doesn't meet this unreasonable, bizarre standard she's absorbed through the media.

It's enough to make you weep.

A friend of mine teaches seventh grade, and she says almost all her students, male and female, are concerned about weight issues. I've seen her students. Only three out of the 25 might be considered overweight.

When I consider the tragedy of kids as young as 11 or 12 driven to distraction because of a false sense of what "normal" weight is, I get angry.

Yes, there is a problem with obesity among youth, and yes, many children are less active than they should be because of the seductiveness of sedentary activities like the Internet, video games or good, old-fashioned television.

But when talented, sharp and gifted young women like Jen consider themselves failures because of their physical appearance, all of us should sit up and take notice.

It's the problem of a culture that can accurately be described as oppressive — filling our children's minds with images of lithe, sleek women — the women who are presented as the winners in life just because they can fit into a Size 2.

If you're at all tempted to think like Jen, stop, take a deep breathe, and think again.

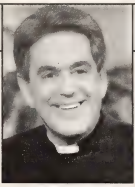
Think about all your good points, the qualities God gave you that make you unique, wonderful and just right inside. Develop those aspects of your life. Use them to benefit others and make the world a better place.

And remember, just because magazines and television tell you you're great only if you fit ever-so-sleekly into a bikini doesn't mean it's true.

You're worth more than that, and don't let anyone or anything tempt you to believe any differently.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



On Graduating Through Life

Each June when commencement ceremonies take place throughout the country, the challenging summons of meaningful service is directed toward young graduates. But, in truth, every minute is a commencement, and we are all graduating into the future. And no one reminds the world of this any better then do our elder citizens.

At 82, Samuel Greene of New Jersey was living on the side of a mountain in Guatemala, helping Indian communities. He took up that career after "retiring" at age 68.

At 88, David Cunningham, a retired janitor, became well known throughout Columbus, Ohio, for his work with young people.

At 84, a nursing home patient in Pueblo, Colorado, got out of his wheelchair and became a full-time gardener, providing fellow patients with a variety of vegetables.

At 89, Stella Turner of Atlanta, Georgia, was busy with her own ceramics business. She switched to ceramics at 88 *after* a career as a practical nurse that began at 60.

At 72, Dr. Eugene Balthazar of Aurora, Ill., was running a free clinic that he started with his savings.

At 87, psychiatrist and author Dr. Olga Knopf described what it is like to graduate to new tasks at any age: "If you go forward positively, the world is yours."

I believe the world is yours — if you are willing to extend yourself to others. People are making a difference at every age and station in life. A happy bus driver in Hartford, Conn., turned his suburban express trip into a happy hour of sing-alongs and socializing. A veterinarian gave his services to poor children with pets. A college student stemmed the decline in the osprey population on Long Island Sound by protecting their eggs from pesticides. A 12-year-old girl convinced a city council in California that children needed a say in how parks are run.

We celebrate graduations because of past accomplishments. But more than that, they really are commencements — new beginnings, a fresh start. The future *is* a blank page that each of us must write for ourselves. No one else can do it for us. We need to pay attention to the talents, drives, abilities, feelings and unexpressed desires that just might be emerging in our lives right now.

You are ready to graduate if you take your own life and your own humanity seriously and learn to be at ease with yourself; if you look around and see human needs that others did not notice or did not fill; and if you try to fill those needs. When you share what you know and what you are with others, you never deplete your resources, your self. On the contrary, you grow. In doing good, you can become great. Maybe others will know, maybe not. But you will know.

The successful graduate is the one who says: "I am only one, but I am one. I can't do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, by the grace of God, I will do."

Happy Graduation Day!

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Catholic Funerals for the Divorced-Remarried

Q. Recently, a nationally prominent Catholic, who had been divorced and remarried, was buried at a Catholic service. What counts in a case like this? Money? Fame?

I am divorced, and if I had remarried I surely couldn't have a Catholic funeral. Another was married several times before having a Catholic funeral.

No wonder we all have questions.

A. Situations such as this in fact happen often. It's just that most of them do not involve famous people who get the publicity.

The questions you and others have asked reveal some lack of awareness about Catholic teaching and rules concerning funerals.

Let's start with church law. Regulations are considerably less strict today about denial of Catholic burial than they were before 1983, when the present Code of Canon Law went into effect.

Those denied a Catholic funeral by law include, among others, heretics, schismatics and "manifest sinners for whom ecclesiastical funeral rites cannot be granted without public scandal to the faithful" (Canon 1184).

Note that even if someone is a "manifest sinner" (which needs its own careful explanation), Catholic rites are not denied unless there is "public scandal."

As I hope you know, public scandal is more than just surprise or perplexity. It involves the question, Would this action move a mature, knowledgeable Catholic to loss of faith or some other spiritual harm?

Obviously, in many such circumstances the answer would have to be no.

Already 10 years before the present code, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith addressed the question of Catholic burial for Catholics in irregular marriages. Such people should not be denied Catholic funeral rites, it said, if they have kept their attachment to the church and have given some sign of repentance, and if public scandal "has been removed."

Another point to remember is that, in providing its burial rites, the church never presumes to judge the spiritual condition of the person deceased. We are all sinners, we are all members of the body of Christ and at our deaths the church commends to the mercy of God both the dead and those who have been grieved by that death.

And that brings us to the final point. In the church's centuries-old understanding, rites celebrated at the time of death are, as St. Augustine once said, more for the living than for the dead.

The funeral liturgies are among the most solemn, instructive and human of all the church's rituals. For anyone who reflects thoughtfully and prayerfully, they help those left behind to learn from the life of the one who died and to recommit themselves, at least a little, to a fuller Christian life.

If nothing else, these thoughts should help us realize the church does not act lightly or without good reason in these special circumstances.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Parish Diary

Father Peter Daly

Gambling for God and Country

"The lotto," says Andy McFadden, one of our parish's brightest teen-agers, "is taxes for people who can't do math."

Smart kid. A lot smarter than many adults who plunk down the first fruits of their paychecks each week on lottery tickets. If a teen-ager can see through the lotto scam, why can't adults?

The answer is greed. Greed in the person playing the lotto. Even bigger greed in the state government that controls it. And the biggest greed of all in the people who lobby for gambling so they can spend the revenue.

In our state (Maryland), for instance, some lotto proceeds go to billionaires so they won't have to use their own money to build stadiums. That way they can pay millionaire athletes to play football and baseball. Good social policy? As Seinfeld used to say, "I don't think so!"

Right now our state is debating the legalization of slot machines and casino gaming. Like many states we already have every conceivable permutation of lottery. The state has totally supplanted the old-time bookies and numbers runners they used to throw in jail for doing the same thing.

The people lobbying for the new forms of gambling tell us that gambling will be good for depressed areas. Baltimore, they say, will be a Garden of Eden: Everything paid for and nobody having to pay taxes.

Gambling, they say, will be a source of tax revenue. Which really means they are willing to cut the government and the politicians in on the action.

Gambling, they tell us, will create new wealth. But all it does is shuffle around the same old wealth, from us to them.

Is gambling something the government should be encouraging? It makes nothing. It holds out false hope. It robs the poor and weak.

The church should say so. We probably would say so more forcefully if we weren't so implicated in gambling ourselves. Bingo!

A game of chance for entertainment is OK. I play a little penny-ante poker on vacations. I buy and sell the occasional raffle ticket. I wouldn't mind being on "Jeopardy" or even "Wheel of Fortune." I throw darts. I even own a mutual fund.

But I don't think that anything truly important should be left to games of chance. And I don't think the church or the state should encourage the spirit of greed. As a pastor I've seen one too many people gambling away their rent money.

True the stakes are generally lower in charity-sponsored gaming. True the proceeds go to charity.

But since when did the church accept an "end justifies the means" morality?

Shouldn't both the church and the state be trying to teach people virtues?

Gambling in churches is charity on the cheap. It is bad example. It evades our responsibility. It erodes our moral authority and renders us silent when the real sharks get in the water to promote the big games.

If the lotto is taxes for people who can't do math, then bingo is tithing for people who don't have faith.

Neither the church nor the state should sell its moral authority for a pot of gold.

Father Peter Daly is a CNS columnist.

The Office of Faith Formation presents

Forming Disciples, A Communal Task

Dr. Mary Margaret Swogger

An overnight experience of prayer, stories, and conversation over wine and cheese facilitated by the dynamic Dr. Mary Margaret Swogger. Dr. Swogger who holds the record for attracting the greatest number of people in our diocese to these conferences is back by popular demand. She received her doctorate from St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore. She brings to us at least 25 years of experience as a parish DRE.

In her gentle but profoundly stimulating fashion, Dr. Swogger will deal with the issues connected with the formation of disciples. What does this task demand of us? Is the challenge purely a "skill issue?" Or, is there a prior but more foundational issue of spirituality? What spirituality flows from an authentic experience of the Sacraments of Initiation?

June 26-27, 1998
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Begins Friday at 6:30 p.m.
Ends Saturday celebrating Mass with
Very Rev. Mauricio West at 3:30 p.m.
Pre-registration required
Registration due by June 12, 1998

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Friday night event ONLY ($15.00 per person) __________
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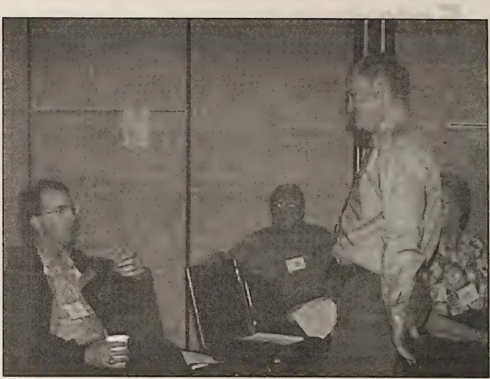

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Dr. David Ludwig, psychology department chair at Lenoir-Rhyne College, listens to a question during the recent Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue held May 12-13 in Hickory. Twenty ordained clergy, parish staff members and lay leaders of various denominations took part in the annual event.

Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue Stresses Fostering Faith-Filled Congregations

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — During the annual Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue May 12-13 at the Catholic Conference Center, 20 ordained clergy, parish staff members and lay leaders of various denominations came together to examine ways to achieve a common objective in their ministry: fostering a faith-filled and loving congregation.

Leading the two-day conference sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, the North Carolina Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church was renowned author, speaker, professor and family counselor Dr. David Ludwig. The psychology department head at Lenoir-Rhyne College and a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Hickory, Ludwig shared ways to improve communication, strengthen family relationships and enhance the spiritual life of congregations.

The key to achieving this, he said, is to convert the "you versus me" to "we" in relationships. "It starts between husband and wife. When they become allies and stop blaming each other, things are better," he said, adding that the "parent we" will then have a positive rippling effect on other relationships in and outside the family unit.

Dr. Ludwig has given similar presentations throughout the country, as well as in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, and his message of renewing the family spirit seems to resonate with Christians worldwide.

In his research, Dr. Ludwig finds that miscommunication is at the core of most conflicts. In his lectures, he described different ways people think and express themselves in order to eliminate some of the misunderstandings.

The professor acknowledged the influence of outside forces which contribute to the breakdown of the family, thus affecting the congregation. "We are immersed in a culture of 'me', where self-image and self-interest is everything," he said. "The church is the last hope to reverse this trend. It is the guardian of the 'we.'" He sees pastors in the role of assisting parents to be parents so that the faith can be passed on and children can be "inoculated" against the bombardment of selfish choices presented without consequences or spiritual consideration. "A child is naturally tuned in to parental attitudes, but without parental involvement, the television and peers dictate the attitudes that form the child," he added.

Ludwig made it clear that good attitudes centered on Christ also require good spiritual habits. He encouraged meditation, fasting and confession (opportunities of grace rooted in Catholic tradition) as a means of obtaining the inner peace that come from conforming to God's laws.

Father George Kloster, ecumenical officer for the Charlotte Diocese and a member of the LARCUM (Lutherans, Anglican/Episcopalian, Roman Catholic and United Methodist) cooperative planning board, felt that Ludwig shared good insight on family relationships. "We hope to translate some of his principles and apply them to relationships which exist in the life of a parish," he said.

Entertainment

CNS photo from Columbia/Tri-Star

The big beast stomps on Manhattan in a scene from the feature film "Godzilla." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Bulworth" Is Rude, Crude With Nothing To Lose

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Warren Beatty is rude and crude and thinks he's got nothing to lose as the about-to-expire U.S. Sen. "Bulworth" (20th Century Fox).

Beatty plays the up-for-re-election senator from California, Jay Bulworth, who is tired of accommodating special interests and so arranges that his daughter will inherit his $10 million life insurance policy — and that he will be shot that weekend.

In the meantime, he's got speeches to make at an African-American church gathering and at a ritzy dinner for entertainment moguls — and for once he speaks the unvarnished truth, candidly insulting them with harsh descriptions of how politicians cater to contributors while patronizing the poor.

Catching his eye in the audience is smart and sassy Nina (Halle Berry), who likes his bluntness but plays hard to get. Bulworth is mightily intrigued and, after a woozy night with her in an after-hours rap-music club, suddenly decides to cancel the hit on his life. This is easier said than done, putting him on the run, Nina in tow.

Affecting a rapper's wardrobe and rhyming sing-song parlance, Bulworth is invigorated by how people react to his pull-no-punches assault on media manipulators, corporate greed, race relations and corrupt politicians.

Much less impressed are his horrified campaign manager (a hilariously double-talking Oliver Platt) and his cheating wife (Christine Baranski), to say nothing of the insurance lobbyist (Paul Sorvino) Bulworth is beholden to.

Some viewers will be put off by all the offensive language, or find the political ideas expressed to be no more than dredged-up radical notions from the more naive 1960s.

But being politically incorrect is exactly the point of Bulworth's manic ravings — to have people sit up and take notice of societal shortcomings. What's surprising is that the movie has something to say, or at least think about, while not forgetting to entertain at the same time.

Beatty's direction is lively, the scripting audacious and his performance one of unrestrained glee that he gets to make fun of his decades-old playboy image while expressing his own take on many issues from class inequities to the dearth of good movies.

Due to some crude sexual references, fleeting violence, substance abuse, constant rough language and occasional profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV —adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

MOVIE
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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Anchors Aweigh" (1945)

Musical romance on the home front with a shy sailor (Frank Sinatra) and his slick buddy (Gene Kelly) on a four-day shore leave in Hollywood where they meet an aspiring singer (Kathryn Grayson), promise her an audition with Jose Iturbi, then frantically try to meet the famed pianist. Directed by George Sidney, the thin plot offers plenty of period nostalgia along with some well-staged musical numbers, notably Kelly's dance with animated mouse Jerry from the MGM "Tom and Jerry" cartoon series. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I —general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Devil at 4 O'Clock" (1961)

Turgid melodrama set on a small island near Tahiti where a convict (Frank Sinatra) helps a dyspeptic, worn-out priest (Spencer Tracy) save his flagging faith as well as the children in an isolated leper hospital after volcanic eruptions begin convulsing the island. Director Mervyn LeRoy sentimentalizes the flawed character of both priest and convict, then turns them into doomed heroes long after viewers have lost interest. Much menace and some sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"From Here to Eternity" (1953)

Somber picture of life on an Army base in 1941 Hawaii centers on a company whose bugler (Montgomery Clift) is punished for refusing as a matter of conscience to join the unit's boxing team, with only a hapless private (Frank Sinatra) supporting his obstinacy. Directed by Fred Zinnemann from the James Jones novel, the story also involves an affair between the company's top sergeant (Burt Lancaster) and his commander's unhappy wife (Deborah Kerr) as well as the bugler's romance with a club hostess (Donna Reed), all of which gains tragic dimension from the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor at movie's end. Sexual situations and stylized violence, including a fatal beating and a knife fight. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Guys and Dolls" (1955)

Overstuffed screen version of Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows' stage musical based on Damon Runyon's colorful 1920s Broadway types in the story of a bet by a two-bit gambler (Frank Sinatra) that leads ultimately to the reformation of a big-time gangster (Marlon Brando) by a Salvation Army lass (Jeanne Simmons). Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, the result is an uneven mix of Hollywood and Broadway styles, with some bright production numbers and Frank Loesser tunes, notably Stubby Kaye's "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat," but the parts never quite jell into a satisfying whole. Considerable sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Man With the Golden Arm" (1955)

Dreary screen version of Nelson Algren's novel about a drug addict (Frank Sinatra) whom a friend (Kim Novak) helps to kick the habit by going cold turkey. Producer-director Otto Preminger fails to make either the milieu or the characters credible. Sordid atmosphere and situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Manchurian Candidate" (1962)

Fine political spine-tingler with Laurence Harvey playing a Korean War prisoner of war transformed by Red Chinese hypnosis into a deadly instrument of assassination before his return to the United States during a presidential campaign. By the time an Army psychiatrist (Frank Sinatra in a solid performance) figures out the reason for his strange behavior toward wife and family, a major manhunt and race with time are on. Director John Frankenheimer has fashioned a superior suspense movie with a growing intensity that adults and older teenagers may appreciate. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"On the Town" (1949)

Bright and breezy musical about three sailors (Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin) who find romance (Vera-Ellen, Betty Garnett and Ann Miller respectively) on a 24-hour shore leave in New York. Imaginatively directed by Kelly and Stanley Donen, the story is sweetly lightheaded yet sturdy enough to hold together daffy comedy routines, agreeable songs, energetic dance numbers and colorful Big Apple locations. Romantic situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

Neophytes Welcomed

Hundreds Enter Catholic Church T

A member of the elect receives the sacrament of baptism from Bishop William G. Curlin.

As the observance of the Easter season draws to a close with the celebration of Pentecost, The Catholic News & Herald welcomes the nearly 650 men and women across western North Carolina who were received into the Catholic Church this Easter through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Several were to be initiated at Pentecost as well. The following lists their names by vicariate and parish. The names of several young people enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults adapted for children are also included.

Albemarle Vicariate

Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, Albemarle: Christopher Brown. **Our Lady of the Americas Church, Biscoe:** Rebbecca Emily Firth. **St. James Church, Concord:** Kara Bestler, Dawn Center, Jerry Cross, Kristen Hall, Sheri Jacobs, Victoria Kipper, Carol Robertson, Craig Vollman, Kevin Webber, Brian Williams. **St. James Church, Hamlet:** Mark Bowling, Adam Chandler, Kerri Chandler, Kim Chandler, Ryan Chandler, Horace Hogan, Jessica Hogan, Gary White. **St. Francis of Assisi Church, Mocksville:** Jim Freiberger. **Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe:** David Ashwill, Randall Clontz, Robert Goodwin, Mark Robert Lipford, David May, Shannon McDonough, Michael McDowell. **Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury:** Jeffrey Leach, Beth Sangi. **Sacred Heart Church, Wadesboro:** Irene Jackson, Dwight McCormick, Louis Rendenna, Ruth Rendenna.

Asheville Vicariate

St. Barnabas Church, Arden: Tammy Garavaglia, Teresa Mathews, Brendan Peek, Katherine Taylor. **Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville:** Roger Batsel, Stephen Crandell, Angela Holcombe, Kyada Holcombe, Diane Kleis, Angela Kunchman, Kathleen McGuire, Steven McCurdy, Kent Mettle, Tanesha Shaw, Terrika Shaw, Noah Weissman, Laurie Wright. **St. Eugene Church, Asheville:** Melissa Frances Cannady, Dianne Coleman, Rhonda Gail Creasman, Ross Joseph Dillin, Carol Lee Dreesen, Amy Lynn Goebel, Garrett Paul Hitesman, Kelsey Carol Hitesman, Pamela Carol Hitesman, Tanner Stephen Hitesman, Leslie Milling Humphrey, Sherry Lynn Locke, Georgia Olson, Kari Anne Rochez, Anita Jo Senesac, Lisa Justus Snedecor, Louise Marie Windsor, Rebecca W. Windsor, Thomas Michael Windsor, Chase Youngblood, Shannon Marie Youngblood. **St. Joan of Arc Church, Asheville:** James Pack, David Rice, Kara Rice, Stacey Sloan, Loretta Ritchie, Raymond Waycaster, Scott Ybanez. **Sacred Heart Church, Brevard:** Tony Aruffo, Karen Austin, Sherri Cafaro, Hannelorre Lance, Gilbert Paine, Jenny Strasser, Teri Thomas, Stephen Tosterud. **Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville:** Sandra T. Ames, David Moore. **St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill:** Beth Guice, Jackson Guice, Tess Torkelson, Todd Torkelson. **St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa:** Julian A. Martin, Amanda Carmen Martin, Andres Ventura Martin, Jack Mobley. **St. John the Baptist Church, Tryon:** Ashley Brunjes, Kerri Brunjes, Erin Brunjes, Katie Coleman, Marilyn Quinn, Kathleen Roos, Catherine Roberts, Joseph Roberts, Thomas Roberts.

Boone Vicariate

St. Elizabeth Church, Boone: Grady Allred, Tara Brannon, Natalie Kozin, Melissa McGhee, Rex Miller, Kathy Norfleet, Nancy Patz, Julie Ward, Terry Ward. **St. Francis of Assisi Church, Jefferson:** Joseph Correll, Bobbie Miller, Lee Ann Wallio. **St. John Baptist De La Salle Church, North Wilkesboro:** Rose Mary Jarvis, Darrell Miller, Sandra Mary Rankin. **St. Lucien Church, Spruce Pine:** Susan Hollifield.

Charlotte Vicariate

St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte: Sheri Lynn Adamec, Joyce Blanton Brown, John J. Cacheris, Henry Eugene Campbell, Wanda Spolnicki Crowley, Patrick Thomas Cunningham, Gaye Brenda Dimmick, Kathryn Allison Elrod, Zane Stanley Elrod, Peggy Wright Fadero, Cynthia Hendrick Garst, Andrew Horsey, Lisa Marie Kaminski, Christina Latuszynski, Lee Eric Malmud, Karen Angela McIntyre, Colleen Renee Murphy, Sean Thomas Pirtle, Beth Ann Russcher, Brian Patrick Schick, Laurie Shelley, Daniel H. Singletary, Bryan Edward Skelton, Mark Vincent Stevens, Susan Ashley Wishon, Mary Margaret Thomas. **Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte:** Tracey Blake, Paolo Cesar Chavez, Ruth Rose Garland, Theresa Heise, Hoy Lee, Philip Mottola, Tamara Rowe, Carmelo Samuel Wright, Reginald Renarde Wright. **Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte:** Thelma Brown, Ye Don Burgess, Catherine Cuthbertson, Melica Hood, Cornell Jackson, Myrna James, Melina Nelson, Larry Patterson, Gyanwontie Peña, Joseph Priester, Mario Stanley, Tammera Stanley, James Wise Jr. **St. Ann Church, Charlotte:** Lori Abouyounis, Kim Allman, Sallie Anderson, Wanda Baker, Sandra Corliss, Stephen Errico, Bobby Faucette, Jennifer Gilman, Heath Greene, Joan Knechtle, Virginia Robertson, Donna Young. **St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte:** Larry Frank Abernathy, John Bopp, Bonnie Butler, Joshua Cavalier, Karen Charles, Cheryl Clausen, George Clausen, Barbara Dotson, Abbie Dougherty, Kelly Dymock, Kimberly Elliot, Stafford Ezzard, David Ferguson, Belinda Ferraro, Candace Flanagan, Martha Galecki, Wendy Halsey, Doyle Lee Hayes, Khemwattie Gonsalves, Christina Hermann, Darrell Holland, Yoshimi Ise, Tony Lail, Matt Menefee, Craig Nessel, Nicole Nessel, John Pollock, Kerrie Pyron, Cynthia Schachner, Ann Shea, Kim Sheehey, Ricky Simpson, James Stewart, Magdolina Solyomvari, Terri Stewart, Tisha Straetmans, Doug Templeton, Heather Thamm, Elizabeth Thomas, Jean Thompson, James Thompson, Clayton Tolley, April Trahan, Angela Tynan, Sandi Wiese, Philip Witt, Kevin Wyrick. **St. John Lee Korean Catholic Church, Charlotte:** Soon Kil Choi, Yong Chan Chong, Kira Im, Hak Chung Kim, Myung Kuk Kim, Catherine C. McCoy, Chul Soo Mo, Jung Sun Mo, Nam Ja Park. **St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte:** Michael Gene Blackburn, Kathryn Kay Dormady, Mary Lee Ellison, Michael Lynn Fitzgerald, Carol Roberta Hamilton, Carol Ann Luzon, Fran Juanita McGrath, Erin Nicole Moats, Lucia Marie Moats, Darren Craig Perdue, Barry Scott Phillips, Nicole Reid, Aimee Revalee, David Dykes Rushing, Roque Rene Ruiz III, Eugene Voctor Sankowski, Stephanie Estes Spencer, Seth Teeples. **St. Matthew Church, Charlotte:** Brian Baker, James Bishop, Tawn Breneman, Sue Coley, Stephanie Chavis, Cathy Culp, Jim Culp, Lisa Crawford, Glen Errington, John Errington, Judith Jacobs, Craig Jones, Kara Klaveano, Kathleen Kolander, Lisa Landis, Cindy Lax, Oriana Mellot, Harvey Norris, Christopher

Photos by Patrick Henry

rough RCIA Process

Oslecki, Linda Porter, Katie Powers, Toni Martin Rice, Cecilia Richman, Annette Sheehan, Angelique Weyrick, Kathy Wilke, Tina Witt. **St. Peter Church, Charlotte:** Faye Almon, Candlelaria Leyvas, Sylvia Norris, Tricia Phelan, Ron Stanley. **St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte:** Melissa Babcock, Darren Balentine, Terance Bott, Ken Calhoun, Hector Cerna, Kelley Cooper, Stephen Costenoble, Rose Daigle, Bob Duck, Shane Eudy, Scott Fosdick, Steven Frantz, Chante Fuelling, Josh Garbert, John Gray, Amanda Griffith, Michael Griffith, Roland Hepburn, Joan Hoffman, Allen Horne, Jennifer Jock, Victor Lange, Wendy Laster, Clark Manning, Jackie Manning, Nancy Markham, Somer Martin, Anna Matchette, Dawn McConoughey, Jayne McGonnell, Stacy Miller, Kristina Moskos, Michael O'Keefe, Brian Ozaki, Elizabeth Polo, Scarlette Rose, Janet Rowland, William Schmidt, Paula Simmons, Hans Sprenkle, Tara Talone, Carol Valencia, Ken Walter, Todd White, Matt Witteman. **St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte:** Michelle Baldock, Victor Smith, David Underwood, Kenneth Williams. **St. Luke Church, Mint Hill:** Dana Cook, David Daignault, Kathy Daignault, James Deese, Jennifer Fagan, Lynne LeFlore, Lorraine Little, Lindy Suszynski, Mitzi Welsh, Patrick Wood, Ronnie Yandle, Robert Zulewski.

Gastonia Vicariate

Holy Spirit Church, Denver: Cheryl Campbell, Mark Campbell, Mitchell Campbell, Richard Hagen, Cora Villarreal, Jean Wilkinson. **Immaculate Conception Church, Forest City:** Suzanne Dobbins, Clara Cassie Kirk, Laura Norman, Carmen Tavernia. **St. Michael Church, Gastonia:** Anabelle Carvajal, Charles Davidson, Elizabeth Elkins, Tammy Ellenburg, Sherryl Freeland, John Greenlee, Ashley House, Todd Lingle, Elizabeth McFalls, Sarah Monteleone, Phyllis Mueller, Janie Parkulo, Jerry Schudel, Angela Weisenhorn, Mark Wise. **St. Dorothy Church, Lincolnton:** Andrea Barger, Mindy Galbreath, Anna Skibo, Jean Skibo, Zachary Sturdevant, Teresa Trevino, Robert Tull. **St. Mary Church, Shelby:** Paul Anderson, Charles Thomas, Kimberly Tongel.

Greensboro Vicariate

St. Joseph Church, Asheboro: Judson Cooper, Pamela O. Cooper, Nicholas Foreman, Judy Johnson, Christy Mata, Debbie Mauch, Jason Murray. **St. Joseph of the Hills Church, Eden:** Christopher Alan Jennette, John Benjamin Jeannette, Mary Ann Jeannette. **Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro:** Lisa Balzano, Jesse Carattini, Dale Carothers, Theresa Christoph, Kerman Copley, Crystal Chrismon, Jeffery Corbett, Steve Cox, Janice DeLaGarza, Stephanie Dowdy, Todd Dowdy, Kara Fuller, Steed Griffin, Julie Harper, Andrew Hartsook, Sonja Key, Dan Krawiec, Brandon Lee, Susan Legnetti, Penny Loschin, Danielle Mahaffey, Craig Marx, Scotty Miller, Elizabeth Morgan, Bob Nutt, Cindy Nutt, Missy Pupello, Cindy Reynolds, Donna Rumley-McGee, Robin Sawyer, Jan Seigler, Barbara Simpson, Mary H. Smith, Rebecca Smith, Scottie Sojo, Mary Ann Stover, Andy Strand, Soraya Taylor, Carla Wright. **St. Mary Church, Greensboro:** Anthony Scales, Ashley Scales, Laura Scales. **St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro:** Lindsay Gibbs, Adam Gilbert, Jonathan Hopson, Elizabeth Jones, Heather Jones, Akasha Kasper, Kyle Kasper, Edgar Pigott, Cindy Varner, Lorie Varner, Adam Williams. **St. Pius X Church, Greensboro:** Lea Brockman, Rick Cook, Janine Davenport, Teresa DelleDonne, Kristen Gentry, Stephanie Lawrence, Lindsay Mazur, Wilhelm Olayinka, Bettie Olson, LaMar Palmer, Dennis Peck, James Ponder, Tammie Speetjens, Chris Supple, Orea Wooding. **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point:** Andrew Achter, Courtney Achter, Nancy Achter, Tim Achter, Ahmet Atansay, Semra Atansay, Elizabeth Bennett, Linda Crotts, Kim Detomo, Margaret Haarsguard, Jeffrey Hammond, Jim Gavitt, Ben Graham, Jessica Gressett, Norman Lyles, Shannon Lyles, Leslie Ring, Brooke Shores, Aubrey Tyska, Laura Tyska, Lisa Tyska, Michelle Tyska, Lorienne White. **Christ the King Church, High Point:** Annie Davis Brown, Christopher Carl Byerly, Michael Joseph McLenden, Lisa Marie Walton. **Our Lady of the Highways Church, Thomasville:** Rob Dennis.

Hickory Vicariate

St. Aloysius Church, Hickory: Cynthia Abbot, James Abbot, Bill Billington, Terry Billington, Barry Branham, Jean Cosgrove, Donald Cubbison, Karl Dial, Kathryn Duncan, Sue Kehoe, Nina Moran, David Sand, Mary Joan Vaccarella, Soua Vang, Ta Vang, Robert Walter, Patti Whitener, Allison Williams, Lee Wilson, Dzer Yang. **St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lenoir:** Floyd Smith, Russell Tarr. **St. Therese Church, Mooresville:** Katia Benitez, Kristen Powell, Cathy Schneider, Ken Schneider, Terry Stukbauer. **St. Charles Borromeo Church, Morganton:** Ron Davis, Veronica Davis, Beth Gantt, Chris Gurley, Elaine Gurley, Mario Lopez, Louise Pearson, Tyson Preble, Julio Rodriguez, Leonel Rodriguez, Khalil Tanas, Jay Williams. **St. Joseph Church, Newton:** Martha Gomot, Oliver Gomot, Dawn Hall, Darlene Ledford, Norma Vaughn, Jill Woodie. **Holy Trinity Church, Taylorsville:** James Brewer.

Smoky Mountain Vicariate

St. Joseph Church, Lenoir: Mac Brown, Leslie Harlach, Frankie Heminway, Joshua Weaver, Melinda White. **St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin:** Margaret Lou Perkins, William Robert Rivers, Bena Lee Shields, Candace Justine Tillot. **St. Mary Church, Sylva:** Sheri Adamec, Michael Ensley, Carl Hayes, Keith Nelson, Jheri Wood.

Winston-Salem Vicariate

Holy Family Church, Clemmons: Daniel Boone, Jayme Burmeister, John Cole, Rick Ford, Virginia Hackley, Randy Hayes, Bill McGuire, Douglas Powell, Trishia Powell, Wayne Rial, Christy St. Claire, Patricia Swanson, Jonathan Willauer. **Holy Cross Church, Kernersville:** Robert Andrew Bauer, Consolata Lucia Cupello, Howard Jude Gray, Leslie Francis Hudgins, Delores Katherine Ponce, Kit Wai Augustine Pyrtle, Kimel Kathleen Walsh. **Good Shepherd Church, King:** Allen Knight, Tammy Manning, Debbie Rozell, Julie Marie Weaver. **Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Lexington:** Kristin Crawford, Holly Stogner. **Our Lady of Fatima Church, Winston-Salem:** Jennifer Campbell, Tom Waldrep. **Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem:** Leslie Brown, Julie Herrig, Kevin High, Lisa Luzwick, Jeff Murphy, Kevin Powell, Rhonda Powell, Jodie Reavis, Jerod Redmond. **St. Benedict the Moor Church, Winston-Salem:** Ronald Graham, Robert Thompson. **St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem:** Christian Abell, William Green, Holly Hager, William Holoman Jr., Laura Joyce, John Lyerly, Barry Morgan, Linda Patti, Aaron Petersen, Sandra Plonk, Jill Rhoades, Caryn Sears, Roy Sears, Katyna Spach, Jalesa Venning, Cindy Weis, Allison Lee Wolfe, Melissa Worley, Carl Westcott. **Cristo Rey Catholic Hispanic Center, Yadkinville:** Kelly Natashia Cardwell.

Parishioners gather for the candlelit beginning of an Easter Vigil Mass.

People In The News

Lawyers For U.S. Church-Women Oppose Guardsmen's Early Release

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Lawyers for relatives of four U.S. churchwomen murdered in El Salvador in 1980 have written Salvadoran authorities urging that the killers not be released early from prison. Meanwhile, a nun who was one of the last people to see the four women alive said she is not ready to see the five National Guardsmen who were jailed for the killings let out on early release. In 1984, the guardsmen were sentenced to 30 years in prison for the murders of Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and lay missionary Jean Donovan. The case has attracted new attention as the men stand to become the first inmates released on early parole under the reformed penal code.

Priests, Nuns Run Chinese Diocese After Bishop's Stroke

HONG KONG (CNS) — Young priests and nuns have been running China's Zhanjiang Diocese since their bishop became completely paralyzed after suffering his fourth stroke. With only three young priests and some 20 nuns in the whole diocese, "we priests feel great pressure in managing the whole diocese, whereas in the past, we could rely on the decisions and leadership of the bishop," said Father Francis Huang Fangji. Bishop Chen, 76, has been in the hospital since March 4, when his condition deteriorated after suffering his most recent stroke on Feb. 25, Father Huang said.

French Government Confers Honorary Knighthood On American

ROME (CNS) — The French government conferred an honorary knighthood on Marjorie Weeke, a California native who has worked at the Vatican for more than 30 years. Weeke, an official of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, became a Knight of the National Order of Merit May 18 during a ceremony at the French Embassy to the Holy See in Rome. Honored for her service to the church, to visiting dignitaries and to the electronic media covering them both, Weeke was cited as an ever-calm presence in an often stormy sea.

Cardinal Puljic, Others Push For Ongoing Support Of Bosnian Peace

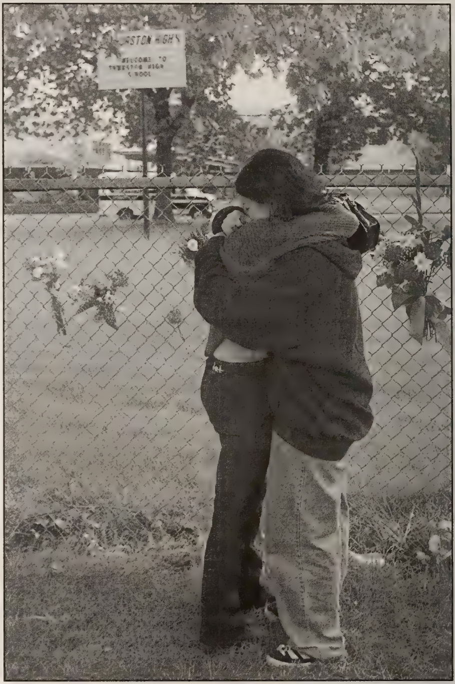
NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, was part of an interfaith delegation of Bosnian religious leaders who visited the United States to make a joint appeal for continuing support of the peace process in their country. He said they welcomed the Dayton peace accord signed in 1995 and would like world leaders to push for its complete implementation. Religious leaders cannot take the role of political leaders, but can help to educate Bosnians to accept tolerance and reject hatred, he said. "There is no alternative to dialogue and trust." In their U.S appearances, delegation members made a common declaration of their commitment to building a society of religious tolerance and democracy. They presented a common appeal for support in achieving four objectives: free movement within the country, return of refugees to their homes, freedom for media and justice for war criminals.

Jesuit Continues Human Rights Campaign Outside Colombia

TORONTO (CNS) — Death threats forced Jesuit Father Gabriel Izquierdo to flee Colombia in February, but he continues his human rights campaign. Since he left, Father Izquierdo, director of the Colombia-based Jesuit Center for Research and Popular Education, has met with representatives of governments, nongovernmental organizations and agencies in eight countries, including Canada and the United States. On May 20, Father Izquierdo met in Toronto with representatives of the Interchurch Committee on Human Rights in Latin America. The committee has provided support for the efforts of the Colombian Jesuit center as well as the Intercongregational Commission for Justice and Peace, also in Colombia.

New Director Named For International Justice And Peace Office

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Gerard F. Powers, a policy adviser in the U.S. Catholic Conference Office of International Justice and Peace for the past 11 years, has been named director of the office. The appointment, effective immediately, was announced May 21 in Washington by Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, USCC general secretary. "Jerry Powers brings deep knowledge and strong commitment to Catholic social teaching, years of outstanding service to the conference, and a thoughtful and balanced approach to the moral dimensions of foreign affairs," said Msgr. Schnurr in a statement. Powers, 40, succeeds Jesuit Father Drew Christiansen, who left the post in January to become a fellow of the Woodstock Theological Center in Washington after a six-month sabbatical.



CNS photo from Reuters

Two students embrace after placing flowers along the fence at their high school in Springfield, Ore. At least two people died and several were injured when a 15-year-old student opened fire in the cafeteria of Thurston High School May 21.

Catholic Candidates Face Double Standard, Retired Bishop Says

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Catholics still face a "religious test for public office" to which non-Catholic political candidates are not subjected, a retired bishop said on a San Francisco radio station.

Bishop Mark J. Hurley, retired head of the Santa Rosa, Calif., Diocese, spoke May 12 on the Catholic Radio Hour program, broadcast six nights a week on KVTO AM 1400 in San Francisco. "We Catholics in 1960 believed, or at least hoped, that the election of John F. Kennedy would lay to rest for once and for all any religious test for public office," Bishop Hurley said, adding that a University of Michigan study at the time showed that Kennedy lost about 2 million votes because of his Catholicism.

"The question then and the question now is: Can a good Catholic be a good American; can a good American be a good Catholic?" he said. "This demon has not been exorcised from American practice, especially during election times."

As an example, he cited the present election campaign in California.

"A Catholic candidate who goes to church regularly is dubbed as 'extremist,' while a Catholic candidate who does not is labeled a 'moderate,'" Bishop Hurley said. "The one is anti-abortion, not pro-life, while the other is not pro-abortion but pro-choice."

The bishop did not name the candidates to whom he was referring.

"The sad part of it all is that we Catholics are allowing the media and the campaign spin doctors to define what makes a good or a bad Catholic and, inferentially, a good or bad American," he added. "They are controlling the definition. "In effect, they are setting up the 1998 religious test for office, a ghost more visible in 1960, but as virulent as before," he said.

Bishop Hurley said the double standard also applies to coverage of certain issues on which the Catholic Church has taken a stand.

Recently on PBS' "The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer," for example, Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District of Columbia's nonvoting Democratic delegate to Congress, "bitterly denounced a school scholarship program for poor families. It was denounced over and over again as 'Catholic,'" the bishop said.

"The irony of it all," he said, is that President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, the Rev. Jesse Jackson "and a host of other politicos have themselves chosen private and religious schools for their children, while opposing similar choices for the poor."

A native of San Francisco, Bishop Hurley, 79, headed the Santa Rose Diocese from 1969 until he retired in April 1986.

CNS photo from Reuters

Workers clean the lobby of A Quality Women's Clinic in Dade County, Fla., following an acid attack May 21. The Florida Catholic Conference criticized chemical attacks on several Miami area abortion clinics as "misguided'" and "unjustified."

Employment Opportunities

Chairperson — Religious Studies Department:

Charlotte Catholic High School, a diocesan school with 800 students, is seeking experienced, energetic full-time person to serve as Chairperson of the Religious Studies Department, teach religion part-time and serve part-time on established Campus Ministry Team. Must have Master's Degree in Theology or Religious Education from a Catholic college or university. Send resume, transcripts, letter or recommendation and request for an application to Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Organist:

Organist needed for the weekly 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass and Holy Day Masses. Familiarity with Roman Catholic liturgy would be beneficial. Other responsibilities would include accompanying and adult choir. The instrument is a Johannus organ from Holland. Salary is negotiable. If interested, please contact Rev. Fr. Peter Fitzgibbons, St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, 525 Camden Drive, Statesville, NC 28677. (704) 872-2579.

Director for Total Youth Ministry:

St. Mark Catholic Church in Wilmington, NC, is seeking a full-time person for youth ministry. Primary responsibilities for grades 6-12 in the 2000-family parish: Religious education classes, retreats, service projects, social events, and recruiting, training and supporting volunteer teachers and leaders. Will work closely with Director of Religious Education. Bachelor's Degree required with religious education background and experience preferred. A practicing Catholic in good standing with great enthusiasm for working with youth required. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send letter of application with resume to TYM Search Committe, St. Mark Catholic Church, 1011 Eastwood Road, Wilmington, NC 28403 by July 1, 1998.

Director of Religious Education at Asheville Catholic School:

This is a full-time position for the 1998-99 academic year with responsibility for the administration of the ACS faith formation program which includes a variety of faith-filled objectives and outreach. A degree in Religious Education in the Catholic faith or a related field is preferred. Some experience in the field of Catholic religious education is beneficial. Applicant must be committed to implementing the ideals of the Catholic Faith as outlined in the documents of Vatican II and as directed by the Diocese of Charlotte, and to working with the staff, students, and parents in a collaborative manner. The salary is based on experience and educational background and includes a diocesan benefit package. Send your resume to: DRE Search Committee, Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern Street, Asheville, NC 28804.

Organist — Pianist:

St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28115. Two choir rehearsals and Masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard, Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Director of Parish Business Operations:

A large, growing, friendly parish needs a professional for its business operations. This Director will have responsibility for the financial, fundraising, information technology, personnel and physical plant resources of the parish and will report to the pastor. The Director must be intimately familiar with the principles of accounting, have strong interpersonal skills, and be an effective communicator. The minimum requirements for this position are: 10 years work experience in related disciplines as outlined above; 5 years management experience; and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Finance, or equivalent. Salary is negotiable and will be based on experience and competitive information. For more information, please submit your resume to: Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410 or fax: (910) 294-6149.

Youth Minister:

Our growing parish community of 1900 families is seeking a full-time Youth Minister for our established Total Youth Ministry program for youth grades 6-12. Responsibilities include spiritual and program development while working together with a committed team of 50 adults. Candidate should be: faith-filled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team-oriented. Experienced with BA in Theology or related field. Salary and benefits commensurate with degree and experience. Send a resume and a statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410 or fax: (336) 294-6149.

Director of Youth Ministry:

St. Peter's Catholic Church, Greenville, N.C., a growing and dynamic faith community, is seeking a Director of Youth Ministry to serve all the youth of the Catholic community in grades 6 through 12. The parish consists of more than 1000 families who are enthusiastically responding to the directions of Vatican II in preparation for the 3rd millennium. The parish is committed to using the Total Youth Ministry model. The high school portion of this ministry includes preparation for Confirmation. This minister will work in conjuction with and under the supervision of the Director of Faith Formation. Successful applicant should be a practicing Catholic, possess a relevant college degree, and have strong interpersonal and organizational skills. Previous experience preferred. Professional salary and benefits offered will be commensurate with background and diocesan guidelines. Send letter, resume, and references by June 30, 1998 to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, St. Peter Catholic Church, 2700 East 4th St., Greenville, NC 27858.

Benedictine Priest Named To Wake Forest Divinity School

WINSTON-SALEM — Benedictine Father Samuel Weber will join the faculty of the new Wake Forest University School of Divinity when it opens in fall 1999.

Weber's appointment as associate professor of early Christianity and spiritual formation was recently approved by the board of trustees at Wake Forest, a historically Baptist university that became autonomous in governance in 1986.

Benedictine Father Samuel Weber

"For over a century, the Benedictine order has been actively engaged in the ecumenical movement," Father Weber said. "My appointment as a founding faculty member of the divinity school continues in this tradition.

"I am pleased and honored to be part of this new venture which will provide an opportunity for me to minister to the Roman Catholic students on campus as well as assist in the pastoral care of Catholics in North Carolina."

In addition to Weber, the board also approved the hiring of renowned Hebrew scholar Phyllis Trible as associate dean and professor of biblical studies and Baptist theologian Frank Tupper as professor of theology.

Trible will begin work at Wake Forest in July. Tupper, a visiting professor in the religion department at Wake Forest since 1997, and Father Weber will officially join the faculty in July 1999.

"This diverse group of individuals bring years of teaching experience and expertise to a community of scholars, ministers and friends that will begin here when the divinity school opens in fall 1999," said Bill J. Leonard, the school's dean. "We believe that they will help us shape a school that will be Christian by tradition, ecumenical in outlook and Baptist in heritage.

"With their coming, we hope our friends will say of the Wake Forest University Divinity School, 'it was worth the wait.'"

Leonard said that the monastic tradition's rich legacy of mentoring through spiritual directors is only one of many benefits Father Weber's appointment brings to the school and its curriculum.

Father Weber has taught early and medieval church history, liturgy, spirituality and other courses at the St. Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Ind., since 1976. He has also served on the faculty of St. Meinrad College.

A 1970 graduate of St. Meinrad, Weber received his licentiate in sacred theology from The Pontifical Athenaeum "St. Anselm" in Rome, Italy, in 1975. He earned his master of divinity degree in 1990 from the St. Meinrad School of Theology and his master of arts in classical studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1991.

Father Weber is currently pastor of Forty Martyrs Catholic Church in Tuscola, Ill.

According to Leonard, Wake Forest's new divinity school will train students from a variety of denominational backgrounds using a curriculum that blends instruction in traditional seminary subjects with courses taught by faculty of the university's undergraduate, graduate and professional schools. The school will offer the master of divinity degree.

Leonard expects the divinity school to open with five faculty and 35 students, building to 135 to 150 students within three years.

The divinity school is the first university-based seminary in the United States to start without a formal denominational affiliation.

Thinking of Priesthood?

God Calls each of us in a variety of ways. If you or someone you know feels drawn to priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

For more information:
Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
704-370-3353

Accessories Urge Teens To Ask 'What Would Jesus Do?'

By MAUREEN McGUINNESS

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — WWJD. These are not the call letters for a new radio or television station; they're part of the latest teen-age trend.

The letters stand for "What Would Jesus Do?" and can be found on bracelets, key chains, baseball caps, T-shirts and other merchandise popular with teenagers.

The merchandise can be purchased in accessory, craft, discount, and religious goods stores, and on the Internet.

"They're selling very, very well," said Bill O'Connor, of William B. O'Connor Church Goods in Latham, in an interview with The Evangelist, newspaper of the Albany Diocese.

According to O'Connor, both adults and teens are buying the items, which his store has been selling steadily for two years since he heard about them from a friend in the South.

His store carries woven bracelets, key chains, journals, plaques, and jewelry with the WWJD insignia.

O'Connor compared the craze to the peace symbol that was popular during the Vietnam War. "That kept us in business when people weren't buying religious goods," he said.

But the WWJD products have "more meat" to them, he added. "The symbolism is comprehensible. What would Jesus do in this situation? It's right to the point." While the popularity of WWJD items may be fairly recent, the question "What would Jesus do?" has been around for quite some time, according to Rick Pierson, whose Greenfield, Ind., company produces bracelets, key chains and jewelry bearing the logo.

The question was posed in a book titled "In His Steps," written by Charles Sheldon in 1896, Pierson said. The book sold 30 million copies.

"The teens are the driving force," said Pierson, who said he didn't know what led to the current surge of interest in the WWJD items. "We're shipping products all over the world. It's phenomenal."

For Josephite Sister Ellen Secci, campus minister at Bishop Maginn High School in Albany, the WWJD movement "brings an awareness of a divine master who loves unconditionally. It's a wonderful way to recognize Jesus in our lives."

WWJD bracelets were brought to the school by Debbie Buff, a teacher and coach of the girls' basketball team. She first encountered them at a basketball camp last summer.

"It was a reminder to be a good sport," Buff said. "It also helps with people skills off the court, like to be honest, to be kind and to do community service."

Val Klopfer, a senior at Bishop Maginn and a basketball player, wears one of the bracelets. And during basketball season she put one on her sneaker, she said, so when she'd look down at it, she'd see "Jesus was always there."

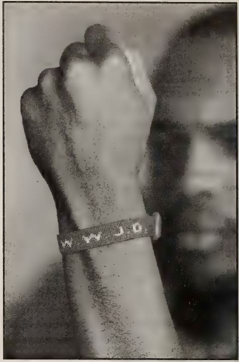
"If you have faith you can get through anything. It was a reminder to be a good sport. Win or lose, I wasn't going to quit," she added.

"What would Jesus do?" is also a school theme for the year, said Sister Secci, who, after seeing Buff's bracelet, decided to get some in school colors.

Sophomore Lindsey Bradt wears one and has answered many questions from other teens about it. "Sometimes they've never seen them before," she said. "Sometimes they want to get them because they like the way they look."

Those who work with teens admit that not all teens may be wearing the bracelets for their religious meaning.

For the WWJD paraphernalia to be helpful, young people must have an idea of who Jesus is, Harrison said.



CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

A W.W.J.D. — What Would Jesus Do? — bracelet is to remind teens and others to be more Christ like in their daily lives. The bracelets and other items carrying the initials are produced by a company in Greenfield, Ind., and sold mostly in religious goods stores.

Catholic Office For Disabled Against Change In Fair Housing Law

By JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Catholic Office for Persons With Disabilities has warned Congress that proposed changes in the Fair Housing Act would gut the law and help reinforce housing discrimination against people with disabilities instead of preventing it.

The office joined other civil rights, disability advocacy and service organizations, including Catholic Charities USA, in opposing H.R. 3206, a bill introduced in February to amend the 30-year-old Fair Housing Act.

In a letter May 14 to members of the House Judiciary Committee, the National Catholic Office for Persons With Disabilities said it feared that provisions in the bill "allowing residential neighborhoods to restrict the development of group homes within certain boundaries" will set back longstanding efforts of Catholic and other service agencies to "bring people with disabilities into the most 'normalizing' environments and situations possible."

The legislation, proposed by Rep. Brian Bilbray, R-Calif., would amend the Fair Housing Act to forbid housing discrimination on the basis of "familial status" only with respect to "groups of persons related by blood, marriage or adoption and with respect to a child under the age of 18 years living in a foster care arrangement with persons who are so related."

The bill would impose procedural obstacles that would require exhausting other avenues of relief before seeking anti-discrimination protection under the Fair Housing Act.

It would permit more restrictive state and local regulations against residential group homes for persons with disabilities. Sister Bernadette Downes of the Congregation of the Infant Jesus, Brooklyn diocesan director of pastoral services and former chairwoman of the Catholic disabilities office, said: "Effective group homes offer the greatest possibilities of rehabilitation and expanding opportunities for people with disabilities."

Sister Downes, an advocate and developer of such group homes for more than a quarter-century, said that to be most effective, "they must be located in communities which offer the most normalizing influence."

"Local zoning ordinances and land use decisions have been used in ways that needlessly discriminate against people with assorted disabilities," she said.

Mary Jane Owen, executive director of the National Catholic Office for Persons With Disabilities, said the bill to change the Fair Housing Act "responds in a most distressing way" to the negative stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes that still exist against people with disabilities.

"The very core of fair housing is gutted when discriminatory behavior is reinforced by federal legislation," she said.

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Grayson Warren Brown Brings Gospel Message To St. Eugene Parish

By JUDY R. TANNER

Photo by Warner Photography

"Singing out is a gift to God and one another," Warren Grayson Brown told individuals who took part in St. Eugene's parish mission May 8-12.

ASHEVILLE — The words "Why are you here?" should be above every church door, according to Grayson Warren Brown, internationally known liturgical composer, author and recording artist.

"If you don't know why you're here, how will you know if you got what you came for?" he asked the 86 lay ministers from throughout the Charlotte Diocese at his May 9 workshop at St. Eugene Parish. The liturgist visited St. Eugene May 8-12 as part of a weekend that included a concert, workshop, and parish mission.

"Ministers need to know why they come to church, Jesus gave us the commandments to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. If you are a music minister, it's not just about making music. You must tie into Jesus' commandments and live the love of God," Brown added.

Churches represented at the workshop in addition to St. Eugene included St. Benedict the Moor, Winston-Salem; Sacred Heart, Burnsville; St. Barnabas, Arden; St. Margaret Mary, Swannanoa; Holy Trinity, Taylorsville; St. Joan of Arc and St. Lawrence, both of Asheville; Our Lady of the Angels, Morganton; and Immaculate Heart of Mary, High Point. Leading the committee to arrange Brown's visit were St. Eugene parishioners Dave Hetrick, Bea Lamb and Kathleen Kasben.

On May 8, St. Eugene's music ministers, under the direction of Chuck Taft, served as the back-up choir for Brown, who performed and spoke to nearly 200 people. Brown, who lives in New York City, travels 33 weeks a year and has visited parishes throughout the United States, Western Europe, South America and Korea. He describes his ministry as one of "teaching, singing, and prayer."

Photo by Warner Photography

Warren Grayson Brown leads participants in a song during his recent visit to St. Eugene parish in Asheville.

At the mission, Brown invited everyone to repeat the phrase: "Singing out is a gift to God and one another."

"The more you sing, the more someone around you who's a little shy will sing out," he added. Approximately 250 people attended the mission each night.

"Grayson teaches in an amazing way," commented Rita Pisano, music director at St. Barnabas Church, who attended the workshop. "He lets you discover on your own. That is his greatest gift."

Father Frank Cancro, St. Eugene pastor, agreed. "It is important that people have a sense of the universality of the Gospel message. Grayson represents this on a variety of levels: as an African-American Catholic, as a convert, and as someone who preaches the Gospel through his love of music," he said. "It was good to see members of the parish having a good time and celebrating their faith, by recognizing the presence of God among them."

Judy R. Tanner is a music minister at St. Eugene Church.

Youth Ministry News

SMITHFIELD — The Charlotte and Raleigh dioceses present "Faithful Servant: A Christ Centered Leadership Experience" June 12-16 at the Short Journey Center in Smithfield. The event is designed to actualize the leadership potential of participants, and focuses on leadership roles in high school, youth ministry and beyond for youth at least 15 years old, young adults and adults involved or interested in parish, school or diocesan leadership roles. Cost is $190. Send your $80 registration by June 5 to the Office for Youth Ministry, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. For more information, call Paul Kotlowski, (704) 370-3211.

NEWTON — "Roots and Wings: Growing in Our Catholic Traditions" is a youth ministry program for middle school students (grades six through eight) June 20 at St. Joseph Church from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. An outdoor closing Mass is at 5:30 p.m. Registration is 10-11 a.m. The cost is $20, which includes a T-shirt, lunch, games, workshops, and arts and crafts. The event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of District 15 in collaboration with the diocesan Office for Youth Ministry. For more information or to register, contact your parish youth minister. The registration deadline is June 5.

GREENSBORO — "SPLUNGE" — Special People Living Uniquely Nourishing Growthful Experiences — is an inner-city service experience July 12-17 in Greensboro. Participants engage in spiritual reflection and learning opportunities that enhance their experience of service to the poor, hungry and people with special needs. Space is limited to the first 25 applicants who are at least 15 years old (no more than five youth from one parish). Adults working with youth in areas of service or justice and peace are also welcome. Our Lady of Grace Church is the host site. Cost is $150 if registered by June 5. The application deadline is June 30. Send your $75 non-refundable deposit to the Office for Youth Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Call (704) 370-3211 for more information.

GREENSBORO — The Catholic/Lutheran Covenant presents "Splash" for youth groups, families and singles July 12 at Emerald Pointe Water Park from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Cost is $20 per person; discount rates apply for young children and chaperones. Registration includes unlimited use of the park's water ides and attractions, dinner, a souvenir, and admission to a concert by Christian music group Age of Faith. For reservations, call (800) 555-5900, ext. 172, 173 or 101, by July 8.

High Schools Prepare for Commencement Exercises

Graduating candidates of the Diocese of Charlotte's two Catholic high schools will attend baccalaureate Masses with Bishop William G. Curlin presiding and will be conferred diplomas during upcoming commencement exercises in Charlotte and Winston-Salem.

For the graduating seniors of Charlotte Catholic High School, Bishop Curlin will preside as principal celebrant and homilist at a 7:30 p.m. Mass on June 3 at St. Gabriel Church.

The CCHS commencement ceremony will take place June 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Ovens Auditorium. Class valedictorian Christopher Glass and class salutatorian Elizabeth John will address the graduates in speeches. Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, principal, will present the graduates while Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor, and Dr. Michael Skube, diocesan superintendent of schools, will confer the diplomas.

On June 4 at 7:30 p.m., Bishop Curlin will celebrate the liturgy for graduates of Bishop McGuinness High School at Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

Graduation exercises are scheduled for June 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Stevens Center in downtown Winston-Salem. The graduation speaker is Dr. Alvin Schexnider, chancellor of Winston-Salem State University. Officiants will be Father West; Dr. Skube; and George Repass, principal.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Sisters Give In Honor Of One Of Their Own

BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Belmont have given $30,000 to Belmont Abbey College for special projects in the college's education department, renamed last fall for Mercy Sister Mary Christine Beck, former chair of the education department at Sacred Heart College. Most of Sacred Heart College's education department moved to Belmont Abbey College when Sacred Heart closed in the mid-1980s.

Choir Members Needed

CHARLOTTE — Members are needed for a diocesan choir to help celebrate the ordination Mass of Rev. Messrs. Dean Cesa, Christopher Davis, Matthew Leonard and Peter Pham June 6 at 10 a.m. in St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. If you are interested in singing, call Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, (704) 334-2283, ext. 22.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins July 24. For further information, call Nick or Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Medical Law Presentation

CHARLOTTE — Dana Cody, a lawyer and executive director of the Life Legal Defense Foundation in California, will speak at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., on June 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Cody will speak on pertinent life issues including bioethics and how trends in medicine influence the law. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. For more information, call Betty at (704) 334-6553.

Alive in the Spirit Seminar

CHARLOTTE — "Alive in the Spirit," a seven-week seminar on a fuller life in the Holy Spirit, is at St. Matthew Church Mondays from June 8-July 27. Cost is $5. To register, call Lisa Gray at (704) 543-0489.

Jubilee Retreat

GREENSBORO — "The Motivational Gifts of the Spirit" is a Jubilee retreat June 6 in the St. Pius X Church parish center. Hannah Hammer facilitates. Child care will be provided. For details, call (336) 272-4681.

Single Again Catholics

GREENSBORO — The Single Again Catholics group meets regularly for spiritual and social events in Greensboro. Call Mike Bohen at (336) 373-7358 or Isabella Syracuse at (336) 294-9595 for more information.

Corpus Christi Celebration

HIGH POINT — Bishop William G. Curlin presides at the Maryfield Nursing Home community celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi June 14 at 3:30 p.m. In preparation for the feast day, Father Joseph Kelleher celebrates Mass June 11,12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Living Waters Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Contemplative Prayer According to the Cloud of Unknowing" is a June 7-13 retreat exploring the basic theological and historical backgrounds of centering prayer and contemplative prayer. Cost is $220. "The Enneagram and Spiritual Transformation" is a June 14-19 retreat introducing the Enneagram with an emphasis on its use as a tool for spiritual transformation in the Christian tradition. Cost is $220. "Drink the Living Water" is a June 22-28 nature retreat including liturgies, healthy food and fresh mountain air in a prayerful, healing atmosphere. Cost is $260.

To register, get more information or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Scouts Honored

STATESVILLE — St. Philip the Apostle Parish honored 13 young parishioners earlier this month for diligence in scouting. Four girls were awarded the Girl Scouts Religious Award Medal during a May 9 Mass, while nine boys received either the "Ad Altare Dei" award or the Pope Pius Boy Scout Medal following a Mass May 17. The awards were earned through participation in the Catholic Church's official religious recognition programs for scouts in elementary, middle and high schools. The programs emphasize commitment to the Catholic faith.

Receiving the Girl Scouts Religious Award were Danica Baker, Megan Buchauer, Miriam Lewis and Samantha Neader, pictured above with Father Peter Fitzgibbons, pastor. Barbara Letendre received the I Live My Faith Award at the ceremony.

Receiving the "Ad Altare Dei" award were Daniel Agate, Stuart Baker, Brian Buchauer, Christopher Engler and Jeffery Engler. Receiving the Pope Pius Boy Scout Medals were Patrick Baker, William Engler III, Michael Gibson and Mark Shinkaruk.

Around The Diocese

Estate Planning Seminars

BREVARD — Sacred Heart Church hosts an estate planning seminar June 30 at 7 p.m. The focus is on the importance of a will. For details, call the parish office at (828) 883-9572.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church is hosting an estate planning seminar on June 8 at 7:30 p.m. The focus will be on the will as one of the most important documents you'll ever sign. For details, call the parish office at (704) 543-7677.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church hosts an estate planning seminar June 9 at 7 p.m. The focus is on the will as one of the most important documents you'll ever sign. Call the parish office for more information at (828) 327-2341.

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence welcomes all to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m. For information call the parish office, (704) 252-6042.

BREVARD — Eucharistic adoration is hosted at Sacred Heart Church every Tuesday from 7-11 a.m. Call Bill Knowlton at (704) 696-1715, or Dick Smith at (704) 884-7823 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Matthew Church each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass and lasting until the 9 a.m. Saturday Mass. Call Pat Gundaker, (704) 366-9687, or Bernice Hansen, (704) 846-2958, for details.

Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at St. Gabriel Church. Contact Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for more information.

Eucharistic adoration is at St. Thomas Aquinas Church each Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for details.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Theresa Farley, (336) 273-1507.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church hosts eucharistic adoration from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church each Friday other than the first. First Friday adoration follows the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasts until 8 p.m. Call (704) 464-9207 for more information.

Spring Barbecue

MONROE — Our Lady of Lourdes Parish hosts its second annual spring barbecue June 13 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Call (704) 289-2773 for ticket information.

Group Rosary

NEWTON — The rosary is prayed each first Sunday at St. Joseph Church following the 10 a.m. Mass.

Parishioner Celebrates 105th Birthday

SYLVA — Family and friends gathered at St. Mary Church May 14 to celebrate the 105th birthday of Nicolina Notartomaso. Father James Cahill, pastor, celebrated Mass and a reception followed in the church hall. Born in Riccia, Italy, Notartomaso came to the United States in 1913. She lived for many years in Elmira, N.Y., where her husband, Antonio, operated a tailor shop. She is the mother of four children: Michael of Orlando, Fla.; Daniel of Elmira, N.Y.; Raymond of Williamsport, Pa.; and Connie DiScenza of Sylva. She is now a resident of Ensley's Nursing Home in Sylva.

Known by friends and neighbors for her love of crocheting, Notartomaso's handmade afghans have been raffled to benefit parish programs. In addition, many babies born in Jackson County have left Harris Regional Hospital wearing one of the crocheted baby caps Notartomaso crafted and donated.

Women's Bible Study

WINSTON-SALEM — A women's Bible study group begins the 10-week Little Rock Scripture Study series "Women in the Old Testament" June 1 from 7:30-9 p.m. at Joseph's House. For more information and to register, call Anne Gannon at (336) 768-9360.

BMHS Announces Coaching Changes

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School has announced that Bill Smith, varsity boys basketball head coach, has stepped down from his position due to conflicts with his professional career. The 1989 BMHS graduate is succeeded by Walter Faye Jr., currently assistant chief of police at the North Carolina School of the Arts and a basketball coaching veteran. Formerly coach of the BMHS varsity girls basketball team, Faye is succeeded by former junior varsity girls basketball coach Joanne Staak, who previously coached at St. Leo School in Winston-Salem.

Angel Store Opens in Triad

WINSTON-SALEM — A Piece of Heaven, Inc., the first store in Winston-Salem primarily devoted to angel merchandise, opened recently with more than 3,000 items. What began more than two years ago as a gift basket business has blossomed into the new operation, which features pins, jewelry, pictures, cards, figurines, books, wind chimes and artwork. The store is owned and operated by long-time friends Patricia Wisdo and Candace Lawson. A Piece of Heaven, Inc. is located at Summit Station, 155 Jonestown Rd., in Winston-Salem. For more information, call (336) 774-9799.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the Diocesan News Briefs page. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo

Indonesian students celebrate after hearing of President Suharto's resignation May 21. Leader of Indonesia for 32 years, Suharto stepped down and handed his post to Vice President Jusuf Habibie.

Liturgy, Social Teaching, Media On Bishops' June Agenda

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Votes on a Lectionary for Mass and statements on Catholic social teaching and on sex and violence in the media are on the agenda for the spring meeting of the U.S. Catholic bishops. The Pittsburgh Hilton and Towers Hotel is the scene of the June 18-20 meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference. Also on the bishops' agenda are discussion of a paper on reconciliation for the millennium, discussion of funding guidelines for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and a report on last fall's Synod of Bishops for America. The meeting will be preceded by a morning workshop June 18 on bishops' responses to situations of clergy sexual abuse. About 80 bishops are expected to stay an extra day for a National Symposium on Vocations June 20-21.

Learn From For-Profits But Don't Be Them, Hospital Heads Told

NEW YORK (CNS) — Catholic hospitals should learn from for-profit hospitals but not become like them, a group of administrators from Catholic hospitals were advised. Robert Kuttner, a nationally prominent analyst of the health care field, said nonprofit hospitals had to become more efficient so they could continue their humanitarian work, but not "sell out" by adopting the tactics of their profit-making competitors. "Health care is not something that can work properly when it is motivated by profit," he said. Kuttner, an author of books and articles and co-editor of the policy journal The American Prospect in Cambridge, Mass., spoke to the Catholic Healthcare Administrative Personnel program May 19. The program is held at St. John's University in New York with co-sponsorship by the Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens.

Pakistani Bishop's Death Stirring Attention To Blasphemy Law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The May 6 suicide of a Pakistani Catholic bishop in protest of his nation's blasphemy laws is prompting strong reaction far beyond the South Asian country's borders. At a May 19 forum at the U.S. Capitol, a member of the political staff at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington said the embassy had received hundreds of calls from all over the United States about the death of Bishop John Joseph of Faisalabad. Masood Khan, of the Pakistani Embassy staff in Washington, said his country's government and its constitution support equal treatment for all, though he acknowledged that there is some concern that the blasphemy law might be abused.

Sinatra Used Gift Of 'Splendid Voice' For Others, Cardinal Says

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (CNS) — Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony said Frank Sinatra understood his voice as a gift from God and used it for the good of others. "Frank Sinatra recognized the great gift God had given him with such a splendid voice, and developed that gift for the good of others — bringing joy, relaxation and hope to countless millions of people around the world," the cardinal said at the May 20 funeral Mass, according to a homily outline released by the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Cardinal Mahony was principal celebrant for the invitation-only noon liturgy at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Beverly Hills. He also presided at a vigil service held the night before in the Spanish-style stucco church. Sinatra died May 14 in Los Angeles. He was 82.

Residents Seek To Save Cherished Biblical Village From Developers

JERUSALEM (CNS) — While developers are eyeing a little village on the western edge of Jerusalem — the traditional birthplace of John the Baptist and the town where Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth — residents are coming up with a plan of their own. They fear that a plan to build almost 2,000 housing units, including two 17-foot towers, will destroy the beauty of the village, and are calling for a promenade and a lookout point with a restaurant to be built on the ridge of the hills overlooking the village. Some 600,000 Christian pilgrims and 150,000 local tourists visit Ein Kerem every year, said Pnina Ein Mor, a tour guide who heads the Ein Kerem Residents Committee.

Catholic Official: 'Poor People Shortchanged' By Voucher Veto

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Clinton's veto of a school voucher program for the District of Columbia means "a lot of poor people are going to be shortchanged," said Msgr. Thomas J. McDade, U.S. Catholic Conference secretary for education. Clinton May 20 vetoed the District of Columbia Student Opportunity Scholarship Act, which would have provided federally funded tuition scholarships of up to $3,200 for kindergarten through 12th grade to 2,000 children in low-income families living in the District. The funds would have been used to offset tuition costs to attend public schools in neighboring counties in Virginia and Maryland or to enroll in area private schools, including religious ones.

After Upheaveal, Indonesia Faces Long Recovery, Says CRS Official

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After riots, economic upheaval and drought, Indonesia faces a long road to recovery, said James De Harpporte, Catholic Relief Services' regional director for Southeast and East Asia. Indonesia already was suffering from an economic crisis before riots leading to the resignation of President Suharto left some 500 people dead, he said. "There has been a tremendous amount of destruction," De Harpporte told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview. De Harpporte spoke May 20, the day before Suharto stepped down after 32 years in office. Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, donated $20,000 to the Indonesian national Caritas office to help provide immediate assistance to the homeless and people who had lost their jobs because of the political upheaval.

Detroit Summit A 'Fresh Movement' In Effort To End Labor Dispute

DETROIT (CNS) — One panelist at a summit conference on the ongoing Detroit newspaper labor dispute called the gathering "a fresh movement" in the effort to end the dispute. More than 300 people attended the "Communities for a Settlement" conference held at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit May 18. The labor dispute began in July 1995, when 2,500 workers from six unions struck the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit News. Detroit Newspapers, which manages business affairs for the two papers, began hiring permanent replacement workers by Labor Day and although the unions have called off the strike, many workers have not gotten their jobs back.

Rabbi Praises Catholic Efforts To Understand Jewish Feelings

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Rabbi Joseph H. Ehrenkranz, director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Conn., praised Catholic efforts to understand Jewish feelings and was optimistic about the recent Christian, Jewish and Muslim interfaith meeting in Poland where participants agreed on steps to counter political manipulation of religious teachings and to train their clergy to grasp the "fundamental link" between religion and peace. "We all recognized that more has been achieved in the last 30 years than in the previous 2,000, and that we are living through exceptional times," Rabbi Ehrenkranz said. "Underneath contemporary violence, all genuine religious leaders are trying to bring their people toward a peaceful understanding of their faith," he added.

Colombians Join In Nationwide Peace, Reconciliation Campaign

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — As a response to an upsurge in violence, thousands of Colombians joined a nationwide peace and reconciliation campaign convoked by the church and other nongovernmental organizations. Archbishop Pedro Rubiano Saenz of Bogota invited all Colombians to stop their activities at noon May 19 and publicly express their rejection of violence in the country. Most Catholic schools throughout Colombia joined the campaign with silent marches in the streets, while at noon, the bells of all Catholic churches and chapels tolled, marking a moment of silence and prayer for peace. As the bells tolled, thousands of people assembled in Simon Bolivar Square began waving white handkerchiefs, white paper or white balloons. They chanted: "Enough already, we ask for peace."

Bill Would Prevent Taking Minors Across State Lines For Abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A House panel is debating the merits of a bill that would make it a crime to take minor girls out of state for an abortion if their home state has a parental consent law. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., co-sponsor of the House version of the bill, said in her May 21 testimony: "Much of America (is) up in arms and outraged that cigarette ads are enticing youth to smoke. ... Yet many of these same people who set out to rescue our children from the dangers of this world have remained silent on ads that entice young girls to violate the law and obtain a life-threatening procedure."

Catholic Plowshares Activists Arraigned In Air Show Protest

GREENBELT, Md. (CNS) — Five Catholic peace activists calling themselves the Gods of Metal Plowshares were arraigned in federal court May 18, a day after they hammered and poured blood on a B-52 bomber at an air show near Washington. The activists, including two priests and two nuns, were charged in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, Md., with injury exceeding $1,000 to government property, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years and a $250,000 fine. The group was arrested May 17 during an annual Department of Defense open house at Andrews Air Force Base, located in Prince George's County, Md., just outside Washington.

Pope Prays Before Shroud Of Turin At Beatification Mass, Calls It Inspiration

CNS photo from Reuters

JOHN PAUL II — Pope John Paul II closes his eyes in prayer during a beatification Mass in the northern Italian city of Vercelli May 23. The pope beatified Italian Father Secondo Pollo, an army chaplain slain by German troops during World War II.

By JOHN THAVIS

TURIN, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II prayed before the Shroud of Turin and said its representation of the crucified Christ should inspire sympathy for all the suffering innocent of this world.

After several minutes of intense meditation in front of the 17-foot-long linen cloth, the pope delivered his longest talk ever on the shroud, describing it as a challenge to scientific research, an image of sin and salvation, and a mirror of the Gospel account of Christ's passion.

For the modern Christian, the cloth represents "an icon of the suffering of the innocent of all time," the pope said in the Turin cathedral May 24. The shroud, which bears blood stains and wound marks that fit the description of Christ's death, was on public display for the first time in 20 years.

"In front of the shroud, how can one avoid thinking of the millions of people who are dying of hunger, of the horrors perpetrated in the many wars that leave nations bleeding, of the brutal exploitation of women and children, of the millions of human beings who barely get by, living in humiliation on the margins of large cities?" he said.

The pope said the shroud's image was an "extraordinary witness of the suffering of Christ" capable of touching any sensitive person who contemplates it. For the modern viewer, he said, it brings to mind the many victims of torture, terrorism and organized crime.

But he said the shroud was also an emblem of God's love and a reminder that — for Christ and all of us — the tomb is not the final destination. It is a much-needed image of silence, he said, the silence of death but also of God's presence.

The pope steered clear of controversies surrounding the authenticity of the shroud, calling it an "icon" and "witness" of the crucifixion but avoiding the term "relic." Its historical authenticity is a question for science, not the church, to decide, he said. It is an image that "for now, no one can explain."

He urged experts to keep trying to find answers about the shroud's origin, but asked them to approach the subject with an open mind and avoid "preconceived positions" that can affect research results. Some saw in the pope's remarks a reference to 1988 carbon-14 tests that dated the cloth to the Middle Ages.

The shroud is not a matter of faith for the church, the pope said, and, as if to emphasize that point, his first act upon entering the church was to pray at length in front of the Eucharist. It is in the Eucharist, he said later, that the faithful can find the "real, true and substantial presence of Christ."

The pope, who turned 78 earlier in May, moved stiffly throughout the ceremony, and his voice was indistinct at times. The Vatican has said he is suffering from an unspecified nervous system disorder, which appeared to manifest itself several times during his two-day trip to Italy's northern Piedmont region.

He began his visit May 23 in the industrial city of Vercelli, where he beatified Father Secondo Pollo, an army chaplain slain by German troops during World War II. The pope said the priest's rejection of selfish interests in favor of service to others made him a good model for young people today.

The next day, in Turin, he beatified three more from the area: Father Giovanni Boccardo, a 19th-century parish priest known for his dedication to the sick; Sister Teresa Grillo, who after being widowed at age 26 in the late 1900s founded an order that ministered to orphans and the aged; and Teresa Bracco, who was killed during an attempted rape by a German army officer in 1944.

The pope said Blessed Bracco's resistance demonstrated a sense of chastity that the 20-year-old woman defended to the point of martyrdom. She "chose to die rather than give in to the violence of a soldier who was attacking her virginity," and thus became an example of "moral consistency without compromise," he said.

The pope said she had the courage to sacrifice even her life in order not to "betray the values that give life sense."

"What a significant evangelical witness for the young generations that are appearing at the start of the third millennium! What a message of hope for those who try to go against the current when it comes to the spirit of the world!" he said.

The Mass, attended by some 100,000 people in a downtown square, was briefly disrupted by a woman who approached the papal altar, demanding that the church ask the forgiveness of animals. She was led away by police.

Bill Would Extend Prenatal Care Coverage For Poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Health Association are supporting a bill that would allow states to increase health coverage to low-income pregnant women.

The Safe and Healthy Motherhood Act, introduced in the House in May, would permit states to use funding under the Children's Health Insurance Program to cover the medical needs of pregnant women.

The bill, co-sponsored by Reps. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., would allow states to use part of the money in the children's insurance program now being given to states through block grants.

An announcement from Lowey on the bill's introduction noted that according to the Centers for Disease Control, up to half of all pregnant women are uninsured just before pregnancy and up to 10 percent are still uninsured at the time of delivery. Many receive health care only toward the end of their pregnancy. "Good health care during pregnancy is absolutely critical for the safety and health of the mother and the child," Lowey said in the announcement. "We must ensure that every pregnant woman in America has health coverage."

The State Children's Health Insurance program was part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The $24 billion program was created for states to provide health insurance for children in families that earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid yet too little to afford private health coverage.

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NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 38 • June 12, 1998

PBS Special On Cardinal Bernardin To Air In July

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Bernardin," a special about the life of the late Chicago Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin, will be shown on PBS in July.

Most PBS affiliates that have scheduled the show have slated it for the first half of July, some as early as July 1. Public television stations in America's 50 biggest TV markets, representing 79 percent of all U.S. TV households, have committed to airing the program in prime time.

"Bernardin" documents Cardinal Bernardin's rise to leadership in the church, his introduction of the "seamless garment" image into the public debate on life issues, his role in creating the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and his questioning of the U.S. commitment to nuclear weapons.

The hour-long special also looks at his involvement in the Catholic Common Ground Initiative, his attempt to foster conversation in the church among persons with conflicting points of view.

"Bernardin" also examines how the cardinal handled false accusations of sexual misconduct levied at him, and how he dealt with the cancer which claimed his life at age 68 in 1996.

Among those interviewed on the program are Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles; Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla.; religious historian

See **Bernardin**, page 12

Photo by Joann Keane

Charlotte Diocese Welcomes New Priests

"Be men of daily Eucharist, celebrating the greatest gift in the world, the presence of Jesus in the most blessed sacrament..."

See story
Pages 8-9

Holy Spirit Church Designated As Newest Parish

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

DENVER — Parishioners at Holy Spirit Church took part in a dual celebration on the eve of Pentecost: Twenty-eight teen-agers received the sacrament of confirmation from Bishop William G. Curlin, and during the Saturday evening vigil Mass, the bishop also officially designated the church as the diocese's newest parish.

"Due to its growth, Holy Spirit is no longer a mission but now a parish of the Diocese of Charlotte," Bishop Curlin said. Holy Spirit had been a mission of St. Therese Parish in Mooresville.

With the announcement, Bishop Curlin presented Father Jim Collins, parochial administrator, a framed declaration establishing the newest parish's boundaries. The boundaries begin in the north corner of Lincoln County in the main channel of Lake Norman. They go due west until state Highway 150 and then proceed south to the intersection with state Highway 27. The boundaries follow state Highway 27 southeast until reaching the county line, following the Lincoln County line until reaching the main channel of Lake Norman (county line). They follow the main channel until reaching the northeast tip of Lincoln County.

George Cobb, diocesan director of planning, said as a mission, Holy Spirit was a faith community that was part of St. Therese Parish. "As a parish, Holy Spirit is now responsible for ministering to Christians within its own territory. It is also charged to spread the Gospel message within that territory," he said.

The criteria to become a parish, Cobb noted, includes a faith community consisting of a certain number of households, being self-supporting, and having a full-time, resident priest. "But primarily it is at the discretion of the bishop, and when he feels the community has come of age to become a parish," he added.

> ***"As a parish, Holy Spirit is now responsible for ministering to Christians within its own territory. It is also charged to spread the Gospel message within that territory."***
>
> — George Cobb
> Diocesan Director of Planning

The Denver mission was established in the late 1970s by Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley. With no edifice in which to worship as a Catholic family, Father Carlo Tarasi (then pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton) celebrated the mission's first Mass at St. Peter by the Lake Episcopal Church in Westport in March 1979.

Churchgoers gathered for Saturday evening Masses for nine years at the Episcopal church. Pastors from St. Dorothy parish continued their administration of the Denver faithful, with occasional assistance from the Benedictine monks of Belmont Abbey.

See **Holy Spirit Church**, page 2

Theater To Go Ahead With Controversial Play

By TRACY EARLY

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Manhattan Theatre Club in New York announced May 28 that it was reversing a decision made the previous week and going ahead with plans to present a controversial play with a Jesus-like figure involved in homosexual relationships.

A statement by Lynne Meadow, artistic director, and Barry Grove, executive producer, said the play, "Corpus Christi" by Terrence McNally, would be reinstated in the fall schedule "subject to final confirmation from the Police Department of adequate security measures."

They said their decision a week earlier to cancel production plans was based on security concerns, and "we were outraged" by charges they were engaging in censorship.

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, which is based in New York, condemned the planned production earlier in May.

When the decision to cancel the play was announced, President William A. Donohue of the Catholic league said he was "delighted." But he warned, "If some other production company decides to pick it up, it had better not be thin-skinned. We'll wage a war that no one will forget."

When the cancellation was reversed, Donohue issued a statement saying, "There will be a media campaign against the play, attempts to halt all public monies to the club and the formation of a coalition of religious organizations to protest the play. And there will be more. Much more."

He told Catholic News Service May 29 that the league would place an ad costing $22,000 on the op-ed page of The New York Times June 15 to set forth its position.

The date for the play's opening had not been set, but Donohue said the Catholic League was planning protest measures to take at that time.

Donohue had earlier written federal, state and local government officials to protest funding of the Manhattan Theatre Club by the National Endowment for the Arts and state and local agencies.

The initial decision of the Manhattan Theatre Club, a nonprofit agency that specializes in presenting new works, to drop the McNally play brought sharp protests from many playwrights. One of them, Athol Fugard of South Africa, announced he was withdrawing a new play of his own that was scheduled for production there, an action he subsequently reversed.

Word that plans for the play would proceed brought a pledge of support to "the Manhattan Theatre Club, Mr. McNally, art and free speech" from 30 playwrights, including Edward Albee, Christopher Durang, Larry Kramer, Tony Kushner, Arthur Miller and Stephen Sondheim.

Donohue charged that their position "has nothing to do with defending freedom of expression," but "everything to do with endorsing a frontal assault on Christianity while promoting the radical gay agenda."

Meanwhile, a New Jersey priest whose Passion Play faced anonymous threats when a black actor was cast as Jesus noted that no one spoke out when his theater was denied a state arts grant because of a "perceived Catholic influence at the theater."

Father Kevin Ashe is executive director of the Park Performing Arts Center in Union City, N.J., which has been producing America's longest-running version of the Passion Play.

"It is a sad day when such noted people in the theater will rally around a play that involves a homosexual Christ-like figure who has sex with his disciples, but remain silent when the oldest Passion Play in America is being crucified by a government agency," Father Ashe told Catholic News Service.

Four years ago, the theater owned by Holy Family Church in Union City and the Archdiocese of Newark was denied a $2.75 million grant by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts because the theater refused to declare its independence from the church.

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Discipleship

He said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?"
(Luke 9:23-25)

Saints & Scripture

© 1998 CNS Graphics

Holy Spirit Church, from page 1

In 1987, with more than 100 families worshipping together, Father Charles Rooks moved the mission Mass time from Saturday to Sunday. The switch led to the congregation being moved to the East Lincoln Optimist Club building.

In May 1988, the Charlotte Diocese purchased a structure in Denver that once housed Triangle School. The building, considered a community landmark, served as an elementary school from 1925 to 1986. A renovation project ensued during the next several months, resulting in a nave, sanctuary, offices, classrooms, living quarters and space for social events. Many parishioners were active in the remodeling of the facility. The first Mass in the new church was celebrated on Christmas Day later that year.

In his remarks, Bishop Curlin thanked Msgr. Thomas Burke, Father Conrad Kimbrough (both former parochial adminstrators), Father Collins and the many others who played integral parts in the nurturing of Holy Spirit Church over the years.

Nearly 260 households currently compose the Holy Spirit Church family, and Cobb expects that number to steadily increase. "The parish is in a high-growth area, and I expect it (the parish population) to increase at a rate of 11 to 14 percent over the next several years," Cobb said.

Father Jim Collins receives the official declaration establishing Holy Spirit Parish from Bishop William G. Curlin.

Scripture

TWO WEEK SCHEDULE

Readings for the week of May 31 - June 6, 1998	*Readings for the week of June 7 - 13, 1998*
Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13 John 20:19-23	*Holy Trinity Sunday* Proverbs 8:22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
Monday 2 Peter 1:2-7 Mark 12:1-12	*Monday* 1 Kings 17:1-6 Matthew 5:1-12
Tuesday 2 Peter 3:12-15,17-18 Mark 12:13-17	*Tuesday* 1 Kings 17:7-16 Matthew 5:13-16
Wednesday 2 Timothy 1:1-3,6-12 Mark 12:18-27	*Wednesday* 1 Kings 18:20-39 Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Mark 12:28-34	*Thursday* Acts 11:21-26 Matthew 5:20-26
Friday 2 Timothy 3:10-17 Mark 12:35-37	*Friday* 1 Kings 19:9,11-16 Matthew 5:27-32
Saturday 2 Timothy 4:1-8 Mark 12:38-44	*Saturday* 1 Kings 19:19-21 Matthew 5:33-37

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Graduates Encouraged To Keep Christ In Their Lives

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Reaching important crossroads, graduates of Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem and Charlotte Catholic High School were encouraged to nurture their relationship with Jesus Christ as they move forward on their faith journey.

"If you keep Jesus in your life, you will never be a failure," Bishop William G. Curlin told both classes during baccalaureate Masses last week.

The diocesan shepherd delivered the baccalaureate homily to 169 Charlotte Catholic seniors June 3 at St. Gabriel Church. On June 4 at Holy Family Church in Clemmons, 82 Bishop McGuinness graduates, too, were urged to grow in Christ. "Stay close to Jesus through the sacraments. Pray to Him for strength and guidance."

Faculty and staff at both schools were praised for their work in helping mold faith-centered graduates. Parents, too, were thanked for their sacrifices and important influence on their children's faith formation. "In you, these children saw first what it means to be a Christian," Bishop Curlin said. "They saw your love of Jesus, your devotion to the Eucharist. They remember praying together as a family."

Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor, and Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools, conferred diplomas at the graduations.

Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider, chancellor of Winston-Salem State University, delivered the BMHS commencement address June 6 at the Stevens Center. In his speech, Dr. Schexnider called graduation a "rite of passage" and a "beginning of a new chapter" in life.

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Charlotte Catholic seniors share a laugh after the school's baccalaureate Mass June 3 at St. Gabriel Church.

"For each and every one of you, graduation will mean scaling new mountains, opening new vistas and expanding new horizons," he said.

"As you begin this exciting new chapter in your life, remember to thank those who helped you along the way — your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, special teachers and counselors who nurtured you and encouraged you to do your very best," he added.

As they move on in life, Dr. Schexnider encouraged the seniors to stay close to loved ones, especially parents. "You may not realize it, but these past 17 or 18 years are the maximum concentrated period of time that you will spend with individuals who have been central to your existence and development. You owe them a debt that can never be repaid. Love them, honor them, treasure them, and by all means, remember them and stay close to them. There is much that your parents and grandparents can still teach you, but you must stay close to them in order to receive the fruits of their wisdom."

Photo by Mike Krokos

Breanne Lee McCubbin receives her diploma from Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor for the Charlotte Diocese, at the Bishop McGuinness High School commencement.

Katherine Anne Bailey was recognized as BMHS valedictorian, and David Jerret Pubantz was salutatorian. In her speech, Bailey spoke of the bond that existed between the Class of 1998. She also acknowledged that many opportunities lie ahead for graduates.

Christopher Aaron Glass was Charlotte Catholic's valedictorian, and Elizabeth Mary John was salutatorian. In his speech June 4 at Ovens Auditorium, Glass said graduation was the culmination of four years of hard work, camaraderie, unbridled happiness and occasional heartache.

He told his fellow seniors their achievement of receiving a quality, Catholic education should never be forgotten.

"Although we must all set out to reach new and individual goals, we must never forget the tall and obstacle-strewn mountain which we have conquered as one," Glass said.

Diocesan Newspaper Honored With National Awards

NEW ORLEANS — Awards for writing, photography and graphics were presented to *The Catholic News & Herald* June 5 during the national convention of the Catholic Press Association.

Staff Writer Jimmy Rostar received accolades for his personality profile entitled, "Singer-songwriter Sees Music As God's Gift." Rostar took third-place honors in the category Best Personality Profile for his story in which the Catholic Press Association points out, "The writer sets the atmosphere skillfully for emphasizing the spiritual side of an entertainer and conveys the personality, including colorful quotes."

Under the category Best Use of Art or Graphics, Associate Editor Joann Keane received an honorable mention for her photo illustration of two school girls. The design was utilized for the 1997 Back to School edition.

The Catholic News & Herald serves the 46 western counties of North Carolina. The diocesan newspaper, in its seventh year of publication, now holds nine Catholic Press Association awards, with honors in categories of editorial, feature, and personality writing, photography, and graphic design. Additional awards are held by Keane from the Extension Society and the Catholic Communications Campaign.

His Excellency, Bishop William G. Curlin, announces the following change in clergy assignment in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Effective June 16, 1998

Father Arturo DeAguilar, Parochial Vicar at The Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville, has been granted a leave of absence from priestly ministry at his own request.

St. Patrick Cathedral

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— Pope John Paul II

Happy Father's Day!

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

June 13 — 9 a.m.
Diocese of Charlotte Hispanic Assembly
Holy Family Church, Clemmons

June 14 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

3:30 p.m.
Corpus Christi Mass and Celebration
Maryfield Nursing Home, High Point

June 16-17
Priests Institute
Pope John Paul XXIII Seminary
Weston, Mass.

June 21 — 10:30 a.m.
Dedication of Parish Life Center
Sacred Heart Church, Brevard

June 24 — 11 a.m.
Jubilee celebration of priestly ordination & recognition
of those retiring from active service
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

June 28 — 9:30 a.m.
Pro-life monument dedication
Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, Albermarle

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience June 3.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing preparations for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we reflect today on the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus. The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his public ministry, when the Holy Spirit descends upon him at the Jordan, and he is revealed as the Messiah, the beloved Son of the Father.

After his baptism, Jesus exercises publicly his threefold mission as prophet, priest and king. Through the power of the Spirit, Jesus teaches with authority, cures the sick, forgives sin and drives out demons. The Gospels also clearly say that, in the intimacy of his prayer, Jesus exults in the Holy Spirit and rejoices in the experience of his divine sonship.

We, too, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism, and this enables us to call upon God with the words "Abba, Father" (Rom 8:15). At this Pentecost time, the church, through her liturgy, is calling us to become more aware of this gift and more responsive to the Holy Spirit's action through the church and within each one of us for the salvation of the world.

I warmly welcome the participants in the Sixth World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery, and I encourage you always to place your scientific skills at the service of the well-being and dignity of the human person. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Ireland, Uganda, Japan, Canada and the United States of America, I invoke the abundant blessings of almighty God.

Pope Meets U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II met Newt Gingrich, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, who recently ended a controversial tour of Israel. The Vatican provided no details of the private audience May 31. Gingrich, in Jerusalem the week before arriving at the Vatican, described the Holy City as the "eternal" and "united" capital of Israel. That is the Israeli government's claim for Jerusalem, but it is rejected by Palestinians and has not been accepted by much of the rest of the world.

Pope Offers Prayers For Victims Of Afghanistan Earthquake

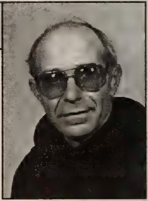
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II offered his prayers for the victims of the earthquake in Afghanistan and urged a global commitment to helping the survivors. "I would like to send to the people of the region, already so harshly tried, an expression of my affection and the assurance of my spiritual closeness," the pope said May 31 at a candlelight ceremony in the Vatican gardens marking the end of the month dedicated to Mary.

Pope Appoints New Officers For Swiss Guard

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A month after the commander of the Swiss Guard was murdered, Pope John Paul appointed a new commander and vice commander of the 100-member corps. Both men named June 2 are officers in the Swiss army. Col. Pius Segmuller, 46, will lead the Swiss Guard, which is sworn to safeguard the pope and his residence. Lt. Elmar Theodor Mader, 34, was named vice commander of the corps.

Guest Column

Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia



Our yesterdays, todays and tomorrows shape our Catholic Schools

I wish to share my thoughts with you as we close an academic year to open the next. The signs of the times are written all over; we simply have to read them and fulfill their message.

I firmly believe that a school which has no change, no signs of growth, no evidence of dreams fulfilled, no acceptance of responsibility, no proof of valuable service to the community, no care for the present or next generation, has no reason to exist. It is comatose or dead already.

Thank God, our Catholic schools have accepted the challenge of the times and developed through the years a system of values, standards, and vision which shape our educational opportunities. Our schools teach not only how to make a living, but most of all, how to make a life. No amount of pay ever made a good soldier, good teacher, good artist, good priest.

"What's in it for me" has become a question so primary in our time that its virus is crippling our world and producing a generation of midgets rather than giants. How to avoid that? Attach yourself to something bigger than yourself, and don't kill your dreams because they seem to stare at you from the other side of the final frontier.

In our schools there is no road to yesterday; the only road leads you and me to the next stage of success. While we appreciate immensely the work and dedication of the past, we believe that our todays and tomorrows call us to be bolder and more courageous that those who "follow the flow."

The philosophy of Catholic schools has a precise and clear-cut sequence: obedience, faith, knowledge. We live in an age of "popularity" contests. Probably love ranks first, then peace, freedom and happiness running side-by-side. We know that popularity never creates a hero; obedience, faith and knowledge do. The promised land of culture and education comes as a result of going to school, being taught and imposed self-discipline.

The idiot box, also called TV, has flunked more students than all the tough teachers put together. We don't settle for less; we know that mediocrity is not a good medicine. Success is our keyword. We don't wait for success to come to us, we go to it; we achieve it. It's what we do day-by-day. Success is using our skills and talents. If we don't, nobody will for you.

The verb "to succeed" means one thing after another; it is not a single achievement. Success is more than competition because competition is getting ahead of others, whereas success is getting ahead of where we were yesterday. Mediocrity is halfway up; that's not enough for our students. We are willing and determined to climb the mountain all the way up to show the sign of success "per aspera ad astra" (through efforts to the stars).

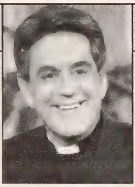
Obedience, faith and knowledge are the valuable tiles of the mosaic called "life." A person who refuses these challenges of life dies without living.

My friends, there are two events over which we have little control: birth and death. But we are responsible for making everything in between a success story and unforgettable history.

Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



To Dad, with Love

My brother and I were among the most fortunate sons to have a dad who hugged, listened, taught and forgave with an emotional intensity that still nourishes our lives today. He died in 1965 when I was 20. Thirty-plus years later, a day doesn't go by when I don't think of him or feel his loving presence.

I think I was especially lucky because I remember other friends not feeling quite the same way about their fathers. And I am hopeful for today's kids because there are signs that certain changes in the role of the father may contribute to healthier and happier generations to come.

One recent poll shows that 90 percent of fathers say they share in child care, help feed the baby and take a turn at the changing table. Three times as many fathers are present in delivery rooms as there were 20 years ago. Seventy-five percent of fathers say they spend more time with their children than their fathers spent with them.

As one middle management worker put it: "My goal is when I'm in my senior years to look back and say to myself that I took every opportunity to spend time with my children and with my wife."

His perspective is vital for all fathers and their children. Several recent studies demonstrate that warmth and attention from their dads produce mature, self-reliant girls and confident, skillful boys. This should be no surprise to those of us who were supported and cared for and loved by our fathers.

Gina Scarangella was only a teen when her dad, a New York City police officer, was killed some years back. For her, he was a hero not only for the way he died — shot by gunmen — but even more so for the way he lived. Here is her poem, "To You, Dad," that she wrote in the early days of her grief:

You've been my dad
for 14 years.
They were the best
years of my life,
Just knowing you were
there for me
To give me good advice.
But in all my dreams and all my
prayers
And in all the things I do,
I'll never forget the times we had
And the first time I said
"I love you."
Some people say I resemble you
And we're alike in many ways
That's why I'm proud to be your
Daughter and share your many
ways.
I hate to see you leave
us, dad,
I'll miss you very much
But when I pray and
think of you
I'll feel your fatherly
touch. . .

Dads — no less than moms — owe it to their children to touch, to love, to be there for them. And they owe it to themselves as well. Today would be the perfect day for parents and youngsters to catch up on a little hugging and some deeply felt "I love you's." At least I think so and my dad would have, too.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Sponsors for Confirmation Candidates

Q. Our granddaughter will be confirmed soon. She wants both my wife and me as sponsors, and doesn't want to hurt our feelings by choosing one.

Our parish priest said no, another priest said it would involve too many people and the bishop said canon law.

We hope you can give us an answer.

A. All three persons you consulted are right. Canon law just assumes that one person, at most, will serve as confirmation sponsor (Canons 892-893).

As a practical consideration, particularly in larger parishes, it could complicate procedures, and even create problems of space, if those confirmed had more than one sponsor.

I said "one person, at most" because, unlike baptism, a confirmation sponsor is not absolutely necessary at all. The confirmation ritual and canon law, respectively, specify that "ordinarily" and "insofar as it can be done" a sponsor should be chosen for the candidate.

You and your wife can explain to your granddaughter that you thank her for wanting both of you, and that neither of you will be hurt, whoever she asks.

Annulments In The Church

Q. Our daughter is applying for an annulment after a terribly abusive marriage. Her husband now will have nothing to do with her.

According to church law, must an annulment be mutually agreed to?

Can an annulment be granted to one spouse when there is proof that the other spouse did not fulfill his or her marriage vows?

A. An annulment requires reasonable proof that one or both of the spouses was, from the beginning of the marriage, incapable of true marriage consent, and/or of the community of life that Christian marriage involves.

This incapacity for a valid marriage may show itself in a lack of the proper intentions, or in some emotional or psychic crippledness that made a true marital union impossible.

The one who initiates the request for annulment is called the petitioner; the other person is the respondent, who is always invited to offer his or her thoughts about the marriage.

Respondents cannot block the annulment, however. If they refuse to answer or just don't agree with the process, the process still goes on, and a decision will be made without their participation.

It is good to note that, from what I said above, simple breaking of marriage vows is not sufficient grounds for a declaration of annulment.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about annulments is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Letters To The Editor

Indian Bishops' Comments on Nuclear Tests Dismaying

To The Editor:

How depressing were the headlines for the May 15 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald.* That any bishop could be pleased by nuclear tests, as the Indian bishops apparently are, dismays me.

Archbishop de Lastic of Delhi is quoted as saying that the "underground detonation of three nuclear devices the previous day was 'a sign that India has progressed.'"

Sorry, but I see it as a retrogression for India and the entire world. My hope would be that all the other bishops of the world, including our Holy Father, would be strong voices for peace and equally strong voices for the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Archbishop de Lastic and his brother bishops from India who are displaying their nationalism should be ashamed.

Father Joseph Zuschmidt, OSFS
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
High Point

Through H.E.L.P., Catholics can assist less fortunate

To The Editor:

In late April, more than 1,600 people from at least 30 churches in the Charlotte area gathered at St. Paul's Baptist Church in Charlotte. Among those in attendance were Bishop William G. Curlin, Representatives Sue Myrick and Mel Watts, and many, many others. They gathered for the founding convention of Helping Empower Local People (H.E.L.P.).

For those who do not know, H.E.L.P. is among other things, a Campaign for Human Development sponsored project. H.E.L.P. gives a powerful voice to those without a voice at the tables of power in Charlotte. It is a strong and effective proponent of those things to all Christians, and especially Catholics, should care about the most.

That leads to my point. Why aren't more Catholics involved? Of the 1.600 there, only three parishes were represented, and one of those was there for the first time. The three were St. Luke, St. Peter and St. Matthew.

I pray for the day when all parishes and all Catholics in the Charlotte/Mecklenburg area will have the opportunity to witness the incredible power of that many people from all backgrounds — black and white; men and women; rich and poor — working together to help the poor among us.

It is such a unique chance for, as Bishop Curlin said: "The Jesus in me to recognize the Jesus in you."

John W. McLaughlin, P.E.
H.E.L.P. Strategy Team
St. Luke Church
Mint Hill

Museum To Display Exhibit on Belmont Abbey

Archive photo from Belmont Abbey

Belmont Abbey Cathedral will be part of the exhibit entitled "Belmont Abbey: Founded in Faith" at the Museum of the New South from June 27 - Jan. 2, 1998.

CHARLOTTE — Museum of the New South, a comprehensive history museum, will feature an exhibit on Belmont Abbey College and Monastery entitled "Belmont Abbey: Founded in Faith." The exhibit runs from June 27 - Jan. 2, 1998.

Nestled in Gaston County, just west of Charlotte, is one of the region's priceless treasures. With long-admired architectural character, the Abbey cathedral, monastery, and college grounds are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This compilation of archival images and artifacts captures the essence of Belmont Abbey College and Monastery and provides a glimpse of the people, places and events that have made the Abbey a truly special gem.

Although rich in tradition, life at the Abbey has seen many changes. Formed in 1876 in a mostly Protestant state, Belmont Abbey was destined to leave its imprint on the regional community. This exhibit shares the unique spirit and rich history enjoyed by the Abbey.

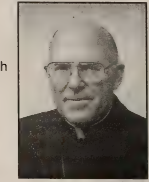
On June 26, the museum will host an Exhibit Preview from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Curators and members of the Belmont Abbey family will be on hand to elaborate on the exhibition and the Abbey at the opening reception. R.S.V.P. by calling the museum, (704) 333-1887, by June 23.

In addition to the exhibit preview and reception, the museum will also sponsor a tour of Belmont Abbey on June 27. Benedictine Father Paschal Baumstein will guide groups on a historic journey of the Abbey. Groups will also have the opportunity to attend Mass at the Abbey Cathedral. The Museum of the New South will open at 8:30 a.m. that morning for tour participants to view the exhibit before heading to Belmont Abbey. The tour will depart the museum at 9:30 a.m. Transportation and lunch will be provided. Cost for the trip is $25 for nonmembers, $23 for members, and $20 for students and senior citizens. Space is limited. Call Melinda Desmarais in the Education Department at the museum, (704) 333-1887, to make reservations. Deadline to reserve space is June 19.

Museum of the New South is a comprehensive museum of history that explores the past in a regional scope, with Charlotte at the center of an economic and cultural network of 13 neighboring counties called the Carolina Piedmont. The museum presents post-Reconstruction history dating back to 1877 and shows the great changes in the regional social, economic and cultural structure.

The museum is located at 324 N. College Street and is open to visitors Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $2 for adults, $1 for students, seniors and teachers, and free for children under 5 years of age. Family admission is $5. Admission is free on the second Saturday of each month.

Bishop J. Keith Symons Resigns: Abuse Of Minors Revealed



Bishop J. Keith Symons

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Acknowledging sexual misconduct with minors when he was a young priest, Bishop J. Keith Symons has resigned as bishop of Palm Beach, Fla. Pope John Paul II accepted his resignation June 2 and named Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., as apostolic administrator of the diocese until a new bishop is appointed.

In a written statement, Bishop Symons said, "Early in my now 40 years of priestly ministry, I was involved in inappropriate sexual behavior with minors. It is a memory with which we have lived too long. I apologize to all whom I have hurt in any way and if, by this action, they might seek spiritual, emotional and psychological comfort and assistance, then this painful moment for the church and for me may prove beneficial."

Bishop Anthony Pilla of Cleveland, president of The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, called Bishop Symon's resignation "a difficult moment" but added, "All of our Catholic people must be able to approach the Church with absolute confidence in the integrity of her ministers."

Bishop Lynch said that today's sad news reminds us all of the fragility of humans, the weakness of church people from time to time, and the need for the presence of God in our lives. "I will immediately begin the process of healing. Those who love the Church will see in this moment an occasion for rededication and recommitment," he added.

Thank you
St. Jude
— S.K.

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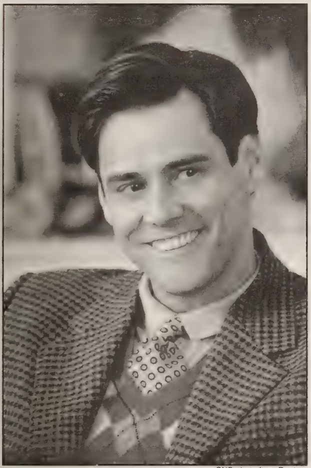
Entertainment



CNS photo from Reuters

Jim Carrey portrays Truman Burbank in "The Truman Show," about a man whose entire life has been a nonstop television show. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Twists And Turns Abound In "A Perfect Murder"

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The 1954 Ray Milland-Grace Kelly "Dial M for Murder" is updated to the nasty '90s as the glossy thriller, "A Perfect Murder" (Warner Bros.).

Instead of London, the movie is now set among the creme de la creme of New York society, of which the Taylors are a glamorous, apparently compatible couple.

Rich, beautiful and unfaithful trophy wife Emily (Gwyneth Paltrow) thinks her control-freak husband Steven (Michael Douglas) is unaware of her love affair with impoverished artist David (Viggo Mortensen).

She couldn't be more wrong; not only is Steven in the know, he also knows David is a gold-digging ex-con who can be forced to commit a heinous crime, or be returned to the pen for a charge he has so far escaped. Steven "persuades" David to carry out an intricately plotted murder — and the victim is Emily.

David is to enter the Taylors' fabulous Fifth Avenue apartment while Emily is alone and Steven has a card-game-with-the-guys alibi. Her death is to look like a robbery gone wrong. Gone wrong is exactly what happens.

Now a cat-and-mouse game comes into play. It seems David couldn't do the dirty deed and hired a hit man. But he still wants the half-million Steven promised him and Steven still wants his wealthy wife dead pronto to cover financial losses. Moreover, Emily is beginning to suspect her husband is involved.

Viewers are bound to wonder why this gorgeous young heiress married such a charmless old snake in the first place. Nor does she ever see through her fortune-hunting lover despite being depicted as a sophisticated woman of the world.

Nonetheless, as simply an escapist thriller, there is some entertainment at hand. Twists and turns abound, and in this aspect the husband excels, able to lie with a straight face to his suspicious wife at a moment's notice. Douglas has not been so sinister and steely since the despicable Gordon Gekko character he played in "Wall Street."

If not compared with the more restrained "Dial M for Murder," "A Perfect Murder" would stand on its own as a dark thriller, that, although sometimes unconvincing, has its scary moments.

Due to a fleeting sexual encounter, brief but intense violence and some rough language and profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

MOVIE REVIEW LINE
1-800 311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Deconstructing Harry" (1997)

Impressionistic account of how a writer (Woody Allen) views his life and work, with the imagined characters of his stories often getting mixed up with people and events from real life. Also directed by Allen, there are some witty situations and funny one-liners but the result is an often painful picture of a glib egoist who is only interested in self-gratification and turning his experiences of it into fiction. Compulsive infidelity, sexual situations, repeated references to oral sex, brief nudity, recurring rough language and some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Desperate Measures" (1998)

Violent thriller in which a brainy homicidal convict (Michael Keaton) tries to escape from the San Francisco hospital where he has volunteered to undergo a bone marrow transplant to save the dying son of a cop (Andy Garcia) who now must recapture the escaped man alive or lose his boy. Directed by Barbet Schroeder, the wild chase through the hospital is too improbably contrived to be emotionally satisfying and the result answers none of the moral questions raised about the cop's responsibility to both son and public. Much hard-edged violence, life-threatening situations and occasional rough language as well as profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV —adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Firestorm" (1998)

Hokey thriller in which forest firefighters (led by superhero Howie Long) rescue a woman (Suzy Amis) taken hostage by convicts (led by villainous William Forsythe) who have torched the woods to cover their escape. Directed by Dean Semler, the picture's cardboard characters and contrived situations add up to little more than a smoke-filled time-waster. Much violence and menace, some sexual innuendo and occasional rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Giant of Thunder Mountain" (1992)

When a little girl (winningly played by Noley Thornton) befriends a lonely, oversized woodsman (Richard Kiel) living on a nearby mountain, the villagers determine to drive him away but have a change of heart when he saves them from a gang of cutthroats. Written by Kiel and directed by James Roberson, the story of a child's ability to see the goodness in a man foolishly misjudged by her elders is ultimately heartwarming and certainly eye-filling in its turn-of-the-century Western setting but suffers from a lumpy plot with too much violent action. Initial scenes of parents being killed by a grizzly bear, life-threatening situations involving children as well as adults and frightening scenes of vigilante justice. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"John Grisham's The Rainmaker" (1997)

Bland drama in which a novice attorney (Matt Damon) falls for a battered wife (Claire Danes) while in litigation with a smug corporate lawyer (Jon Voight) for a soulless insurance company which allowed a young man to die rather than pay for treatment. Francis Ford Coppola's pedestrian direction results in a predictable tale of a greedy corporation brought down to size by an idealistic underdog. Brief but intense violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Mouse Hunt" (1997)

Madcap comedy in which two impoverished brothers (Nathan Lane and Lee Evans) inherit a historic mansion, then plan to auction it off for millions if they can just rid it of an elusive mouse that is bringing the house down around their heads. Directed in episodic fashion by Gore Verbinski, the result offers some zany, comic mayhem as the resourceful rodent foils the humans' every trap. Much slapstick violence, mild toilet humor and fleeting sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Star Kid" (1998)

Thin adventure fantasy in which a 12-year-old boy (Joseph Mazzello) climbs inside the shell of an alien android and uses its superhuman strength to take revenge on a school bully, then is confronted by a ferocious spider-like invader from outer space. Written and directed by Manny Coto, the movie's premise of controlling a powerful robot may appeal to young boys, though most others will find the formula plot as tiresome as the derivative special effects. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Photo by Joann Keane

The bishop kneels before his chair while the candidates prostrate themselves during the Litany of Saints.

Lov
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Diocese Welcomes Four Men Into Priesthood

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CHARLOTTE — With Bishop William G. Curlin urging them to be holy men of prayer and Eucharist with Jesus Christ at the center of their lives, Rev. Messrs. Dean Cesa, Christopher Davis, Matthew Leonard and Peter Pham were ordained to the ministry of priesthood June 6 at St. John Neumann Church.

"Pray daily to the Father, preach what Jesus taught and bring His love into the world," the bishop told the candidates. "Be men of daily Eucharist, celebrating the greatest gift in the world, the presence of Jesus in the most blessed sacrament."

In excess of 400 people, including 90 brother priests from the Charlotte Diocese who concelebrated Mass with Bishop Curlin, attended the rite of ordination.

Following the Liturgy of the Word, Father Eric Houseknecht, diocesan director of vocations, presented the candidates to Bishop Curlin and the assembly.

In his homily preceding the ordination rite, the bishop challenged the candidates to be men of unwavering faith. "Be holy men, be holy priests. That's the great need of the church," he said. "To be a holy priest is to love Jesus with all your heart, your mind, your soul — with everything you have. Love God completely and allow no one or nothing to enter your life that will strip you of that relationship or put you at a distance from Jesus Christ."

All priests must have that relationship, Bishop Curlin

"To be a holy priest is to love Jesus with all your heart, your mind, your soul."

— Bishop William G. Curlin

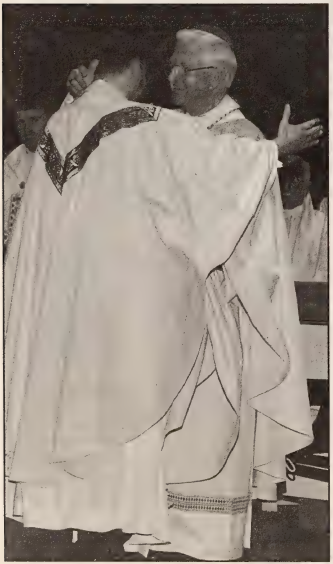
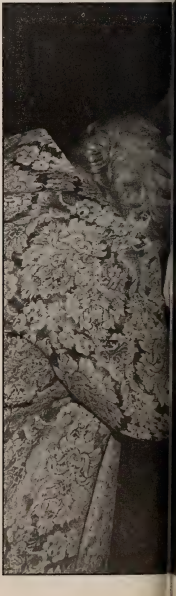


Photo by Joann Keane

Bishop Curlin and Father Dean Cesa exchange a kiss of peace.

Photo by Patrick Henry

Father Peter Pham offers the Eucharist during Saturday's ordination Mass.



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added, to serve the people of God. "If I ask any person, 'What do you want in your priest?', I believe he or she would say, 'I want a man who knows and loves Jesus Christ.'"

"The example of the priest's faith and life is what nourishes the faith of the people," the bishop added.

During the examination of the candidates, the deacons assured the bishop that they faithfully intend to celebrate Christ's mysteries, to preach the Gospel, to explain the faith and to consecrate their lives in service to God's people.

After the men vowed obedience and Bishop Curlin prayed that God will bring their priestly work to its highest potential, the candidates prostrated themselves as the congregation prayed the Litany of the Saints.

The most solemn moment of the ordination rite took place during the laying-on of hands (an ancient sign of ordination). The bishop prayed silently over each candidate and then invited all priests present to join him in asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit. At this point, the deacons were sacramentally entered into the fullness of their vocation.

Bishop Curlin anointed the new priests' hands, a sign of preserving the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. He then watched as the priests were invested with their stoles and chausibles, the outer vestments they will wear while celebrating Mass.

Bishop Curlin encouraged the four men to love their brother priests and to seek direction from them. "They have experienced the priesthood and know of the joys and struggles. Ask one of them to be your spiritual director to help give guidance in your priestly ministry," he said.

Father Cesa will serve as parochial vicar at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem. Father Davis has been appointed parochial vicar of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. Father Leonard will serve as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte. Father Pham has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Michael Church in Gastonia. The assignments are scheduled to begin on July 6.

The rewards the priesthood gives are immeasurable, Bishop Curlin told the newly ordained. "The greatest moment in your life will not come when someone compliments you on the beautiful new church you helped build, the new school your parish opened, or the beautiful sermon you gave," the bishop said. "The high point will be when someone says, 'Oh Father, I met my God through you.' That's the best moment. When someone tells you how you taught them to find Jesus in the depths of their soul."

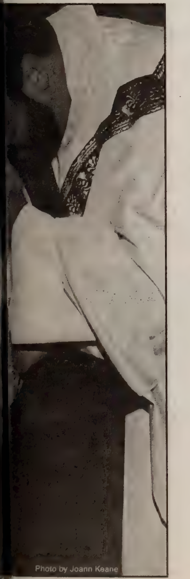
Photo by Joann Keane

Father Matthew Leonard offers a blessing to his mother.

Photo by Joann Keane

People In The News

Catholic Comic Actor Phil Hartman Dead At Age 49

By MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The apparent murder of Catholic comic actor Phil Hartman in his home May 28 in Encino, Calif., stunned fans and friends alike into a disbelieving numbness.

Police were still searching for a motive in the slaying. It was coupled with the apparent suicide of Hartman's third wife, Brynn, which reportedly occurred as police were evacuating the couple's two children from the home.

The police had gone to the Hartman residence after responding to a call that shots had been fired inside the house.

In an interview with Catholic News Service three weeks before his death, Hartman, 49, reflected on life and the meaning of death after his father died from Alzheimer's disease April 30.

"My faith has guided me to believe it's a rebirth," Hartman told CNS. "We are set free from the mortal coil, and we'll see wonders beyond our imagination. We'll get close to the Creator."

He said, "I've believed that all my life even when I've questioned other aspects of my faith." He added, "I'll be there with my father in heaven."

In dealing with death, "our faith prepares us for what lies ahead, and tells us that it's a mystery to us, and we tremble before that mystery," Hartman said.

In the interview, Hartman made no references to family life with his wife and children. News reports immediately after the Hartmans' deaths alluded to marital discord, although those who spoke to reporters on the matter did so without being identified.

Police were investigating the deaths as a possible murder-suicide.

Hartman was set to play a fourth season as anchorman Bill McNeal on NBC's "NewsRadio." He told CNS that if the show was renewed, "I'll go down with the ship because the work is so satisfying." In the wake of his death, the sitcom's executive producers said plans for the show were up in the air.

Phil Hartman

Hartman first gained nationwide popularity through his eight seasons on "Saturday Night Live," with his wide array of celebrity impressions. He also did several voices on the Fox cartoon "The Simpsons."

He will be featured in the movie "Small Soldiers," due for release in July. He also had supporting roles more than 20 other films, including "Sgt. Bilko," "Jingle All the Way," "Houseguest," "Greedy," "Coneheads," "Quick Change," "Three Amigos" and "Jumpin' Jack Flash."

NBC West Coast president Don Ohlmeyer, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, said in a May 28 statement, "Phil was blessed with a tremendous gift for creating characters that made people laugh."

Also giving accolades to Hartman's talents was Ed McMahon, a Catholic University of America alumnus and at times a target of Hartman's impersonations.

"My favorite memories of him are from dinner parties at my house where we'd perform for our friends," McMahon said, "with me interviewing Phil as he was doing one of his famous celebrity characterizations ... Frank Sinatra, President Clinton, and the funniest of all, me interviewing me."

Nun, Ex-Governor Honored For Assisting Prisoners In Vermont

BURLINGTON, Vt. (CNS) — With an earthy Cajun charm as easygoing as her message is urgent, Sister Helen Prejean challenged Vermonters May 15 to sustain hope by believing that humanity can be redeemed and acting on that belief. The well-known death penalty opponent from Louisiana, in her first visit to Vermont, was honored along with former Vermont Gov. Philip Hoff during the 13th annual benefit for Vermont Dismas House, a transition residence for ex-prisoners. "You don't know what you're getting involved in when you go to follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ, step by step," said Sister Prejean, whose book "Dead Man Walking" became an Academy Award-winning movie.

Dallas Diocese Names First Woman, First Layperson As Chancellor

DALLAS (CNS) — Mary Gemmell-Edlund has been named chancellor of the Diocese of Dallas, making her the first woman and the first layperson to be appointed to the post. Gemmell-Edlund, 50, who was appointed to the new post of vice chancellor of the diocese last fall, succeeds Msgr. John Bell, who will become chaplain at the Catholic-run University of Dallas in suburban Irving. The appointments, announced May 27 by Dallas Bishop Charles V. Grahmann, are effective Aug. 12. The vice chancellor position will not be filled.

L.A. Cardinal To Undergo Surgery For Prostate Cancer June 15

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles announced May 28 that he will undergo surgery June 15 to remove his cancerous prostate gland. Because the cancer was detected at a very early stage, the surgeon scheduled to perform the operation said he was "extremely optimistic" that the 62-year-old cardinal "will have a smooth and rapid recovery." Facing a phalanx of media cameras and reporters at a press conference at the USC-Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in Los Angeles, Cardinal Mahony read a prepared statement asking for the prayers of archdiocesan Catholics and others, and said he hoped his decision to go public would encourage other men to be tested for the disease. The cardinal noted that each year 340,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer and that nearly 40,000 die each year from the disease.

Catholic Prosecutor Honored For His Actions Against Freemen

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Prosecutor Nickolas C. Murnion says his Catholic roots, his education in government and his Irish heritage helped him confront a lawless Montana group known as the Freemen. As the attorney for Montana's Garfield County, the 44-year-old Murnion defied death threats while prosecuting members of the fiercely anti-government Freemen on several felony counts well before the federal government acted against them. He was recognized for his actions May 29 when he received the 1998 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in Boston.

Pope Appoints New Archbishop Of Seoul, South Korea

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Bishop Nicholas Cheong Jin-suk, president of the Korean bishops' conference, to be the new archbishop of Seoul, South Korea. The 66-year-old bishop of Chonju, a canon lawyer, succeeds Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-hwan, who celebrated his 76th birthday in early May. The Vatican announced May 29 that the pope had accepted Cardinal Kim's resignation and had appointed Bishop Cheong to lead the archdiocese, which has almost 1.2 million Catholics.

Sending Flowers Can Have Double Impact, Says Priest

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Connecticut priest has brought new meaning to the '60s slogan "Flower Power." He has struck a deal with a national flower company to donate 10 percent of every flower purchase to the Catholic school of the buyer's choice. Father Edmund Nadolny, pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Meriden, Conn., came up with the idea. He told Catholic News Service that it was sparked by his parish school's need for funds and by the bouquets that overflow at his church's altar every week.

Fatima Miracle Reaffirms Catholic Faith, Priest Says

BAY CITY, Mich. (CNS) — The Fatima apparitions should not be viewed as "the source of faith" but as a reaffirmation of what Catholics already believe, said a priest who is founder and director of the International Fatima Family Apostolate. In an interview with The Catholic Weekly, newspaper of the Saginaw Diocese, Father Robert J. Fox said that he could "give a talk on what Fatima is without ever mentioning Mary or Fatima, because Fatima, as the popes (since 1930) have said, is a reaffirmation of the Gospel."

Vatican Approves Franciscan Election Of New Holy Land Custodian

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has approved the Franciscan order's election of a new custodian of the Holy Land, Father Giovanni Battistelli. The Custody of the Holy Land functions as a Middle East province of the Franciscans, but with the specific mission of providing a Catholic presence and ministry at the holy sites and shrines in Jerusalem and other parts of the Holy Land. Father Battistelli, 64, was born in Spello, Italy, and joined the Franciscans in Assisi. After earning a degree in Eastern church studies, he transferred to the custody in 1960.

Cardinal Says Ortega Will Never Face Trial On Abuse Allegations

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (CNS) — Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo of Managua said it would be "almost impossible" to bring former President Daniel Ortega to trial for the alleged sexual abuse of his stepdaughter because of the power the Sandinista leader still wields in Nicaragua. In declarations published June 1 in the Managuan daily La Tribuna, Cardinal Obando echoed the widely held view that Ortega will never be obliged to face in court the charges made by his stepdaughter, Zoilamerica Narvaez Murillo.

Moscow Archbishop Happy After Receiving Registration Papers

MOSCOW (CNS) — The head of European Russia's Catholics said he was very happy after officially receiving the church's registration from the Russian minister of justice. "I was very, very grateful," Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz said June 4 shortly after receiving the registration. The registration of Archbishop Kondrusiewicz's Apostolic Administration for European Russia was the first time a Catholic institution has been granted registration under a controversial new law on religion signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in September.

Cardinal Casaroli, Former Vatican Secretary Of State Dies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the former Vatican secretary of state known for promoting church diplomacy in cold war Europe, died in a Rome hospital June 9 at age 83. The cardinal had served in the secretariat of state under five popes in as many decades. He was credited with helping the church survive in Central and Eastern Europe by facilitating ties between the Holy See and the region. Cardinal Casaroli reportedly was hospitalized to treat a heart ailment during the first week of June.

Employment Opportunities

Organist:

Organist needed for the weekly 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass and Holy Day Masses. Familiarity with Roman Catholic liturgy would be beneficial. Other responsibilities would include accompanying and adult choir. The instrument is a Johannus organ from Holland. Salary is negotiable. If interested, please contact Rev. Fr. Peter Fitzgibbons, St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, 525 Camden Drive, Statesville, NC 28677. (704) 872-2579.

Director for Total Youth Ministry:

St. Mark Catholic Church in Wilmington, NC, is seeking a full-time person for youth ministry. Primary responsibilities for grades 6-12 in the 2000-family parish: Religious education classes, retreats, service projects, social events, and recruiting, training and supporting volunteer teachers and leaders. Will work closely with Director of Religious Education. Bachelor's Degree required with religious education background and experience preferred. A practicing Catholic in good standing with great enthusiasm for working with youth required. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send letter of application with resume to TYM Search Committe, St. Mark Catholic Church, 1011 Eastwood Road, Wilmington, NC 28403 by July 1, 1998.

Organist — Pianist:

St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28115. Two choir rehearsals and Masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard, Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Director of Parish Business Operations:

A large, growing, friendly parish needs a professional for its business operations. This Director will have responsibility for the financial, fundraising, information technology, personnel and physical plant resources of the parish and will report to the pastor. The Director must be intimately familiar with the principles of accounting, have strong interpersonal skills, and be an effective communicator. The minimum requirements for this position are: 10 years work experience in related disciplines as outlined above; 5 years management experience; and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Finance, or equivalent. Salary is negotiable and will be based on experience and competitive information. For more information, please submit your resume to: Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410 or fax: (910) 294-6149.

Youth Minister:

Our growing parish community of 1900 families is seeking a full-time Youth Minister for our established Total Youth Ministry program for youth grades 6-12. Responsibilities include spiritual and program development while working together with a committed team of 50 adults. Candidate should be: faith-filled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team-oriented. Experienced with BA in Theology or related field. Salary and benefits commensurate with degree and experience. Send a resume and a statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410 or fax: (336) 294-6149.

Director of Youth Ministry:

St. Peter's Catholic Church, Greenville, N.C., a growing and dynamic faith community, is seeking a Director of Youth Ministry to serve all the youth of the Catholic community in grades 6 through 12. The parish consists of more than 1000 families who are enthusiastically responding to the directions of Vatican II in preparation for the 3rd millennium. The parish is committed to using the Total Youth Ministry model. The high school portion of this ministry includes preparation for Confirmation. This minister will work in conjuction with and under the supervision of the Director of Faith Formation. Successful applicant should be a practicing Catholic, possess a relevant college degree, and have strong interpersonal and organizational skills. Previous experience preferred. Professional salary and benefits offered will be commensurate with background and diocesan guidelines. Send letter, resume, and references by June 30, 1998 to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, St. Peter Catholic Church, 2700 East 4th St., Greenville, NC 27858.

Mathematics Teacher:

Cardinal Gibbons High School is seeking a teacher of mathematics for the 1998-99 school year. Send resume to principal, Cardinal Gibbons High School, 2401 Crusader Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606, or fax to (919) 834-9771.

Freelance Writer:

The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the western region of the diocese. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward resumes to *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Pope Hopes For Formal Recognition Of Jerusalem's Status In 2000

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he hoped the year 2000 would bring a formal recognition "of the unique and sacred character of the holy city" of Jerusalem.

Meeting May 28 with the Jordan's new ambassador to the Vatican, the pope said reflections on peace in the Middle East naturally turn one's thoughts to Jerusalem, "so often destroyed yet always rebuilt, its stones a symbol of both human desolation and the power of human hope."

The history of Jerusalem will reach a new stage in the year 2000 as Christians celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Christ, the pope said.

"It is my fervent hope that this may prompt formal recognition, with international guarantees, of the unique and sacred character of the Holy City," he said.

"Indeed, it is we who belong to Jerusalem" — Christians, Muslims and Jews — "since we are all her children; and if this is true, then the city ought to become a place where all peoples of the world can meet in peace," the pope said.

The new ambassador, Adnan Bahjat al Talhouni, called Jerusalem "the symbol of peace among the three monotheistic religions" and said the position of his country, which controlled part of Jerusalem until the 1967 war, is comparable to the Vatican's position.

Pope John Paul also expressed his concerns about the status of the Middle East peace process.

"In recent years, hopes have been raised that negotiations would produce peaceful solutions to the many problems of the region," the pope said. "But these hopes have not yet been fulfilled. Indeed, in times such as the present, the prospect of fulfillment even seems to have receded."

Pope John Paul said it is clear that only a strong commitment to dialogue and understanding will lead to peace. When people see that commitment waning, they become frustrated and their frustration can lead to violence.

A breakdown in the negotiations, he said, "would surely prove disastrous for all."

The rejection of dialogue in favor of aggression, the pope said, "is not a reasonable option. The only reasonable option, in the Middle East as elsewhere, remains that of dialogue and understanding."

The religious vision which Christians, Jews and Muslims share is one which insists that "man cannot worship the one true God without respecting the moral imperative which has its roots in God. Such a vision understands that a peace process which ignores justice will descend sooner or later into short-sighted pragmatism, self-interest or opportunism," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said, "All the peoples of the Middle East have in some way been wronged, and all have inalienable rights."

The history of the Middle East has shown that religion can be manipulated by ideologies and used to divide people or even spark violence between them, he said.

"Yet, it is equally clear that when religion is allowed to be what it truly is, then it can unite, enabling believers to walk together in trust and mutual respect," the pope said.

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For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

Oregon After the Shootings

Prayer Helps Community Begin Healing

By TERI BROSH and ED LANGLOIS

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (CNS) — Pain and memories of the shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield are lingering.

For many people emotions sit on the surface.

"My emotional level is like carrying a full glass of water. It spills easily," said Tom McNamara, pastoral associate of St. Alice Parish. "I can hardly watch a Buick commercial without getting emotional."

Still, the citizens of this working-class, close-knit community are finding ways to heal. Almost immediately, many turned to prayer.

Youths from Thurston met to pray at St. Alice the day of the shooting, McNamara told the Catholic Sentinel, newspaper of the Portland Archdiocese.

Some huddled in prayer circles they initiated on their own. "Prayer is all over that school," McNamara added "The opponents of school prayer really got it wrong. When it's really tough, the kids go to prayer."

In a letter to the citizens of Springfield, Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland said that Catholics all over the region are gathering to offer prayer of support.

"When we are in deep pain, we have a greater sense of our dependence on God and one another for healing and salvation," he wrote. "As senseless as the violence was in the cafeteria of Thurston High School on May 21, it did bring us together."

Two students died and 20 were injured in the May 21 shootings at Thurston High School. The parents of the alleged gunman were found dead in their home after the incident.

At Hillsboro High School, students started a paper chain, like those made for a Christmas tree. The chain stretched approximately 60 feet, with its loops containing written messages of comfort from young people at many schools. The chain was then stretched along the memorial fence outside Thurston High.

On May 31, several hundred people gathered for an ecumenical community prayer session in the school gym at Thurston. They sang. Students and ministers spoke. Everyone prayed.

At Springfield High June 2, pastors and other community leaders met to discuss more ways to heal. All around town, students, families, and the entire community have comforted each other with hugs, encouraging words, donated flowers, meals and gifts.

Everywhere, there are signs the healing has begun.

"It was really nice seeing the kids outside just being kids," said Carolyn Barr, administrative assistant at St. Alice. "They were sitting around on the curb, visiting, waiting for rides, and just horsing around. It made you feel like they were getting on with things."

The high school youths from St. Alice met for their end-of-the-year party May 31. "They are a close, caring group," said Anne Kephart, youth coordinator for the church. They played volleyball and had a treasure hunt.

"They closed the year on a good note. A fun and caring note," she said. "They're getting help if they need it."

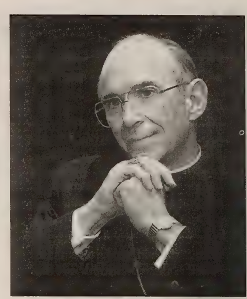
The students are doing well, said Kephart. "I'm so impressed with them. They're strong," she said. "They're taking care of each other. Some of them were shot. Some were witnesses. They've come through a terrible thing, and it's given them strength."

Studies from the National Organization for Victim Assistance show that the social fabric of communities is severely torn by events like the Thurston shootings. It can take a town five to seven years to really heal.

"Once the media leaves town and the patients are out of the hospital, it is then that the real grieving begins and people are with the least amount of support," said Bob Scheri, chaplain at Sacred Heart Medical Center in nearby Eugene.

Healing does not mean forgetting, Scheri warned. "Many kids this age have a sense of immortality and don't have the inner strength to deal with all this," he said. "In others, the sense of immortality is strengthened because they think if they made it through this they are invincible. So they will do even riskier things."

At the same time, said Scheri, "crisis awakens the human spirit," and the youths may emerge from the grief stronger, more aware and more compassionate.



Bernardin,

from page 1

Martin Marty; Newsweek religion editor Kenneth Woodward; Time religion writer Richard Ostling; Cardinal Bernardin biographers Eugene Kennedy and John H. White; and Msgr. Kenneth Velo, the cardinal's secretary, who is president of the Catholic Church Extension Society.

"Bernardin" was produced by longtime Catholic documentarians Martin Doblmeier and Frank Frost in association with Family Theater Productions and Santa Fe Communications.

Every U.S. parish has received a postcard informing them of the TV special.

Viewers can access www.bernardin.org for dates and times "Bernardin" will air in their city.

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Diocese Celebrates Diaconate Anniversaries

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

NEWTON — Fifty permanent deacons of the Diocese of Charlotte recently gathered in Newton with their spouses and diocesan dignitaries to commemorate their ministry of service at a jubilee Mass and dinner.

The anniversary event brought 90 people to St. Joseph Church on May 17. "This was to celebrate the jubilees of those who have been ordained for 10 or more years in service to our diocese," said Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, diocesan diaconate administrator.

File photo

Members of the Diocese of Charlotte's first class of permanent deacons, in white, prepare for their 1983 investiture ceremony at Ovens Auditorium in Charlotte.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the jubilee Mass, concelebrated by Father Mauricio West, vicar general, chancellor and vicar of the permanent diaconate; Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, founding director of the program in the diocese; and Msgr. Thomas Burke, the diaconate's long-time spiritual director.

Bibles inscribed with names and years of ordination were presented to the deacons during a dinner following the Mass.

Restored by Pope Paul VI in 1967 after centuries of near non-existence in the Western church, the permanent diaconate is a rank of ordained ministry in Roman-rite Catholicism and allows men to become deacons for life.

The ministry is based on committed service to the parish and community through a variety of charitable, liturgical and pastoral functions. Permanent deacons are allowed to be married, provided that they have already entered the sacrament of matrimony at the time of ordination.

The permanent diaconate was established in the Diocese of Charlotte in September 1980 by Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley. The first group was ordained in May 1983.

The majority of this year's jubilarians represent the first two classes of the diocese's permanent diaconate program, while a dozen others were ordained before the program was in place here. Several were ordained in dioceses elsewhere in the nation.

There are now 64 permanent deacons serving in western North Carolina. Nine men are enrolled in the diaconate's current six-year training program.

Rev. Mr. Wenning commended his brother deacons for their dedication, saying most put in between 6 to 20 hours a week at their parishes. "Time and effort result in recognition," he said.

The following listing names the permanent deacons in the Diocese of Charlotte celebrating 10 or more years of ordained ministry in 1998.

22 years: Rev. Mr. Thomas O'Connell. **21 years**: Rev. Mr. Stephen Horai. **20 years**: Rev. Messrs. Fred Dobens, Robert Gettlefinger, Jerome Herbers, Louis Pais. **19 years**: Rev. Messrs. Gordon Forester, William Shaw, John Sims. **17 years**: Rev. Mr. John Burke. **16 years**: Rev. Messrs. Robert Dotson, Anthony Marini. **15 years**: Rev. Messrs. Andrew Cilone, Charles DeSautels, Joseph Garavaglis, James Hamrlik, Gerald Hickey, John Hubbarth, Joseph Mack, Franklin Manning, Harold Markle, Hugo May, Dennis O'Madigan, Gerald Potkay, Joseph Schumacher, Joseph Smith, Patrick Vallandingham, Jos Vandermeer. **13 years**: Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero. **12 years**: Rev. Mr. William Pivarnik. **11 years**: Rev. Mr. James Johnson. **10 years**: Rev. Messrs. Frank Aversa, Charles Brantley, Ronald Caplette, Daniel Carl, Peter Duca, Eugene Gillis, Bruce Haslett, Arthur Kingsley, George McMahon, Charles Moss, Edward Morovich, Guy Piché, Thomas Rasmussen, Louis Rinkus, Timothy Rohan, Gerard Schumacher, Vincent Shaw, Curtiss Todd, Ben Wenning.

Jubilarians, Retirees To Be Recognized At Mass

CHARLOTTE — The presbyteral council of the Diocese of Charlotte recently announced plans for the celebration of 20 priests' anniversaries of ordination, as well as the honoring of two priests upon their pending retirement from active service.

The jubilee Mass will be celebrated June 24 in St. Patrick Cathedral at 11 a.m. Bishop William G. Curlin will preside. The public is invited to attend.

This year's jubilarians and retirees represent many decades of priestly service throughout North Carolina, the United States and beyond.

Celebrating 25 years of priesthood in 1998 are Father Wilbur Thomas, Father Tan Van Le, Father Jerome Aung Shwe and Spiritan Father Edward J. Vilkauskas.

Those celebrating their 40th anniversaries are Father Richard T. McCue, Jesuit Father James A. Devereux, Jesuit Father Vincent Alagia, Jesuit Father George R. Hohman and Benedictine Father David R. Kessinger.

Forty-fifth anniversary jubilarians are Father Joseph Kelleher, Msgr. Thomas P. Burke, Father Thomas R. Walsh, Father Patrick Gavigan and Benedictine Father Kenneth A. Geyer.

Celebrating 50 years are Msgr. Felix Kelaher, Jesuit Father William J. Lynch and Father Joseph P. McGovern.

Retired Abbot-Nullius Walter A. Coggin, a Benedictine, celebrates 55 years as a priest in 1998.

Msgr. John R. Rouche commemorates his 65th anniversary this year, while Father Edward F. O'Dougherty is honored for 70 years of priestly service.

Retiring this summer are Father Richard McCue and Father Edmund D. Kirsch.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Family Educators Association Meets

ASHEVILLE — C.A.F.E., Catholic Association of Family Educators, western North Carolina's Catholic home-school support group, will have biweekly "Park Days" and monthly "Mom's Meetings" during the summer months. For more information, call Sheryl Oligny, (828) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (828) 645-6990.

Estate Planning Seminar

BREVARD — Sacred Heart Church hosts an estate planning seminar June 30 at 7 p.m. The focus is on the importance of a will. For details, call the parish office at (828) 883-9572.

Ultreya

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte-area Ultreya Christian community groups meet monthly to share experiences, prayer and plans for apostolic action. Meetings are each second Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Church Fellowship Hall and each fourth Sunday at 1 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. For details, call Don or Cheryl Bohlen, (704) 542-1741.

Weight-Loss Seminar

CHARLOTTE — A 12-week Bible-based seminar is underway at St. John Neumann Church. Seminar cost is $103. For more information or to register, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins July 24. For further information, call Nick or Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

St. Paul Seminar

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church hosts "Scripture in the Summer," a seminar focusing on the writings and life of St. Paul, June 15-19 from 9 a.m.-noon each day. Tuition is $30, or $6 per day. Baby-sitting is available for $3 a day, and vacation Bible school is offered to children ages 4-fourth grade. For more information and to register, call Caryn Cusick at (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

Medical Law Presentation

CHARLOTTE — Dana Cody, a lawyer and executive director of the Life Legal Defense Foundation in California, will speak at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., on June 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Cody will speak on pertinent life issues including bioethics and how trends in medicine influence the law. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. For more information, call Betty at (704) 334-6553.

Performers Needed For Musical

GREENSBORO — Auditions for chorus and speaking roles in the musical "Francis — The Saint From Assisi" are June 27 and 28 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish Center, 2210 N. Elm St., for interested persons 18 years of age and older. Those auditioning should prepare a song of their own choosing and bring music for piano accompaniment. The musical, written and first produced in 1982 by Franciscan Father Louis Canino, will be presented September 25-27 at the Carolina Theater in Greensboro. Rehearsals begin in August. For more information, call George Gates at (336) 852-4454 or Pat Spivey at (336) 282-1948.

Around The Diocese

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated June 14 in St. Patrick Cathedral at 4 p.m. Prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

HIGH POINT — Maryfield Nursing Home hosts a charismatic Mass every third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Youth Ministry News

NEWTON — "Roots and Wings: Growing in Our Catholic Traditions" is a youth ministry program for middle school students (grades six through eight) June 20 at St. Joseph Church from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. An outdoor closing Mass is at 5:30 p.m. Registration is 10-11 a.m. The cost is $20, which includes a T-shirt, lunch, games, workshops, and arts and crafts. The event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of District 15 in collaboration with the diocesan Office for Youth Ministry. For more information or to register, contact your parish youth minister.

GREENSBORO — "SPLUNGE" — Special People Living Uniquely Nourishing Growthful Experiences — is an inner-city service experience July 12-17 in Greensboro. Participants engage in spiritual reflection and learning opportunities that enhance their experience of service to the poor, hungry and people with special needs. Space is limited to the first 25 applicants who are at least 15 years old (no more than five youth from one parish). Adults working with youth in areas of service or justice and peace are also welcome. Our Lady of Grace Church is the host site. Registration cost is $160. The application deadline is June 30. Send your $75 non-refundable deposit to the Office for Youth Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Call (704) 370-3211 for more information.

GREENSBORO — The Catholic/Lutheran Covenant presents "Splash" for youth groups, families and singles July 12 at Emerald Pointe Water Park from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Cost is $20 per person; discount rates apply for young children and chaperones. Registration includes unlimited use of the park's water ides and attractions, dinner, a souvenir, and admission to a concert by Christian music group Age of Faith. For reservations, call (800) 555-5900, ext. 172, 173 or 101, by July 8.

Photo by Mike Krokos

Bishop William G. Curlin recently installed Augustian Father Thomas Meehan, at left, as pastor of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte. Father Meehan and St. John Neumann's new parochial vicar, Father Arthur Johnson, are the first Augustianian priests to serve the Diocese of Charlotte. They are members of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. Father Meehan was most recently pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Troy, N.Y. Father Johnson is a member of the order's provincial council and was most recently serving in North Andover, Mass. "We look forward to serving in the diocese," Father Meehan said.

Huntersville Parishioner Receives Awards

HUNTERSVILLE — Heather McCaa, a 1998 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has received an Undergraduate Woman's Award from UNC's Woman's Issue Committee and an Outstanding Senior (Superlative) Award from the school's General Alumni Association. McCaa, a resident of Huntersville and parishioner of St. Mark Church, is noted for founding the Carolina Respect Life Group on UNC's campus through the Newman Catholic Student Center. The group's mission is education through letter-writing campaigns, lectures and the distribution of fact sheets. Members regularly volunteer at Pregnancy Support Services in Durham and a local orphanage. McCaa arrived at Chapel Hill in 1996 as a transfer student from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas.

Corpus Christi Celebration

HIGH POINT — Bishop William G. Curlin presides at the Maryfield Nursing Home community celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi June 14 at 3:30 p.m. Call (336) 886-2444 for more information.

Living Waters Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — "The Beatitudes and Discipleship" is a June 29-July 5 retreat focusing on the core teachings of Jesus and how Christians relate to them as Jesus' vision of the life of a true believer. Cost is $260. "Journey with John" is a July 6-12 retreat focusing on the "signs" and "glory" within the Gospel of John. Cost is $260. "Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount" is a July 19-25 retreat focusing on the Beatitudes as the way Jesus lives his earthly life and how they serve as the model of Christian discipleship. Cost is $260.

To register, get more information or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Two Teams Win Bible Quiz Bowl

SALISBURY — A team from Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville shared in victory recently by being declared co-winners of the 10th Annual Inter-parish Bible Quiz Bowl, held at Sacred Heart Church. The annual spiritual project is designed to acquaint elementary school children in grades four-six with the people, places and events integral to Christian heritage. Eighteen questions based on the Book of Jonah and 2 Kings were each answered correctly by both teams.

Sacred Heart Church team members were Virginia Ball, Kevin Burgis and Joseph Miller. The St. Francis of Assisi Church team comprised Zachary Jones, Michelle Pawlik and Teresa Shadrani. Michael Thompson of Sacred Heart Church and Gail Pawlik of St. Francis of Assisi Church coordinated the event.

Grief Support Group

SYLVA — A support group for those who are widowed, separated, divorced, or with new or unresolved grief meets every third Friday at St. Mary Church at 7 p.m. For details, call the church office at (704) 586-9496 or Mary and Churck Brogan at (704) 497-9452.

BMHS Calls Auction A Success

WINSTON-SALEM — More than $50,000 was raised at the recent Angels in Paradise auction hosted by the Bishop McGuinness High School Home School Association. Over 300 parents, students and faculty attended the event held in the school gymnasium, where more than 250 silent auction items and nearly 70 live auction items were purchased. Jack and Jami McAleer won a $2,500 cash raffle prize, and Dan and Christine Hurley won a new sports utility vehicle.

The proceeds of the auction will help fund addition classroom space and the implementation of the school's technology plan.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the Diocesan News Briefs page. Good photographs are also welcome. Submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the publication date.

World And National News Briefs

Russian Cathedral Closed By Soviets In 1930 Is Re-Consecrated

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (CNS) — A Catholic cathedral closed by Soviet authorities 68 years ago was re-consecrated in a joyous, jam-packed service attended by prelates, politicians and 1,500 people. Following a three-year, $300,000 renovation, the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary was blessed during a May 24 service. Msgr. R. George Sarauskas, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Office to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, described the event as "uplifting and joyous. It was optimistic. Everybody was there not just to celebrate. They were feeling good about the future ahead of them." The cathedral is now an integral part of the fledgling Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Seminary.

Bishops' Spokeswoman Says Clinic Law Singles Out Pro-Lifers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — By declining to consider a challenge to the constitutionality of a federal law banning abortion clinic blockades, the Supreme Court has singled out pro-life activists, said the U.S. Catholic bishops' pro-life spokeswoman. On May 26, the Supreme Court declined to review a decision of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upholding the 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, known as FACE. In a separate action the same day the high court also turned away arguments that states should not be allowed to prosecute women for behavior that harms developing fetuses. "Since the early days of the FACE bill, we have opposed singling out pro-life activists for targeted, viewpoint-based punishment," said a statement from Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Church Of Pakistan Bishop's House Stoned After Koran Burns

FAISALABAD, Pakistan (CNS) — After a Koran was damaged in a hospital fire, Pakistani Muslims protested in the streets and stoned a Christian bishop's house while demanding that Christian hospital workers be charged with blasphemy. Part of a copy of the Koran, Islam's holiest book, burned when a storeroom of the civil hospital in Gojra caught fire, reportedly due to an electrical short circuit, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Blaming Christians for the incident, Muslims throughout the town burned tires May 25 and a mob stoned the residence of Church of Pakistan Bishop John Samuel, demanding that Christians be arrested under Section 295-B of the penal code, which punishes blasphemy against the Koran with life imprisonment.

1998 Class Of New U.S. Priests Older, More Racially Diverse

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The 1998 class of newly ordained priests in the United States is older and more racially and ethnically diverse than the classes of newly ordained priests were in the 1980s, according to a new national study released in May. Only 26 percent of the newly ordained were under 30 years of age and 34 percent were in the 30-34 age bracket, leaving 40 percent ages 35 or higher. The fact that nearly three-fourths were 30 or older indicated most were entering the priesthood as a second career or at least with a few years of experience in the working world. One notable increase was in the number of Hispanics being ordained — 12 percent of those surveyed. In a 1984 national study, Hispanics made up only 7 percent of all seminarians. African-Americans represented 4 percent of the newly ordained — slightly up from the 2 percent to 3 percent of U.S. seminarians recorded in other recent studies.

Pope Urges More Aid To Africa, End To War On Continent

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged Africans to put an end to massacres and wars that have bloodied the continent, and appealed for a fresh outpouring of international aid to help the millions of suffering people there. The recurrence of armed conflicts has been part of a deadly cycle in Africa, creating hunger and the displacement of more than 20 million people in the last several years, he said. The pope made his remarks in separate speeches May 28 to six ambassadors from Africa, and in a final speech to a larger group of new ambassadors.

Australian Bishops Offer Apology To Aboriginal Children

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Australia's bishops have asked forgiveness from aboriginal children for any part the church might have played in causing them hurt and suffering. Speaking of government policy in the 1970s, the bishops noted "with regret that lamentable chapter of Australian history which saw the unjustifiable separation of indigenous children from their families." "We express our deepest sorrow for the suffering and hurt inflicted on indigenous Australians which have consequences still in evidence today — social dislocation, loss of culture and identity and a continuing sense of hopelessness in the lives of many of the first peoples of our nation," they said in a statement released May 26.

Phillipine Bishops Hail Estrada's Plan To End Misused Funds

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Philippine bishops and the National Council of Churches of the Philippines have pledged support for Philippine president-elect Joseph Estrada's plan to abolish discretionary congressional funds widely believed to be misused. While the money is meant to fund projects in the countryside, it has been a source of government graft and corruption, said Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan, president of the Philippine bishops' conference.

Clinton, Riley Both Oppose School Prayer Measure

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Clinton and U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley say they are against a proposed constitutional amendment to allow school prayer in public schools because they say it is unnecessary. The U.S. House of Representatives were gearing up for discussion and a possible vote June 4 on the measure, called the Religious Freedom Amendment. "Some people say there should be a constitutional amendment to allow voluntary prayer in our public schools," Clinton said in his May 30 weekly radio address. "But there already is one —it's the First Amendment," which when "sensibly applied," he said, allows voluntary prayer and religious activities in public schools.

CNS photo from Reuters

A young Afghani walks through Chawgani village June 2, one of the dozens of towns ravaged by a May 30 earthquake that killed more than 3,000 people.

Germany Religious Leaders Call For Open Dialogue To End Racism

BONN, Germany (CNS) — Catholic, Protestant and Greek Orthodox church leaders in Germany have called for open cultural and religious dialogue to combat racism and hatred directed at foreign nationals. Churches must actively advocate against "efforts to make foreigners and other minorities scapegoats for misguided policies" and counter views that foreigners are living off state handouts or that migrant workers are taking away jobs from German citizens, an ecumenical statement said.

Thousands Of Catholics Process During Synod Of Holy Land

NAZARETH, Israel (CNS) — Several thousand Catholics living in northern Israel processed through Nazareth by candlelight to mark the opening of the second stage of the Synod of the Holy Land. Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem urged those present to look toward God and to confide in him, not only during the synod but throughout their lives. "We must know we have a Father in Jesus Christ, and we must not leave his words and actions only for him. We have to continue with his message," Patriarch Sabbah said May 30 from the balcony of the Salesian Church and Monastery of Jesus, one of the highest points in Nazareth.

Israeli Official Says Jesus' Baptismal Site Should Be Reopened

JERUSALEM (CNS) — An Israeli government official has recommended that the site venerated as the place where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist be reopened to the public after 30 years. Israeli Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav said he sees no security or national reasons for keeping the site closed and told members of the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, that the site should be opened. Until the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, when it became a military zone, the site, known as "Katzer El Yahud," or "Jewish Fortress" in Arabic, was visited by more than half a million pilgrims a year.

Cuba To Host Inter-American Meeting Of Bishops In February

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cuba will host an inter-American meeting of bishops in 1999, church officials said. The meeting, scheduled for Feb. 14-17, will include the presidents and other representatives of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Latin American bishops' council, known as CELAM. The meeting was planned for Cuba to mark the first anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit to the Caribbean nation, church officials said.

Pope Names Portuguese Archbishop To Head Sainthood Congregation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named the 66-year-old secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education to be the new prefect of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes. In appointing Portuguese Archbishop Jose Saraiva Martins May 30, the pope waved the normal practice of giving the title "pro-prefect" to the head of a congregation who is not yet a cardinal, said Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman. Archbishop Martins succeeds Cardinal Alberto Bovone, who died in April, two months after becoming a cardinal.

Havana Cardinal Empasizes Patience After Pope's Visit

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana said the Cuban church is waiting patiently for the hope planted by the pope's visit to bring about needed changes in Cuba. "I am not trying to get apples from a tree that is still growing. Once it has reached the right size, it will give apples. What I am hoping for is that this tree can indeed grow ... this is the task the church has to accomplish, to foster the growth," he told Catholic News Service June 4.

1998 Summer Mass Schedule

Mountain and Coastal Regions of the Two Carolinas

Diocese of Charlotte

ANDREWS
Holy Redeemer, 214 Aquone Road, (828) 321-4463.
(Daily) 9 a.m. M.-T. & Sat.; 4 p.m. F.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.
ARDEN
St. Barnabas, 109 Crescent Hill Drive, (828) 684-6098.
(Daily) 9 a.m. M., T., F.; 7 p.m. W.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; Vigil -7 p.m.
ASHEBORO
St. Joseph, 512 W. Wainman Ave, (336) 629-0221.
(Daily) 8:15 a.m. M., W., F.; 12:15 p.m. T.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:45, 11:15 a.m.; 1 p.m. (Spanish); (Holy Days) 12:15, 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m. (bilingual).
ASHEVILLE
St. Eugene, 1 Culvern Street, (828) 254-5193.
(Daily) 8 a.m. M.-W.-F.; 6:30 p.m. (Th.); (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m.; (Holy Days) 7:30 p.m.; Vigil - 7:30 p.m.
St. Joan of Arc, 919 Haywood Road, (828) 252-3151.(Daily) 8:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) - 8:30 a.m.; 7 p.m.
The Basilica of St. Lawrence, D.M., 97 Haywood Street, (828) 252-6042.
(Daily) 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m. M- F.; (Sat.) 8 a..m., 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.; 7 p.m. (Spanish)
BISCOE
Our Lady of the Americas, 105 Hyde St., (910) 428-3051.
(Sun.) 9 a.m.; 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. (Spanish), June-August.
BLOWING ROCK
Church of the Epiphany, 163 Galax Lane, (828) 264-8338.
(Sun.) 8:30, 10 a.m.
BOONE
St. Elizabeth, 259 Pilgrims Way, (828) 264-8338.
(Daily) 8:15 a.m. Tue., F.; 12:15 p.m. W, Th.; (Sat.) 5:15 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 12:15, 7 p.m.
BREVARD
Sacred Heart, 4 Brian Berg Lane, (828) 883-9572.
(Daily) 9 a.m. Tue. - F.; (Sat.) 4:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 10:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7 p.m. Vigil; 12 noon
BRYSON CITY
St. Joseph, 316 Main Street, (828) 488-6766.
(Daily) varies, call first; (Sat.) 7 p.m. June-Aug.; (Sun.) 9, 11:15 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7 p.m. Vigil; 9 a.m.
BURNSVILLE
Sacred Heart, Summit Street, (828) 689-3719.
Wed. - noon.; (Sun.) 11:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 12 noon
CANTON
Immaculate Conception, Newfound Rd., (828) 456-6707. (Sun.) 8:30 a.m.
CHEROKEE
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lambert Branch Road, (828) 497-9755
(Sun.) 12 noon
ELKIN
St. Stephen, 101 Hawthorne Drive, (336) 835-3007.
(Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 11:15 a.m.
FRANKLIN
St. Francis of Assisi, 299 Maple Street, (828) 524-2289 .
(Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m. June-Oct.; (Holy Days) see bulletin.
HAYESVILLE
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hwy. 64, (828) 837-2000.
(Wed.) 5 p.m.; (Sat.) 4 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.
HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception, 229 Sixth Ave.W., (828) 693-6901.
(Daily) 8:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m. M.-F.; 9 a.m. Sat.; (Sat.) 4, 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 11:30 a.m.; 1 p.m. (Spanish); (Holy Days) 5 p.m. Vigil; 8:30 a.m.; 7 p.m.
HICKORY
St. Aloysius, 921 Second Street N.E., (828) 327-2341.
(Daily) 7 a.m. T., Th.; 12:15 p.m. W., F.; 8 a.m. Sat.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 12:10, 7:30 p.m.; Vigil - 7:30 p.m.
HIGHLANDS
Our Lady of the Mountains, 315 N. 5th Street, (828) 526-2418.
(Daily) 9 a.m. W., F.; (Sat.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7 p.m.
HIGH POINT
Christ The King, 1505 East Kivett Drive, (336) 884-0244.
(Daily) 12:15 p.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 10 a.m.; 12:30 Mass in Spanish; 4 p.m.; (Holy Days) 12:15 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.
Immaculate Heart of Mary, 512 Montlieu Avenue, (336) 884-5212.
(Daily) 9 a.m. M.-F.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.; noon; (Holy Days) - 7 p.m. Vigil; 12 noon, 7 p.m.
HOT SPRINGS
Chapel of the Redeemer, 289 Rt. 25/70 Hwy., (828) 622-7366.
(Sun) 10:30 a.m.
JEFFERSON
St. Francis of Assisi, 326 Main Street, (336) 246-9151.
(Daily) 7 a.m. M., T., W., F.; 7 p.m. Th.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; Spanish Mass (2nd and 4th Sun.) 1:30 p.m.
KINGS MOUNTAIN
Christ the King, 714 Stone Street, (704) 739-3214.
(Sun.) 8:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7:30 p.m.
LENOIR
St. Francis of Assisi, 1025 College Avenue S.W., (828) 754-5281.
(Daily) noon W., Th., F.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 6:30 p.m.
LINVILLE
St. Bernadette, Rte. 105, across from Grandfather Mountain Golf Club, (828) 898-6900.
11:00 a.m. W.; (Sat.) 4:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 11:15 a.m.; (Holy Days) 11:15 a.m.
MAGGIE VALLEY
St. Margaret, 1422 Soco Road, (828) 926-0106.
(Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 4 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m. June-Oct.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 6:30 p.m.
MARS HILL
St. Andrew the Apostle, 149 Brook Street, (828) 689-3719.
(Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m., (Holy Days) 7 p.m.
MURPHY
St. William, 109 Andrews Road, (828) 837-2000.
(Daily) 9 a.m. T.-F.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.
NORTH WILKESBORO
St. John Baptist De La Salle, 275 C.C. Wright School Road, (336) 838-5562.
(Sat.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; Daily and Holy Days as announced.
SAPPHIRE VALLEY
St. Jude, 3011 Hwy 64 (7 mi. west of P.O.). (828) 743-5717.
(Daily) 9 a.m. Tue.,Th.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.
SPARTA
St. Francis of Rome, Hendrix Road at Highland Drive, (336) 372-8846.
(Sun.) 11:15 a.m.; Spanish Mass (1st and 3rd Sun.) 1:30 p.m.
SPRUCE PINE
St. Lucien, 503 Summit Street, (828) 765-2224.
(Daily) 11 a.m. Tue., 7 p.m. W., 9 am F.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.
SWANNANOA
St. Margaret Mary, 102 Andrews Place, (828) 686-3243. (Daily) noon - M., W., F.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) Call for schedule.
SYLVA
St. Mary, 22 Bartlett Street, (828) 586-9496.
(Daily) 9 a.m. M., W., F., Sat.; 5:30 p.m. T., Th.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.
TRYON
St. John the Baptist, 600 Laurel Avenue, (828) 859-9574.
(Daily) 8:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.
WAYNESVILLE
St. John, 234 Church Street, (828) 456-6707. (Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.; Vigil - 5:30 p.m.

Diocese of Raleigh

BUXTON
Our Lady of the Seas, (Sat.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m. & 5 p.m.
CAROLINA BEACH
Immaculate Conception, 6650 Carolina Beach Rd.
(Sun.) 7:30, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m.
CASTLE HAYNE
St. Stanislaus Kostka, (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10:30 a.m.
COLUMBIA
All Soul's, 917 Main St.
(Sat.) 4:30 p.m. (Bilingual)
COROLLA
Corolla Chapel, (Wed.) 7 p.m.
CURRITUCK
Bell's Island Clubhouse, (Sun.) 8 a.m.
EDENTON
St. Anne, (Sat.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 8 & 10:30 a.m.
ELIZABETH CITY
Holy Family, (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 10 a.m.
HAMPSTEAD
St. Jude the Apostle, 18737 Highway 17 North
(Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.
HAVELOCK
Annunciation, (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 & 11:30 a.m.
JACKSONVILLE
Infant of Prague, (Sat.) 5 & 7 p.m. (Spanish); (Sun.) 8 & 10 a.m.; Noon.
KILL DEVIL HILLS
Holy Redeemer, (Sat.) 5 & 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 8 & 10 a.m.
NAGS HEAD
Holy Trinity, (Sat.) 6 & 7:30 p.m. (Spanish) (Sun.) 9 a.m.
NEW BERN
St. Paul, (Sat.) 5 & 7 p.m. (Spanish); (Sun.) 8, 9:45, 11:30 a.m.
OCRACOKE
Annunciation, (Sat.) 4 p.m. at Ocracoke Firehouse
PINEHURST
Sacred Heart, (Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 4:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.
RIEGELWOOD
Christ the King, Highway 87
(Sat.) 4 p.m.
SHALLOTTE
St. Brendan the Navigator, (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun. 8 & 10:15 a.m.)
SOUTHERN PINES
St. Anthony of Padua, (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 & 11 a.m.
SOUTHPORT
Sacred Heart, (Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 & 11 a.m.
SURF CITY
St. Mary Gate of Heaven, (Sun.) 11 a.m.
SWANSBORO
St. Mildred, (Daily) 9 a.m. (Sat.) 4 & 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8 & 11 a.m.
WASHINGTON
Mother of Mercy, (Sat.) 4 p.m. (Spanish); 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.
WILMINGTON
Immaculate Conception, 6650 Carolina Beach Road
(Sat.) 4 & 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 a.m.
St. Mark, (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:45, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.; 2 p.m. Spanish.
St. Mary, (Daily) 7:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30 & 11 a.m.; 1 p.m. Spanish.
WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH
St. Therese, (Sat.) 5:30 p.m. (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m.

Diocese of Charleston

BEAUFORT
St. Peter, 70 Lady's Island Dr., (843) 522-9555.
(Daily) 8 a.m., M-Sat.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.; (Holy Days) 7 a.m.; noon, 6:30 p.m.; Vigil - 5:30 p.m.
BLUFFTON
St. Andrew, 220 Pinckney Colony Rd., (843) 757-2986.
(Sat.) 4 & 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8:30 a.m.; Vigil - 6 p.m.
BONNEAU
Our Lady of Peace, 224 Murry's Ferry Road, (843) 761-3777. (Sun.) 8 a.m.
CHARLESTON
Blessed Sacrament, 5 St. Theresa Drive, (843) 556-0801.
(Daily) 6:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 6:15 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m.; 6:15 p.m.; (Holy Days) 6:30 a.m.; noon, 6:15 p.m.; Vigil - 6:15 p.m.
St. John the Baptist, 120 Broad Street, (843)724-8395.
(Daily) 7 a.m., 12:05 p.m.; (Sat.) 5:15 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11 a.m.; 6:15 p.m.; (Holy Days) 7 a.m.; 12:05, 6:15 p.m.
The Citadel, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, (Sun.) 7 p.m.
Nativity, 1061 Folly Road, (843) 795-3821.
(Daily) 5:15 p.m.; (Sat.) 6:15 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 10 a.m., 7 p.m.; Vigil -7 p.m.
Our Lady of Mercy, 77 America Street, (843) 723-5129.
(Sun.) noon
Sacred Heart, 888 King Street, (843) 722-7018.
(Daily) 6 p.m. Mon., 8 a.m. T-F; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 6 p.m.
St. Joseph, 1695 Wallenberg Boulevard, (843) 556-4611.
(Daily) 8:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 6:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8:30 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.
St. Mary, 89 Hasell Street, (843) 722-7696.
(Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 10:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7:30, 9 a.m.; 6 p.m.
St. Patrick, 134 St. Philip Street, (843) 723-6066.
(Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 6 p.m.
EDISTO ISLAND
Sts. Frederick and Stephen, Hwy 174, (843) 869-0124.
(Daily) 9 a.m.T, W, Th, April-Sept.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 11:45 a.m.
FOLLY BEACH
Our Lady of Good Counsel, 106 West Erie Street, (843) 588-2336.
(Tue.) 6 p.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Day) 6 p.m.
GARDEN CITY
St. Michael, 572 Cypress Avenue, (843) 651-3737.
(Daily) 8 a.m. M.-Sat.; (Sat.) 4, 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 12:05 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.
GEORGETOWN
St. Cyprian, 1905 W. Front Street, (843) 546-1470.
(Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.
St. Mary, Highmarket and Broad Streets, (843) 546-7416.
(Daily) 8 a.m. T-F.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) noon, 6:30 p.m.
GOOSE CREEK
Immaculate Conception, 510 St. James Avenue, (843) 572-1270. (Daily) 8:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7 a.m. 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.
HAMPTON
St. Mary, 505 East 5th Street, (803) 943-4019.
(Daily) 7 p.m. T, 7:30 a.m. W; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7:30 p.m. Vigil
HANAHAN
Divine Redeemer, 1106 Fort Drive, (843) 553-0340.
(Daily) 8 a.m., Sat. 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 6 p.m.; Vigil - 6 p.m.
HARDEEVILLE
St. Anthony, 19 Main Street, (843) 784-2943. (Sat.) 7 p.m.
HILTON HEAD
Holy Family, 24 Pope Avenue, (843) 785-2895.
(Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; noon; Vigil - 5 p.m.
St. Francis by the Sea, 45 Beach City Road, (843) 681-6350.
(Daily) 8 a.m.; 12:15 p.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (Spanish); (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m., 12 noon
JOHNS ISLAND
Holy Spirit, 2545 Bohicket Road, (843) 559-0353.
(Daily) 9 a.m., except W.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 5:30 p.m.
MONCKS CORNER
St. Philip Benizi, 1404 Old Hwy. 52, (843) 761-3777.
(Sat.) 6:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 10:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m.; (Holy Days) 7 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
MOUNT PLEASANT
Christ Our King, 1122 Russell Drive, (843) 884-5587.
(Daily) 7 a.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.; noon, 7 p.m.
MYRTLE BEACH
St. Andrew, 503 37th Avenue North, (843) 448-5930.
(Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5, 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7, 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.
NORTH CHARLESTON
St. John, 3921 St. John's Ave., (843) 744-6201.
(Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.
St. Thomas the Apostle, 6650 Dorchester Road, (843) 552-2223.
(Daily) 8 a.m., except W., 6:30 p.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:45, 11:45 a.m.;10:15 a.m. (Spanish)
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH
Our Lady Star of the Sea, 1100 8th Ave. N., (843) 249-2356.
(Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.; noon; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; noon; Vigil - 6 p.m.
PAWLEY'S ISLAND
Precious Blood of Christ, 1633 Waverly Road, (843) 237-3428.
(Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8:30 a.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.
RIDGELAND
St. Anthony, 700 So. Jacob Smart Blvd., (843) 726-3606.
(Daily) 7:30 a.m. Th, 7 p.m. M.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m.
RITTER
St. James the Greater, Catholic Hill, (843) 844-2454.
(Daily) 6:30 p.m. T.; (Sun.) 12:30 p.m.; (Holy Days) 7 p.m.
ST. HELENA ISLAND
Holy Cross, 83 Seaside Road, (843) 838-2195. (Sun.) 11:15 a.m., Spanish 7 p.m.
SULLIVAN'S ISLAND
Stella Maris, 1204 Middle Street, (843) 883-3108.
(Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 11 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.
SUMMERVILLE
St. John the Beloved, 28 Sumter Avenue, (843) 873-0631.
(Daily) 9 a.m., (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m.; noon, 6 p.m.
St. Teresa the Little Flower, 11001 Dorchester Road, (843) 875-5002.
(Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 10 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.
WALTERBORO
St. Anthony, 925 S. Jeffries Boulevard, (843) 549-5230.
(Daily) 9 a.m. M.,W., F.; (Sat.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 10 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
YONGES ISLAND
St. Mary, 4255 Highway 165, (843) 889-8549.
(Mon., Wed.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 8 & 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7 p.m.

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NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 39 • June 26, 1998

San Jose
San Francisco
Jefferson-Sparta, NC
Basilica San Lorenzo
Nuestra Señora

Photo by Luis Wolf

Twenty-eight parishes were represented at the Hispanic Diocesan Assembly held June 13 at Holy Family Church in Clemmons. This procession, leading to the assembly's closing Mass, shows Hispanic parishioners holding signs for the churches they attend. North Carolina has one of the fastest growing Latin populations in the nation.

At Diocesan Assembly, Hispanics Encouraged To Grow In Their Faith

By LUIS A. WOLF
Hispanic Editor

CLEMMONS — Like those of other cultures, Hispanics in North Carolina are called to spread Jesus Christ's Gospel message in their faith communities.

"We must have the presence of Jesus in our lives so we can share it with others. Our lives must shine with the love of Christ. We must commit ourselves to live as brothers and sisters — seeing and serving God in one another."

Bishop William G. Curlin delivered that message to the more than 250 participants of the Hispanic Diocesan Assembly held June 13 at Holy Family Church. The meeting was held to review the Hispanic Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Charlotte. Twenty-eight parishes and missions were represented at the meeting.

The diocesan plan is the result of a series of events begun in 1983 with the publication of a pastoral letter by the North American Bishops on Hispanic Ministry. Entitled "The Hispanic Presence: Challenge and Commitment," the letter called for the Hispanic Pastoral National Encounter (which took place in 1985) after a process of questioning, analysis and consultation at local, diocesan and national levels.

As a result of the meeting, the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry was approved and published in 1987. From that, the Hispanic Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Charlotte originated.

Members of various Hispanic parish communities took part in the June 13th meeting. The assembly was led by Marian Father Vicente Finnerty, director of the diocese's Hispanic Ministry; Jesús Guadarrama, director of the Hispanic Pastoral of the Greensboro Vicariate; and Enedino Aquino, a member of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro. Several priests also participated. They included Father Frank Cintula, pastor of St. John Baptist de La Salle Church in North Wilkesboro and St. Stephen Church in Elkin; Father Tom Clements, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury; Father Mark Lawlor, adminstrator of Our Lady of Americas Church in Biscoe; Conventual Franciscan Father Joseph Madden, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem; Father Fidel Melo, parochial vicar of Holy Family Church in Clemmons; Father Joseph Waters, pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Taylorsville; and Father Ken Whittington, pastor of Saint Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton and Our Lady of Angels Church in Marion.

Father Finnerty said North Carolina's current Latin population is approximately 300,000 people. "By 1999, the Charlotte Diocese expects to have 100,000 new Latin immigrants," he said. The high immigration rate translates to North Carolina having one of the fastest-growing Latin populations in the nation, Father Finnerty added.

Four themes were examined during the program, including the revision of the assembly's mission statement. Each parish represented pledged to follow the

See **Hispanic Assembly,** page 3

Pope Urges Austria To Welcome Foreigners, Continue Aid

By LYNNE WEIL

VIENNA, Austria (CNS) — On his pastoral visit to Austria, Pope John Paul II called on the country to remain open to foreigners and to continue providing assistance to developing countries.

During a speech June 20 to civil authorities and diplomats accredited to international agencies based in Vienna, the pope urged Austrians to "remain faithful" to the "noble tradition steadfastly pursued" by their country of welcoming people who have been forced to leave their homelands.

He also asked that Austria continue its practice, established after World War II, of providing aid to the developing world and to countries ravaged by war.

Arriving for his three-day visit June 19, Pope John Paul noted that Austria historically "has provided a shining example of how a number of different races can live together in a limited area."

In his speech to civil authorities and members of the diplomatic corps, Pope John Paul warned that a "lack of orientation and fear of the future" was dividing Austria, adding that the "time-tested structure of cooperation between the social groups ... has been dangerously undermined."

The pope also said that reconciliation between Christians and Jews in Austria and throughout the continent is "one of the fundamental duties" of Christians.

"In Europe untold misery was inflicted upon the Jewish people," he noted. "We can by no means assume that this injustice has once and for all been eradicated."

One of the dignitaries present at the papal address was former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who served as secretary-general of the United Nations but whose cooperation with Nazi authorities in the former Yugoslavia during World War II was exposed only when he ran for the presidency.

Pope John Paul, noting that Austria on July 1 was to take over the rotating presidency of the European Union for six months, said that, among the public, "Euroskepticism and frustration are gaining ground."

For centuries, Austria has served as a bridge between East and West, the pope said. It was therefore logical, he added, for Austrians to support expansion of the

See **Pope-Austria,** page 9

New Priest Assignments

His Excellency, Most Reverend William G. Curlin, is pleased to make the following appointments in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Unless otherwise noted, all changes are effective July 6, 1998.

Rev. John Allen	To:	Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
Rev. Richard Bellow	To:	Pastor, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
Rev. C. Morris Boyd	To:	Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin
Rev. Dean Cesa	To:	Parochial Vicar, St. Leo Church, Winston-Salem
Rev. Alexei Choquet	To:	Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, Albemarle
Rev. Christopher Davis	To:	Parochial Vicar, St. Lawrence Basilica, Asheville
Rev. Arturo De Aguilar	To:	Leave of absence
Rev. David Draim, OSB	To:	Parochial Vicar, St. James Church, Hamlet
Rev. William M. Evans	To:	Sacramental Ministry, Our Lady of the Mountains Church, Highlands, and St. Jude Church, Sapphire Valley
Rev. Albert Gondek, OSFS	To:	Pastor, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Lexington
Rev. Lawrence Heiney	To:	Pastor, St. Michael Church, Gastonia
Rev. Eric Houseknecht	To:	Administrator, Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte
Rev. Joseph Kelleher	To:	Retirement at his own request and Administrator, St. Dorothy Church, Lincolnton
Rev. John Kelly, OSFS	To:	Director of Campus Ministry, Greensboro
Rev. Edmund Kirsch	To:	Retirement at his own request
Rev. George M. Kloster	To:	Pastor, St. William Church, Murphy, and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Hayesville
Rev. Matthew Leonard	To:	Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte
Rev. Gregg Littleton	To:	Administrator, St. John Church, Tryon
Rev. Ronald Marecki	To:	Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Jefferson, and St. Frances of Rome Church, Sparta
Rev. Richard McCue	To:	Retirement at his own request
Rev. John Pagel	To:	Pastor, St. Joan of Arc Church, Asheville
Rev. Peter Pham	To:	Parochial Vicar, St. Michael Church, Gastonia
Rev. John Salvas, OFM Cap	To:	Parochial Vicar, Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville
Right Rev. Patrick Shelton, OSB	To:	Pastor, St. James Church, Hamlet
Rev. Edward J. Sheridan	To:	Pastor, St. Aloysius Church, Hickory
Rev. Wilbur Thomas	To:	6-month Sabbatical, Vicar for Priests
Rev. Cecil Tice	To:	Sabbatical at his own request

Scripture

Readings for the week of
June 28 - July 4, 1998
Sunday
1 Kings 19:16,19-21
Galatians 5:1,13-18
Luke 9:51-62

Monday
Acts 12:1-11
2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Tuesday
Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12
Matthew 8:23-27

Wednesday
Amos 5:14-15,21-24
Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday
Amos 7:10-17
Matthew 9:1-8

Friday
Ephesians 2:19-22
John 20:24-29

Saturday
Amos 9:11-15
Matthew 9:14-17

Readings for the week of
July 5 - 11, 1998
Sunday
Isaiah 66:10-14
Galations 6:14-18
Luke 10:1-12,17-20

Monday
Hosea 2:16-18, 21-22
Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday
Hosea 8:4-7,11-13
Matthew 9:32-38

Wednesday
Hosea 10:1-3,7-8,12
Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday
Hosea 11:1-4,8-9
Matthew 10:7-15

Friday
Hosea 14:2-10
Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday
Isaiah 6:1-8
Matthew 10:24-33

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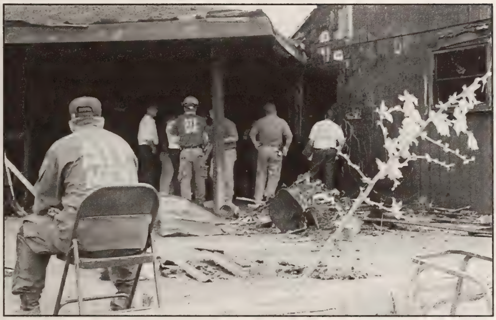
Arson Destroys Church On North Carolina's Outer Banks

By JOHN STRANGE

KILL DEVIL HILLS, N.C. (CNS) — Investigators say that arson was behind an early morning fire June 11 that heavily damaged a Catholic church popular with vacationers on North Carolina's Outer Banks.

Father Terry Collins, pastor of the church, Holy Redeemer, said it was a total loss. "There's nothing salvageable except stained glass," Father Collins said after emerging from the church the afternoon of the fire. "Nothing."

Father Collins, a fire department chaplain, said the sanctuary suffered heavy smoke, heat and water damage. "It's like hell dried out," he said. The immense "stunning" crucifix and its support beams are now charred and cracked; an office copying machine is "our new plastic sculpture," he said.


CNS photo by John Strange, NC Catholic

An investigator with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms takes a break while fellow investigators and firefighters search through the remains of the fire at Holy Redeemer Church in Kill Devil Hills, N.C.

Holy Redeemer Church is the centerpiece of the Raleigh Diocese's Outer Banks Catholic Parish, which includes the missions and stations of Holy Trinity in Nags Head; Our Lady of the Seas, Buxton; Annunciation, Ocracoke; and Corolla Chapel in Corolla.

While Holy Redeemer boasts about 700 families year-round, the numbers swell with vacationers in the summer. For example, at June 13-14 Masses, held outside in the church's parking lot, almost 3,000 people attended three Masses. A thunderstorm forced cancellation of a fourth Mass, scheduled for the evening of June 14.

In an interview with the Raleigh diocesan newspaper, the NC Catholic, Father Collins said that every Christian church in the area has offered the use of their facilities, but none of them have the capacity needed.

While meetings, funerals and other liturgies might be held in those churches, he said, it was likely that the parish would rent an empty grocery store or similar building for weekend Masses. An other possibility was to use an auditorium at a local middle school.

Temporary office space has already been obtained, Father Collins said, with the parish's phone numbers transferred to the new space.

Father Collins said the pastoral council was meeting to discuss "what do we do from here." He said the parish was to break ground on phase one of construction for a new facility July 11.

The first new building planned was a fellowship hall and office space to be put up about three miles from the now-burned-out church. Phase two of construction was for a new church, which now might come sooner than originally expected, he said.

Father Collins said the fire gave the parish a real-life lesson in forgiveness. During the weekend liturgies, he said, the parish gave thanks that no one was hurt and for "the blessings of a loving community."

They also prayed for those responsible, and that the person or persons would be caught.

"Not for vengeance, but so that this cannot happen again, and so that whoever did this can be helped through their immense frustrations," they prayed. "We will hate this sin, but forgive this sinner."

The church's office wing took the brunt of the fire damage, but Deputy Chief Craig Clark of Kill Devil Hills said the sanctuary took so much heat and smoke that "we were not far from a flashover," which means much of the interior space reaches combustible temperatures at the same time.

"An aggressive, terrific interior attack saved the whole building from burning to the ground," he said.

The fire was under investigation by the Kill Devil Hills police and fire departments, the state Bureau of Investigation and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Hispanic Assembly,

from page 1

mission, which committed the diocesan Latin community to live like Christ and promote his kingdom of solidarity with those in need through missionary work, evangelization and service to community. Other themes discussed included evangelization (from a place to a home), missionary options (from pews to shoes), and formation (from good will to skills).

In his remarks, Bishop Curlin told the participants that they should not consider themselves foreigners because the majority of U.S. inhabitants are descendants of other countries. He also asked parents to continue teaching Spanish to their children and instilling their faith and Hispanic culture in them.

Bishop Curlin added that he is trying to bring more Spanish-speaking priests to the diocese. He noted that it is very important to have more Spanish-speaking seminarians and requested support for young Hispanic vocations.

The assembly concluded with Mass, presided over by Bishop Curlin and concelebrated by Father Finnerty and Father Lawlor. Assisting was Rev. Mr. Ricardo Sánchez, a seminarian from Costa Rica recently ordained to the transitional diaconate.

Correction

The diocesan-wide listing of men and women initiated into the Catholic Church at Easter, appearing in the May 29 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, incorrectly listed the location of St. Joseph Church in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate. The church is located in Bryson City.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
Daily Masses: Monday - Friday — 7:30AM & 12:10PM
Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

WOMEN AT RISK

A coalition of women and family members who've been hurt by abortion holds its first national conference in St. Louis Aug.7-8. ***Women at Risk*** *wants to create state and local chapters to help advocate for laws to safeguard women from unwanted and dangerous abortions. To find out more, contact Miriam Dapra at Women at Risk, P.O. Box 7375, Springfield, IL 62791-7375, or call 217-525-5879.*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

June 28 — 9:30 a.m.
Pro-life monument dedication
Our Lady of the Annunciation Church
Albemarle

July 6 - 9
Provincial Meeting
(meeting of bishops from Atlanta, Savannah, Charleston, Charlotte and Raleigh)

July 11
Strategic Planning Meeting with Diocesan Steering Committee
Diocesan Pastoral Center
Charlotte

July 12 — 4 p.m.
Charismatic Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pentecost and The Holy Spirit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience June 17:

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we reflect today on the identity of the Holy Spirit in the light of the Pentecost event.

St. Luke describes Pentecost as a powerful manifestation of God which establishes the new and eternal covenant, a manifestation similar to the one on Mount Sinai which inaugurated the old covenant. Through the gift of the Spirit, the Father gives us a new heart and makes us capable of living according to the new law.

At Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit gave birth to the church. The Christian community comes about at the initiative of God's love when the Father pours out the gift of the Holy Spirit, and we give our assent of faith to this gift, an assent which is both a response to grace and a result of grace.

The Holy Spirit continues the Son's saving work by making God immediately present to each of us and by giving us a direct knowledge of him. Thus, through the action of the Spirit in the new covenant, we grow in friendship with God, experiencing him as father, brother, friend and bridegroom.

I warmly greet the students of the Pontifical Beda College who will be ordained deacons this afternoon, as well as their families and friends. I extend a special greeting to the priests from the Diocese of Scranton on pilgrimage to Rome and the Holy Land. I also welcome the Buddhist group "Rissho Kosei Kai" and the Shinto group "Omoto-Kyo" from Japan. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Singapore, Japan, Canada and the United States of America, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope To Spend Three Days In Croatia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has added a day to his planned visit to Croatia in October, according to a tentative schedule discussed by Vatican and Croatian church officials. Plans now call for the 78-year-old pontiff to spend Oct. 2-4 in the Balkan country, where he will beatify a controversial cardinal and meet a number of church groups.

Pope Sees Millennial Rebirth For Religious Orders

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The new millennium should be "a time of renewal and even rebirth" of religious orders in the United States and throughout the world, Pope John Paul II said. Meeting with a group of U.S. bishops from the Midwest, the pope said bishops have a responsibility to the religious men and women who work in their dioceses who are living signs of "the value of the great commandment of love of God and love of neighbor." The pope gave his address to bishops from Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas.

Pope, Arafat Discuss Middle East Peace Process

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met briefly at the Vatican to discuss the Middle East peace process. "Mr. Arafat wanted to inform the pope of the tragic situation in which the Palestinian people find themselves while the peace process is threatened on all sides," said a Vatican statement released after the meeting. "John Paul II, in turn, renewed to Mr. Arafat the Holy See's support for the peace process, which must continue with good will on all sides (and with) respect for the commitments made and for international law," the statement said.

Guest Column

Joanne Kennedy Frazer

Diocese Represented on Catholic Relief Services Trip to Ecuador and Peru

Each year Catholic Relief Services invites a few diocesan directors to travel with national staff to CRS program sites. So it is that I am currently in the world of Catholic Relief Services field workers in Ecuador and Peru.

I became a supporter of Catholic Relief Services during the African Biafran Crisis in the '60s. That was the first time that I can recall the world watching on TV as mothers watched their children die from causes over which they had no control. As a young mother myself, I would ache as I imagined their despair. Is there anything more horrible than helplessness in the face of your child's agony? As they have so often, before and since, Catholic Relief Services was a leader in world relief efforts during that crisis.

Today, Catholic teaching calls that type of response *being in global solidarity* with our sisters and brothers. At that time, we called it *being part of the mystical body of Christ*. Those moms and kids were a part of his suffering, and U.S. Catholics felt a strong summons to heal the hurting parts of the body.

Catholic Relief Services remains the U.S. Catholic community's official program to address poverty and injustice throughout the world. Founded as a relief agency in 1943 in response to suffering brought on by World War II, much of its work is devoted to development efforts, assisting people as they help themselves out of poverty.

Through this summer's diocesan director's trip, CRS is promoting solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Ecuador and Peru. We will be visiting Work of Human Hands producers, CRS HIV/AIDS prevention projects, CRS Village Banking Projects, Operation Rice Bowl-funded agriculture projects and health centers. We will hear about CRS human rights and conflict resolution programming and visit micro-enterprise efforts. We have been assured that our "conversations, our work, and our lives will be forever changed by the people we meet, the places we go, and the visions we will share."

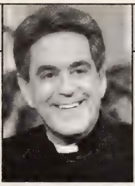
It is a distinct honor to represent the people of the Diocese of Charlotte on this trip. Our parishes increasingly hear and sense our "familyness" with our sisters and brothers in the Third World. This Lent, our parishes had a 70 percent increase in Operation Rice Bowl donations; this year, our diocese realized a 50 percent increase in sales of Work of Human Hands third world handicraft; this month, our second annual CRS mini-grant cycle will give six to 10 awards to parishes and schools who will build solidarity in relationship with Third World parishes and communities; and four times a year, our new CRS committee is engaged to further the work of CRS throughout our diocese.

On my return, through photos and an article in The Catholic News and Herald, I will tell you the stories of people and communities we encounter.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer is diocesan director of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Saying "I Do" Everyday

One Saturday afternoon a couple of months ago, 500 couples got together to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversaries. Accompanied by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, they went to New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral to renew their marriage vows. It's a scene that I always find both touching and frustrating because I can't help thinking that these folks have a secret that other people need to learn.

Fifty years ago, in the late 1940s, young men back from World War II were marrying their sweethearts in record numbers. Theirs was a generation that had grown up in the Great Depression, fought battles in distant countries and struggled on the home front. This was my parents' generation. They wanted security and success for themselves and their children. These men and women understood sacrifice as much as they believed in the power of their own dreams.

Maybe that's why so many of them stayed together. Of course, society expected it then, and so did their religious traditions. But I get the feeling that a lot of these couples also expected it of themselves.

Not all expectations come to pass, of course. But there is a lot to be said for making a commitment you expect to last a lifetime. Give yourself too many outs and you will probably wind up taking one rather than trying to make your life and promises work.

In my 27 years of presiding at weddings as well as counseling couples, I have learned more than a few lessons about what it takes to turn vows made into promises kept. I am convinced that long before a crisis hits a family, both husband and wife have already established how — or whether — they will handle the problem.

A book came out a couple of years ago by Laurie Wagner called "Living Happily Ever: Couples Talk About Lasting Love." In an interview, the author said, "People always ask me, 'What's the secret?' I think the threads that ran through all these relationships were the most simple things but also the most difficult. Respect, listening to the other person and letting that other person be who they are. It all sounds so trite, but isn't that what we all want? We all want love, respect and kindness."

Just because "love, respect and kindness" sounds simple doesn't mean that you can feel or show these qualities without fail even when you try, even when you're still on your honeymoon. That's where forgiveness for your mate and forgiveness for yourself come in — and needs to stay for a lifetime. Sometimes saying "I'm sorry" is enough. Sometimes you need to make a major change in your attitude and actions.

"For better or for worse" was never meant for cowards.

And not everybody gets to celebrate a golden anniversary. I know of one couple who married later in life. They were good for each other and they were happy. Within a few years, the wife was diagnosed with cancer. They renewed their wedding vows. Rounds of chemotherapy caused her to lose her hair, so her husband shaved his head to keep her company. She died. They didn't have enough anniversaries together.

There are some things you don't get to choose. God makes the choice. But *who* you are as a person and a spouse, you got to decide the day you said "I do." And you get to make that decision every day of your life together.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Should the Parents Attend This Wedding?

***Q.** A wedding is scheduled soon between a Jewish lady and a Catholic man.*

A priest and a rabbi will officiate, but his parents will not attend. According to them, their priest told them it would be a mortal sin to go. This cannot be, can it?

A. Under no circumstances I can think of would it automatically be a serious sin for parents to attend their son's wedding. More about that later.

First, however, you don't give enough details to indicate whether or not the marriage will be recognized by the Catholic Church.

If both of them are free to marry, the bishop may have granted them a dispensation (called a dispensation from the form) permitting them to be married before an official other than a Catholic priest.

The fact that a priest will also be present for the wedding would ordinarily lead one to conclude that such a dispensation was obtained. If so, the wedding is as valid in the eyes of the church as a marriage before a priest.

In such circumstances, the actual officiating minister would be the rabbi, for example. A priest may or may not be present as a guest or participant, but the rabbi would officially receive their vows.

If the couple did not prepare for their marriage with a priest and did not obtain the dispensation from the form, then the marriage would not be recognized according to Catholic law.

In neither case, however, may one say that the parents would always sin by attending the ceremony. These are sometimes difficult decisions. As I have written several times before, parents and others close to the bride or groom need to weigh many factors.

What would happen to their relationship with their family if they did not attend? Would their attending negatively affect the faith of other family members or friends, particularly children? Could they in some way minimize the negative consequences by discussion with those affected?

Would the bride and groom misread their attendance as total approval? Could the parents make clear their attendance is an expression of continuing love for their child, but they are hurt by the apparent disregard of the faith that is valuable in their lives? And so on.

In my own experience, if the situation is handled thoughtfully, almost always more good and less harm is done by being there than by staying away. But each decision needs to be made on its own.

I hope you can help the parents be aware of the facts and if necessary ask the good questions in deciding whether to attend.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Family Matters

Eileen C. Marx

You Gotta Believe

No one even thought about changing Channel 9 while my grandfather sat in the Lazy-Boy chair on Sunday afternoons cheering on the Mets in the late spring of 1969. As a 10-year-old girl, I remember wondering how anyone could sit inside on a beautiful day watching a boring game that seemed to go on forever. After a few more games, I was hooked.

When the Mets entered the baseball world in 1962, their 40 wins and 120 losses brought them the unfortunate distinction of having the worst record in modern Major League Baseball history. But during the summer of 1969, the Mets clinched the pennant by defeating the Atlanta Braves that fall and went on to play the Baltimore Orioles in the World Series.

That season, as the Mets captured the World Series title, they captured the hearts of baseball fans everywhere and were dubbed the "Miracle Mets." Among my collection of Mets memorabilia, my favorite is a signed picture of pitcher Tug McGraw that includes the team mantra from the early 1970s: "You Gotta Believe!"

Thirty years later I am standing on a field of green surveying the newest members of the Mets team. They are 6-year-old girls. Most of the girls, except for Anna and Meredith, are rookies. The question of the hour is what color team shirts will they be wearing. Any doubts I had about signing up to coach my daughter's T-ball team were dispelled at the baseball clinic two weeks earlier when I was handed my team roster which said: Team #1 The Lawrenceville METS.

On opening day, in the top of the first inning, I was asked by three of my players if the game was almost over. In the second inning, I lost half of my infield as the girls left in search of a bathroom. The girls were oblivious to the balls being hit past them because they were deep in conversation or hugging their friends from the opposing team.

Somewhere in the middle of the season — just like our namesake of three decades earlier — there was a change in the air. The girls began hitting pitched balls. They were actually fielding balls and there wasn't the bewildered look of what base they should throw the ball to. We were beginning to put it all together and learning to play as a team. They stood on the sidelines cheering and chanting, "Let's Go Mets!"

Baseball can be a wonderful metaphor for the other areas in our lives — family, parish community and the workplace. We've all had our times when we're in a slump and we also know the feeling of being in the middle of a hitting streak. We have our days when we come close to pitching a perfect game and other days when the relief pitcher can't be sent it fast enough. We can identify with the player who is cheered by the home team fans when he hits a home run and booed the moment he makes an error. Baseball is a wonderful reminder for our world today that when you take a remarkably diverse group of people who share a common goal, miracles can still happen. You Gotta Believe.

Eileen Marx is a CNS columnist.

Stewardship
a way of life

St. Michael Church In Gastonia Nominated For Award

Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy left us with a legacy of stewardship that touched the lives of parishes throughout the United States, Canada and the world. In memory of Archbishop Murphy's contribution to parish stewardship, the National Catholic Stewardship Council created the Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy Memorial Parish Stewardship Award. The award will be presented each year at the NCSC national conference to the parish that best exemplifies a long term commitment to stewardship as a way of life.

St. Michael Church in Gastonia has been selected as the nominee from the Diocese of Charlotte for the Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy Memorial Parish Stewardship Award.

Under the pastoral leadership of Father George Kloster, the parish of St. Michael has been promoting stewardship as a way of life for the past 10 years. Their active stewardship committee consists of people who have a spirit of generosity and a deep spirituality. The stewardship effort at St. Michael's operates on the fundamental theory that a sense of stewardship is intimately connected to spirituality and, thus, there is an ongoing process of conversion that needs to take place.

According to Father Kloster, "As our lives become more committed to the person of Jesus and his ministry there is an inevitable deepening of our call to be a generous people. We believe that the best stewardship is a faith-filled parish community. Such a community recognizes that stewardship is not an initiative on the part of the parish, but a response to the awareness of God's love for us, God's presence in our lives, and God's gifts to us."

"Stewardship awareness at St. Michael's is enhanced by good liturgies that put us in touch with God's presence," continues Father Kloster.

In addition to liturgies, stewardship awareness is enhanced by:

- programs such as RENEW and other small group communities that provide an opportunity for faith sharing and growth;
- faith formation programs which elicit a deeper response to Jesus' presence in people's lives;
- outreach and service ministries for parishioners of all ages which attempt to bring to life the compassion of which Jesus spoke in Matthew 25;
- a sense of fellowship and community that builds bonds among people.

Although the fundamental approach to stewardship is integrated into the worship and ministerial life of the parish, St. Michael's stewardship committee also addresses the issue of stewardship in a very explicit way. This is done throughout the year in the following ways:

- An annual Stewardship Renewal extends over three weekends in early September. The first two weekends involve homilies by the clergy and lay witness testimonies by both adults and children. It is coordinated with mailings on stewardship topics and commitment forms. The theme for the renewal is drawn from the Scripture readings. A catered parish dinner is held on either the first or second weekend. The third weekend is Commitment Sunday, when parishioners are asked to make a personal commitment to stewardship of time, talent and treasure by returning their commitment cards.
- Stewardship Awareness Sunday, held in November each year, provides an opportunity for St. Michael to coordinate with diocesan stewardship efforts. The diocese utilizes articles in The Catholic News & Herald and a mailing to each home to focus on stewardship as a way of life. St. Michael Parish prepares their own mailing at this time giving a financial report for the first quarter, showing the progress of new activities, and thanking people for all they do for the parish.
- Quarterly mailings include a personal letter from the pastor, a financial report, an update on parish ministries and activities, a personal thank-you to parishioners, and a stewardship brochure.
- "Steward of the Week" is a part of the parish bulletin that highlights the recent time and talent contributions of a particular person (or persons).
- A stewardship prayer or thought is included each week in the bulletin.
- Accountability is a focus of stewardship, and semi-annual financial reports are made in cooperation with the finance council. The reports always include a sincere thank you to the parishioners for the sacrifice of their time, talent, and treasure.
- The parish of St. Michael, itself, tithes about 10 percent of its own income for such projects as tuition assistance for low-income families and outreach needs on a local, regional, national, and international basis.
- The use of offertory envelopes for children geared to their own developmental level—primary, middle school and high school—encourages not only a weekly financial contribution, but the envelopes also have space to write their weekly time and talent contributions. Service projects encouraging the children to give of their time and talents are integrated into the school and faith formation classes.

The parish stewardship committee is constantly evaluating the process, building on past successes and eliminating projects that are not successful. They are always open to new ideas, including the development of a video presentation for their 1995 annual stewardship renewal. The video, "Like a Mustard Seed," focused on the building of a Habitat for Humanity house, which was funded by a parish family and built by parish members. The video created a significant impact within the parish as people saw themselves in common ministry.

St. Michael Church's stewardship video, "Like a Mustard Seed" is available in the Diocese of Charlotte Media Center, and may be borrowed by contacting the Media Center at (704) 370-3241.

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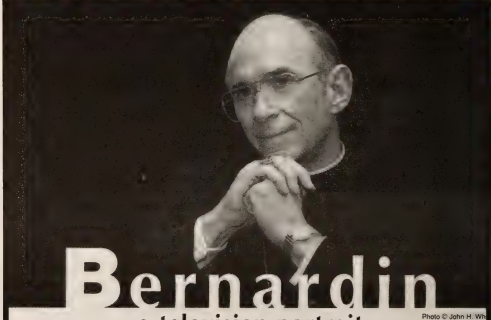

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Entertainment

As a Movie, "The X Files" Is Extraneous, Disappointing

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The legion of TV fans devoted to "The X Files" series will just get more of the same but without greater impact on the big screen, in the same-titled movie from 20th Century Fox. It's a disappointment if viewed as anything more than simply a two-hour series episode.

For those unfamiliar with the premise, David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson play FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully, assigned to investigate unsolved cases called the X files, which involve paranormal activity, such as alien sightings or bizarre deaths of uncertain causation. The agents are generally scorned or ridiculed for their theories — which cannot be scientifically proved — and Mulder especially suspects evildoers within the highest levels of government.

In the movie they become involved in the investigation of a Dallas skyscraper bombing which they come to believe was a cover-up crime to prevent a global conspiracy plot from being discovered, one which involves frozen aliens, a mutating virus and the possible colonization of Earth by extraterrestrials. The closer they get to the truth the more their lives are endangered — and the more paranoid they become.

Feeding Mulder's fears is Dr. Kurtzweil (Martin Landau), who suggests a top government agency's links with a lethal virus that could change the balance of power worldwide.

This eventually leads Mulder to an ice cave in Antarctica, where he hopes to rescue a cryogenically frozen Scully even as the ice melts, releasing snarling ice-bound aliens intent on their destruction.

Director Rob Bowman delivers a drama of sporadic intrigue but short on the kind of suspense called for to make it exciting movie making.

Surely part of the fault is series' creator Chris Carter's meandering script, which builds tense situations only to let them fritter away with lame escapes or too-easy resolutions.

The movie is supposed to answer questions raised in the fifth-season cliffhanger finale that aired in May, but doesn't deliver on that promise beyond assuring its cult audience that the X files will continue to be investigated with its stubborn agents still in place.

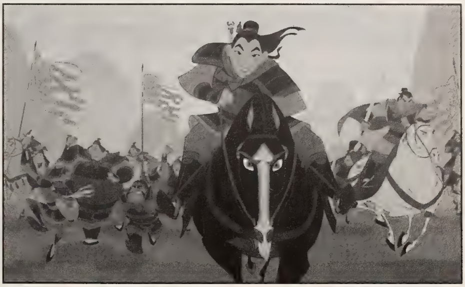
While the visuals are adequate, the few scary scenes involving attacking aliens are shot in near darkness and are over before there is time to raise a shiver of fear. Chitchat on conspiracy theories take up major screen time, but actual thrills are minor.

Even followers of the series may find the plot confusing at times, particularly regarding the global conspirators' motivations and the murky issue of the mutating virus.

Sad to say, but as a movie, "The X Files" is extraneous.

Because of brief violence, menace and explosions, minimal profanity and an instance of rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.



CNS photo from Disney

Mulan, a Chinese maiden who disguises herself as a man to save her father from conscription, is the heroine of Disney's latest animated feature, which the U.S. Catholic Conference says offers "a series of visual treats." The USCC classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"All My Sons" (1948)

Stodgy adaptation of Arthur Miller's play about a son (Burt Lancaster) learning that his father (Edward G. Robinson) framed his partner (Frank Conroy) to take the fall for shipping defective parts to the military during World War II. Directed by Irving Reis, the subject of business ethics and personal morality is treated earnestly but gets lost in a welter of family melodramatics. Suicide in plot resolution. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The End of Violence" (1997)

Murky drama in which a movie mogul (Bill Pullman) suspected of killing two hit men goes on the lam, then finds himself being spied upon by a top-secret government agency. Director Wim Wenders endeavors to show how one act of violence comes to affect many people but gets lost in dense story strands that are finally tied together laboriously and with little impact. Brief violence, fleeting nudity, some profanity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

MOVIE
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"The Major and the Minor" (1942)

Wacky comedy in which a woman (Ginger Rogers) lacking enough money for a full-fare train ticket gets the children's rate by pretending to be an 11-year-old, then has to continue the disguise when she's befriended on the journey by an Army officer (Ray Milland) from a boys' military academy, with increasingly giddy but mostly good-natured results. Director Billy Wilder sustains the humor of the absurd premise until the sentimental ending, abetted by a capable cast gamely going through the antic proceedings. Comic misunderstandings and romantic complications. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Postman" (1997)

Set in a lawless post-apocalyptic society where isolated towns are at the mercy of a murderous army of thieves (led by Will Patton), a wandering loner (Kevin Costner) assumes the uniform and role of a dead U.S. postman which has the unexpected effect of motivating the people to resist their oppressors and fight to restore democracy. Also directed by Costner, the movie's narrative is far-fetched but emotionally involving, appealing to sentimental notions of patriotism while overly idealizing the title character. Recurring violence, a sexual encounter with nudity, fleeting substance abuse, some profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Requiem for a Heavyweight" (1962)

Gritty drama in which a social worker (Julie Harris) tries to help a punched-out prizefighter (Anthony Quinn) find a new line of work until stymied by his manager (Jackie Gleason), who plans to square his debts by turning the boxer into a clownish wrestler. Directed by Ralph Nelson from Rod Serling's TV script, the result is an emotionally strong picture of a broken-down boxer trying to retain some human dignity after 17 years in the ring. Brutal boxing scenes and corrupt aspects of the fight game. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Spice World" (1998)

In this feature-length music video, the Spice Girls (Emma Bunton, Geri Halliwell, Melanie Brown, Melanie Chisholm and Victoria Adams) sing a few songs while being chased around London by the media and mobs of their fans. Director Bob Spiers tries to make the action seem lively and spontaneous, interjecting some flashbacks of the Girls' origins and a couple of surreal dreams, but the witless results are clumsily contrived and the self-promotion of the singing group is too obvious to hold interest for any but their fans. Sexual innuendo, a childbirth scene and some rude remarks. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Spitfire" (1942)

British homage to R.J. Mitchell (Leslie Howard), the designer of the title World War II fighter plane which the RAF used to win the Battle of Britain in the air war against the German Luftwaffe. Also produced and directed by Howard, the biographical story is told by Mitchell's test pilot (David Niven) with a patriotic fervor that makes the idealized characters of less interest today than the historical period in which they served. Dated inspirational portrait and wartime violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

U.S. Bishops' Spring Meeting: June 18-20

Bishops Act On Liturgy, Social Teaching, Pornography

By **JERRY FILTEAU**

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic bishops June 19 approved a Lectionary for Mass and issued statements on Catholic social teaching and on sex and violence in the media.

Meeting June 18-20 at the Pittsburgh Hilton Towers Hotel, the bishops also discussed the recent Synod of Bishops for America, a draft of proposed new moral guidelines for Catholic Campaign for Human Development funding and a draft of a resource paper on reconciliation for the new millennium.

They voted 196-6 to approve Volume 2 of a new English-language Lectionary. It contains the Scripture readings for Masses on weekdays, feasts of saints and various other occasions.

Since they approved Volume 1 last year — the readings for Sundays and certain major feasts — their action in Pittsburgh marked the end of a long process begun in the early 1990s, when they approved a different version of a new Lectionary which was rejected by the Holy See.

The new Lectionary, both volumes, is the result of a compromise worked out with Vatican officials after they objected to some aspects of the earlier translation, including some techniques used to make the English more inclusive.

It is expected that Volume 1, which has already been confirmed by Rome, will be authorized for use in U.S. churches beginning the first Sunday of Advent.

The bishops' new statement on sex and violence in the media, approved by a vote of 207-11, is titled, "Renewing the Mind of the Media."

It is the first document the bishops have issued specifically on the problems of sex and violence in the media.

"The media have such potential to bring truth and beauty into the lives of billions of people that we cannot permit them to be the arena of those who would pervert God's gift of the body and sexuality," it says.

It decries not only "pornography and graphic, gratuitous violence" but also the pervasive use in the mainstream media of "sex and violence in a frivolous and titillating way."

Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., chairman of the bishops' Communications Committee, called it a "fundamental document" that will establish policy positions and serve as a framework for further action by the bishops or their committees.

The document urges parents to teach their children how to use media responsibly. It calls on the creative community in the entertainment industry and all those in the media business to recognize the impact of the media on society and to set standards for themselves.

It rejects censorship but urges government to make full use of its constitutionally established regulatory role to require more responsible use of the airwaves.

It questions the level of violence in some video games and says the growing usefulness of the Internet is compromised by the numerous "adult" and hate sites available on it.

CNS photo by Doug Kaup, Pittsburgh Catholic

Bishop Tod Brown, left, of Boise, Idaho, and Bishop Paul Loverde of Ogdensburg, N.Y., share breakfast and some conversation in the lobby of the Pittsburgh Hilton June 19 before a session of the U.S. bishops' spring meeting.

The bishops approved a statement, "Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions," by a vote of 213-5.

The document calls Catholic social teaching "a central and essential element of our faith" but says too many Catholics are not familiar with the church's social teachings and do not understand the role it should have in their lives.

It calls for efforts at every level of the church's educational and formation activities to make Catholic social teaching an integral part of what Catholic children and adults learn about the church and their faith.

"If Catholic education and formation fails to communicate our social tradition, it is not fully Catholic," the statement says.

Jointly prepared by three bishops' committees — education, domestic policy and international policy — the statement was issued as a reflection of the nation's bishops on the findings of their Task Force on Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic Education.

The task force, formed by the three committees in 1995 and headed by now-retired Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis, had among its 30 members leading Catholic educators and heads of national Catholic education, formation and social justice organizations.

Findings and recommendations of the task force were to be published by the bishops along with their statement.

Only the June 19 morning and afternoon sessions of the bishops' meeting were open to observers and the media. They started the meeting with a closed-door executive session the afternoon of June 18 and ended it with another executive session the morning of June 20.

Preceding the meeting they had an all-morning workshop June 18 on issues related to clergy sexual abuse of minors. Participating in the workshop were about 150 of the 220 active bishops who attended the business meeting.

Following the business meeting, about 80 bishops stayed on to attend a National Symposium for Vocations. The June 20-21 symposium featured Cardinal Pio Laghi, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, as keynote speaker and chief celebrant of the closing Mass.

During their business sessions June 19 the bishops also:

- Discussed ideas for a proposed resource paper on reconciliation and renewed use of the sacrament of penance for the millennium.
- Listened to a report on the results of last fall's Synod of Bishops for America by a panel of three bishops who participated in the synod.
- Discussed proposed revisions in the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's moral guidelines for projects funded by the campaign.

Both the old and the proposed new guidelines flatly require all funded programs or projects to be fully in accord with Catholic teachings. But the revisions aim at setting clearer and tighter restrictions on funding an otherwise acceptable program or project if its sponsoring organization is involved in any other activity that is not in accord with Catholic teachings.

- Heard reports on the work of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., financial needs of the church in Latin America, and the recent sale of St. Louis University Hospital.
- Learned of plans to prepare a commentary for the United States on the General Directory for Catechesis. Published by the Vatican last fall, the directory outlines the goals and essential elements of catechesis and gives guidelines for drafting national catechisms and catechetical directories.
- Were greeted by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, papal pro-nuncio to the United States, who has attended every national meeting of the bishops since he took up that post in 1990.

Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy welcomed the bishops to the city at the start of the meeting.

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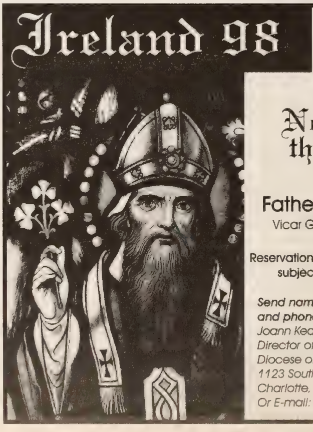

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Bishops' Meeting At A Glance...

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — When the U.S. bishops met June 18-20 in Pittsburgh for their spring meeting, they:

- Approved Volume 2 of a new Lectionary for Mass, with a provision that in five years it should undergo a "full review ... with a view to its possible updating." Vatican approval is still required for the Lectionary.
- Discussed possible changes in Catholic Campaign for Human Development funding guidelines to keep CCHD funds from groups engaged in activities contrary to Catholic teaching.
- Approved a statement, "Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions," that commits them to sharing the teaching "at every level of Catholic education and faith formation."
- Listened to a panel presentation from their fellow bishops on the results of last fall's Synod of Bishops for America.
- Approved a statement, "Renewing the Mind of the Media: A Statement on Overcoming the Exploitation of Sex and Violence in Communications," which condemned "pornography, excessive violence and other irresponsible uses of sex and violence in the media."
- Heard a report from Archbishop Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis on the recent sale of St. Louis University Medical Center to a for-profit health care chain.
- Heard from Bishop Roberto O. Gonzalez of Corpus Christi, Texas, head of the Committee for the Church in Latin America, that funding requests outstrip the capabilities of the national collection for the church in Latin America, which has distributed $82 million since 1976.
- Received a draft paper on reconciliation and forgiveness for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, which focuses on sacramental reconciliation. The bishops discussed the draft in their 13 regional groups before reconvening to report on the content of their talks.
- Heard from Bishop John S. Cummins of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Migration, who noted that the bishops' Catholic Legal Immigration Network has provided legal advice or representation on an average of nearly 2,000 cases a year since CLINIC's founding 10 years ago.

Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, left, hugs Bishop Kurt Krenn of St. Polten, Austria, during a June 21 Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II.

CNS photo from Reuters

Pope-Austria, from page 1

European Union to include new members in Central and Eastern Europe.

"We should not speak about an enlargement of the union toward the East," the pope said, "but rather a Europeanization of the entire continent."

In this respect, he noted, the Catholic Church "can offer guidance by its social teachings."

Austrian President Thomas Klestil, who met with the pope June 20, recalled the pope's words on European affairs during pastoral visits to Austria in 1983 and 1988.

"Today we know how prophetic you were in your firm belief in the abolition of the division of Europe, and how decisively your pastoral activities and your incessant commitment to human rights and freedom of religion have contributed to this historic change," Klestil said.

The president noted that more progress was needed before all the old barriers of the Cold War were removed. Overcoming these obstacles is the task not only of diplomats and politicians, he said, but "what is needed is an interaction that knows no borders, an interaction between culture, humanity, solidarity and — of course — religion."

Introductory Classes

Natural Family Planning

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To sign up for a class, please contact the individual listed for desired date.

City	Date	Time	Location	Method	Fee	Contact
Asheville	Sept. 1 (T)	7:30-9pm	CSS Regional Office	Creighton	$10	Ann Mines
	Dec. 1 (T)	7:30-9pm	CSS Regional Office	Creighton	$10	Ann Mines
Charlotte	July 9 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	August 8 (Sat)	10:30am-12noon	Pastoral Center	Creighton	$10	Cathy Tepper
	August 13 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	Sept. 10 (Th)	7:30-9.30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	Sept. 14 (M)	7-8.30pm	Pastoral Center	Creighton	$10	Cathy Tepper
	Oct 8 (Th)	7:30-9 30pm	St Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	Oct. 12 (M)	7-8.30pm	Pastoral Center	Creighton	$10	Cathy Tepper
	Nov. 11 (W)	7-8 30pm	Pastoral Center	Creighton	$10	Cathy Tepper
	Nov. 12 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
	Dec. 10 (Th)	7:30-9:30pm	St. Matthew Church	CCL	$0	Maria Muñoz
Grover	By Appointment - contact Frieda Ashworth (Couple to Couple League) at 704.484.0997					
Mooresville	Sept. 4 (F)	7-8.30pm	St. Therese Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
	Oct. 2 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Therese Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
Salisbury	By Appointment - contact Maria Perkins (Creighton Model) at 704.633.9551					
Statesville	August 7 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Philip Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
	Nov. 6 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Philip Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
	Dec. 4 (F)	7-8:30pm	St. Philip Church	Billings	$10	Jay Hamilton
Winston-Salem	June 17 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	July 15 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	August 19 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	Sept. 16 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	Oct. 21 (W	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	Nov 18 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young
	Dec. 16 (W)	7:30 - 9pm	St. Leo Church	CCL	$0	Mary Beth Young

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(336) 922-0479

Creighton Model

Ann Mines
Asheville
(828) 258-8807

Maria Perkins
Salisbury
(704) 633-9551

Cathy Tepper
Charlotte
(704) 364-3348

Mary Lynn Lawler
Charlotte
(704) 341-2280

Woomb Model (Billings Ovulation)

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Mooresville/Statesville
(704) 663-6411

People In The News

Album Including Mother Teresa's Words Used In Catechism Class

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Through words and music, Mother Teresa still talks to children in catechism classes and personality development programs in Calcutta. "The students love to listen to music and sing songs," said Mukta Kerketta, a catechism teacher who said she uses a music album that includes words spoken by Mother Teresa "to easily bring in the message of love, compassion and charity" to the children. Kerketta's catechism classes are held in St. John Bosco Parish in this eastern Indian city, where Mother Teresa lived and worked.

Pope's Ecumenist Urges Revival Of Catholic-Orthodox Talks

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy has called for the international Catholic-Orthodox theological dialogue to get back to the dialogue program it suspended eight years ago. "Much valuable time is being lost on discussing problems that are more practical than theological," said Cardinal Cassidy, head of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. In response to several questions from the audience about the recent Vatican order against married Ukrainian-rite Catholic priests exercising ministry in Poland, the cardinal expressed disappointment at the decision and called it ecumenically harmful. He suggested the U.S. Latin-rite bishops might be the ones to take the lead in changing the situation.

Polish Nun Who Taught Catechism Expelled From Ukraine

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Officials in Ukraine have ordered a Polish nun who taught catechism to leave the country. Sister Ewa Stolarek, a member of the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, sued the officials after they overruled her stay permits and ordered her to leave Ukraine. However, the superior of her religious community said the local court had refused to hear the case. Visiting Polish priests and nuns make up half of the country's Catholic church workers. Because of post-communist shortages in local church personnel, foreign staff has been invited in but they have faced frequent visa and permit problems.

Venezuela President Receives Annual Path To Peace Award

NEW YORK (CNS) — Rafael Caldera Rodriguez, president of Venezuela, was honored June 10 with the annual Path to Peace Award presented by the Vatican nuncio to the United Nations. Archbishop Renato R. Martino said that during a long political career Caldera had emphasized the themes of social rights for workers, the social function of private property and the freedom of the church to teach.

Respect For Sainthood Process Deepens For ABC News Reporter

WASHINGTON (CNS) — ABC News correspondent Elizabeth Vargas says she has more respect for the Catholic Church's canonization process after preparing a special on the miracle behind the canonization of Blessed Edith Stein. "I just never knew all the science that is applied to something so spiritual," said Vargas, a Catholic and the anchor of "It Takes a Miracle." Vargas interviewed the head of the Consulto Medica, the Vatican agency which reviews alleged miracles for evidence that there may have been some medical explanation for a seemingly miraculous cure.

'Jane Roe' Announces Decision To Become Catholic

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Norma McCorvey, "Jane Roe" in the Roe vs. Wade decision that lifted most state restrictions on abortion, will begin instruction in July to become a Catholic. Baptized a Christian in 1995 by the Rev. Flip Benham, director of Operation Rescue National, McCorvey said in a June 15 statement that God had told her during prayer to "'come all the way home to him' in his church — the church Jesus Christ himself founded, the mother church."

CNS photo from Reuters

South African President Nelson Mandela talks with Pope John Paul II during their June 18 meeting at the Vatican. Mandela thanked the pope for the church's contributions toward the spiritual and material progress of his country.

Cardinal Ballestrero, Who Authorized Tests Of Shroud, Dies

TURIN, Italy (CNS) — Italian Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, who authorized controversial carbon-dating tests on the Shroud of Turin, died June 21 at age 84 following a long illness. As archbishop of Turin, Italy, where the shroud is kept, Cardinal Ballestrero in 1988 invited scientists to snip samples from the cloth many believe wrapped the crucified Christ. The tests dated the shroud to the Middle Ages, a result which the cardinal announced himself. In the years that followed, the cardinal was criticized for allowing the tests and for giving the results credence. Some shroud experts have since faulted the testing procedures, while others have said the cloth's history makes such analysis difficult and untrustworthy.

'Accidental Hero': Di Biagio Dedicates Goal To Parish Priest

ROME (CNS) — Dubbed the "accidental hero" of Italy's World Cup soccer team, Luigi Di Biagio dedicated his biggest goal of the year to a parish priest. That was unusual, even in predominantly Catholic Italy. Many of the country's soccer stars are highly paid celebrities who are seen more often in night clubs than at their local churches. But "Gigi" Di Biagio doesn't fit that mold. Two years ago he began working with Father Davide Solano, a Colombian pastor in Serrone, south of Rome. The priest wanted to set up soccer tournaments for local youths, and Di Biagio was happy to help. The two became friends, and when Di Biagio was unexpectedly called up as a midfield reserve for Italy's national team, Father Solano led the town of Serrone in cheering him on.

Doris Pliska, Wife of Late Permanent Deacon, Dies at Age 72

CHARLOTTE — Doris Irene Pliska of Charlotte died June 11. She was 72.

A native of Sparta, Wis., Pliska was a homemaker and a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. She was the wife of the late Rev. Mr. Leonard Pliska, a permanent deacon of the Diocese of Charlotte who died in December 1990. She was active with the Association for Retarded Citizens and with Howell's Child Care Center, Inc./Clear Creek.

Among Pliska's survivors are two daughters, Kathi Lopez of Houston, Texas, and Mary Beth Pliska of Charlotte; a grandson, Timothy Lopez; two brothers, Robert Paul and Gerald Paul; and a sister, Virginia Kranz.

A memorial service took place June 15 in the chapel at Howell's Child Care Center.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Howell's Child Care Center, Inc. (For Clients' Use), 14999 Albemarle Rd., Charlotte, NC 28227.

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Employment Opportunities

Director for Total Youth Ministry: St. Mark Catholic Church in Wilmington, NC, is seeking a full-time person for youth ministry. Primary responsibilities for grades 6-12 in the 2000-family parish: Religious education classes, retreats, service projects, social events, and recruiting, training and supporting volunteer teachers and leaders. Will work closely with Director of Religious Education. Bachelor's Degree required with religious education background and experience preferred. A practicing Catholic in good standing with great enthusiasm for working with youth required. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send letter of application with resume to TYM Search Committe, St. Mark Catholic Church, 1011 Eastwood Road, Wilmington, NC 28403 by July 1, 1998.

Organist — Pianist: St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28115. Two choir rehearsals and Masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard, Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Director of Parish Business Operations: A large, growing, friendly parish needs a professional for its business operations. This Director will have responsibility for the financial, fundraising, information technology, personnel and physical plant resources of the parish and will report to the pastor. The Director must be intimately familiar with the principles of accounting, have strong interpersonal skills, and be an effective communicator. The minimum requirements for this position are: 10 years work experience in related disciplines as outlined above; 5 years management experience; and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Finance, or equivalent. Salary is negotiable and will be based on experience and competitive information. For more information, please submit your resume to: Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410 or fax: (336) 294-6149.

Youth Minister: Our growing parish community of 1900 families is seeking a full-time Youth Minister for our established Total Youth Ministry program for youth grades 6-12. Responsibilities include spiritual and program development while working together with a committed team of 50 adults. Candidate should be: faith-filled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team-oriented. Experienced with BA in Theology or related field. Salary and benefits commensurate with degree and experience. Send a resume and a statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410 or fax: (336) 294-6149.

Mathematics Teacher: Cardinal Gibbons High School is seeking a teacher of mathematics for the 1998-99 school year. Send resume to principal, Cardinal Gibbons High School, 2401 Crusader Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606, or fax to (919) 834-9771.

Freelance Writer: *The Catholic News & Herald* is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the western region of the diocese. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward resumes to *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Director of Faith Formation: Holy Family Catholic Church is seeking a team-oriented Catholic visionary to plan and implement a catechetical program for pre-school through fifth grade for a student population of 500 and administer adult education programs in die 1,200+ growing parish in Clemmons, west of Winston-Salem, NC. MA in religious education and/or theology preferred, experience in parish administration beneficial. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume to: DFF Search Committee, Holy Famiiy Catholic Church, P.O. Box 130, Clemmons, NC 27012-0130.

MSW Social Worker: Catholic Social Services IS seeking to hire a MSW Social Worker Prefer experience with adoption and foster care. 30 hours per week, negotiable. Please send resume to 135 35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Full-Time Director of Liturgy and Music: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Liturgy and Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 800 households who are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. The Director of Liturgy and Music will be responsible for overseeing the total music ministry program and the liturgical ministry of the parish. The position requires a minimum of a Bachelors' Degree in a relevant field although a Masters' Degree is preferred. Other requirements include a solid background in liturgical theology, keyboarding skills, and careful attention to detail. A professional salary will be offered to the candidate who sends with their resume three references *and* salary history to: Search Committee, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470. *References and salary history are required to be considered for this position.*

Director of Religious Education and Youth Minister: Dynamic and energetic self-starter sought for growing parish of full-time 1100 families. This full-time position is responsible for all aspects of faith formation for pre-school aged children through high school youth, including sacramental preparation. Christian initiation adapted for children, recruitment and formation of volunteer catechists, and coordination of the Total Youth Ministry program. Master's degree and experience in parish ministry preferred. Please send resume by July 8th to Fr. Alvin Somerville, OFM Conv., Blessed Sacrament, P.O. Box 619, Burlington, NC 27215 or call (336)226-8796.

Teaching Positions: Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, NC, has the following teaching positions available for the 1998-99 school year: 3rd grade, 5th grade, middle school math (part-time). Send a resume to Sacred Heart Catholic School, 123 N. Ellis Street, Salibury, NC 28144 or call the school office between 9:00-12:00 at (704) 633-2841 for an application.

Thinking of Priesthood?

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Photo by Mike Krokos

Bishop William G. Curlin blesses the new parish life center at Sacred Heart Church.

Church Dedicates Parish Center

BREVARD — Marking a milestone in its growth, Sacred Heart Church in Brevard dedicated a new parish life center June 21. Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the ceremony, which began with a celebration of the liturgy and concluded with the dedication of the new center.

During the dedication ceremony, Bishop Curlin blessed each room in the new building and thanked parishioners for their generous support.

The 8,000-square-foot facility includes parish and pastoral offices, a nursery, and 10 multi-purpose rooms, said Father Carl Del Guidice, pastor. "It provides much-needed space for our growing congregation to work and learn together as we strive to fulfill our vision of service to God and one another," he added.

The project was part of a comprehensive, long-term plan for optimum utilization of parish properties. In early 1994, the parish planning team proposed a three-element plan, with the building of parish life center and additional seating in the sanctuary as first priority.

When it became apparent the parish could not finance the cost of the entire project at one time, the decision was made to focus on construction of the parish life center. Under the leadership of parishioner Joe Piland, a project management team worked with the architect to produce detailed design plans. Construction of the $750,000 facility began in May 1997, and was completed last December under budget. The building was occupied in January.

Since its formation in 1949, Sacred Heart Parish has consistently reflected the growth of Catholicism in the western region of the state. Currently, 563 families compose the parish registry, and Father Del Guidice expects that number to increase to 600 by year's end.

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Year one will begin in Fall 1998 in Arden, Charlotte, and Greensboro.

Asheville Class Immerses Into Carolina Culture

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

ASHEVILLE — Lynn Steen's fourth-grade class at Asheville Catholic School has adjourned into the June heat, its members primed for summertime fun — and armed with a deeper sense of North Carolina history, geography and nature after traveling to the eastern reaches of the state.

From their hometown Appalachian Mountains to the easternmost grains of coastal sand, the students were recently taught a 1,000-mile lesson on the natural and man-made charms of the Tar Heel State.

"The whole school year leading up to the trip is an extensive study of the geography and the history of North Carolina," says Steen, who has organized the project for three years. "The trip is just putting it all together."

From their bus windows, the students listened to a running commentary while observing the state's three distinctive regions: the mountains, the Piedmont and the coastal plain.

The group also sampled North Carolina icons like eastern-style barbecue, although in that case the feedback was less than positive.

"Well, the eastern-style barbecue *is* different from the barbecue we have up here," says student Jennifer Blue. Did she enjoy the finely chopped, peppery, vinegar-based variety of pork? "Not really," she says, crinkling her nose.

Steen, a Fayetteville native and eastern-style proponent, smiles and shakes her head. "I tried to educated them ...," she sighs.

Along Highway 12

The travelers spent much of their week on the road along the Outer Banks, the thin band of barrier islands protecting mainland North Carolina from the ravages of the Atlantic Ocean. The group traveled on the narrow strip of coast bisected by Highway 12 southward from Roanoke Island and Nags Head to Ocracoke Island and Cedar Island.

"What made the trip mostly exciting was because of Mrs. Steen's teaching," says student Glenn Lawson. "We went to all neat places."

"When we start our study of the Outer Banks, we do it from lighthouse to lighthouse," Steen says. The students, who visited the beacons on Bodie Island, Cape Hatteras and Ocracoke Island, researched the lighthouses and built models back in Asheville, she says.

An ascent to the top of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was a popular sojourn for the students, who learned of the danger the 128-year-old structure faces from years of erosion, and the debate over whether to move it inland or reinforce its present location.

"They (the students) pretty much formulated their opinion by the time they came home on what they thought ought to be done," Steen says.

"I think they should move it to save it," nods Jennifer Blue. "It's a very important lighthouse, where it stands out by Diamond Shoals," a shipwreck-laden offshore stretch. "And it's the most photographed in North Carolina."

Glenn Lawson agrees. "If they don't move it, then there goes Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and the future classes in fourth grade won't be able to see it."

Among other coastal highlights:

- near Manteo, an excursion to Fort Raleigh, a reproduction of the fort thought to be built by the English colony that arrived in the mid-1580s, and a look at Elizabeth II, a 69-foot replica of the type of ship that brought colonists to the New World;
- at Kill Devil Hills, a walk to the Wright Brothers Memorial, the site of Wilbur and Orville's 1903 flight into aviation history;
- near the resort town of Nags Head, a climb up the East Coast's tallest sand dune at Jockey's Ridge State Park;
- nature walks through and discussions of barrier islands, salt marshes, and other coastal marvels, and how they influence North Carolina geography;
- ferry rides across the coastal sounds.

The students chronicled each day with journal entries, part of a comprehensive project that included a charted map, photographs and detailed writing on what they learned at key stops.

"Their creativity is up to them," says Steen about the project, which is presented in photo album format after the students return. "None of it can be done on the computer; it has to be handwritten. That way, their keepsake will be in their own fourth-grade handwriting rather than a computerized version."

Homeward Bound

After their Outer Banks experience, the students headed west for a brief visit to North Carolina's Revolutionary War-time capital, New Bern, before continuing to the state's present center of government.

In downtown Raleigh, the group toured the capitol building, which is surrounded by statues highlighting state history, and the State Legislative Building one block to the north. Already, several students were indicating their knowledge of Tar Heel details.

"At the legislative cafeteria, they gave us these place mats and there were mistakes all over them," says Matthew Maloney. "It was a map of North Carolina."

"The Cape Lookout Lighthouse was on Ocracoke Island," explains classmate Katie Maloney. "It was totally wrong."

Steen hopes the project will leave the students with higher regard for themselves and their state. "I can usually tell a difference when we get back to class as far as their attitude towards responsibility," she says, adding that each student must keep up with luggage, money and schoolwork while on the trip.

"Hopefully," she adds, "their biggest gain is a working knowledge of the differences in the parts of North Carolina, and an appreciation for how unique the state really is."

Photo courtesy of ACS

Asheville Catholic School fourth-graders gather in front of Ocracoke Lighthouse on the Outer Banks.

Greenville Pastor Elected As Passionist Consultor

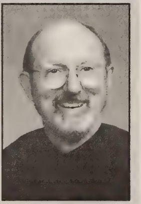
SOUTH RIVER, N.J. — At its recent 45th provincial chapter, the Passionist community elected Passionist Father Joseph R. Jones as second consultor for the Province of St. Paul of the Cross. Father Jones has served as pastor of St. Peter Church in Greenville, N.C., for the past 10 years.

He has also been active in AIDS ministry in North Carolina, New York and New England, and has received the North Carolina Governor's Award for Distinguished Community Service to people living with AIDS.

A Philadelphia native and Notre Dame University graduate, Father Jones professed his vows as a Passionist 40 years ago and has been a priest for 33 years. In addition to his work as a pastor and in HIV/AIDS ministry, he has served as vocation director, itinerant preacher, retreat director, West Indes missionary, rector of Calvary Monastery in Shrewsbury, Mass., and rector of Holy Family Monastery in West Hartford, Conn. He has also been active in telecommunications work for the Diocese of West Springfield, Mass.

His new duties will place him on the governing body of the Province of St. Paul of the Cross, with headquarters in South River, N.J. The council is responsible for the Passionist community and its ministries in 21 locations in the U.S. and Canada, as well as missions throughout the world.

Father Jones will serve with newly elected provincial the Most Rev. Terence Kristofak and three other new consultors.



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In Brief...

Catholic Home Education Convention

ATLANTA — A national Catholic home education convention is July 10-11 at All Saints Catholic Church in Dunwoody, a northeast suburb of Atlanta. The National Association of Catholic Home Educators South 1998 convention includes workshops, keynote speech, vendor fair and Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Donoghue of Atlanta. Cost is $30 per person and $35 for two people. Priests and religious can attend free of charge, although registration is necessary. For more information and to register, call (678) 461-9764.

Vocation Discernment Retreat

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Two Cistercian monasteries near Dubuque host a vocation discernment retreat Sept. 4-7. Monks and nuns will lead presentations and discussions about religious calling to the monastic life, and there will be opportunities for personal prayer and reflection. The retreat is free of charge. For more information or to register, women should contact Sister Kate Mehlmann at (319) 582-2595 by phone or misisip@mwci.net by e-mail. Men should call Father Brendan Freeman at (319) 588-2319 by phone or Melleray@mwci.net by e-mail.

Charlotte Resident Earns Degree, Honors at Catholic University

WASHINGTON — Melanie Elizabeth Doulé of Charlotte has graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She also was elected to the honor societies Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Eta Sigma. In addition, Doulé received The H. Edward Cain Award in English and the Sister Rosemary Donley, S.C., Award, presented to a senior female student regarded as an outstanding leader, athlete and scholar who made significant contributions to the campus community. A graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School and a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church, Doulé is the daughter of Robert and Janine Doulé of Charlotte.

Knights Donate Funds

MOUNT AIRY — Knights of Columbus Council 11406, of Holy Angels Church, recently presented a check for $3,651.25 to Crossroads Behavioral Healthcare facility. The money, collected over three consecutive Saturdays in conjunction with the Knights' Operation LAMB project, has been targeted for a specially equipped kitchen in the Crossroads facility. Crossroads has assisted more than 3,000 people in Surry and Yadkin counties with mental disease, developmental disabilities, substance abuse and dependency over the past 12 months. Making the check presentation during a dinner in the parish fellowship hall were co-chairmen Jim Mertson and John McCann, and Grand Knight Chuck Wittenauer. David Swann, Crossroads president, accepted the check and was the featured speaker at the event.

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Wisconsin Ruling Gives School Choice A Foot In The Door

By CAROL ZIMMERMAN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Schools might be out for the summer, but the talk about the best ways to educate America's youths shows no sign of a seasonal respite.

In fact, the recent decision by the Wisconsin State Supreme Court saying vouchers in Milwaukee could be applied to religious schools has only added more fuel to the ongoing debate.

In a 4-2 ruling, the state's highest court not only confirmed the constitutionality of the Milwaukee's current school choice program, but it also permitted the program's expansion to provide vouchers for up to 15,000 low-income children — about 10 times the current number of participants.

No one is taking this decision lightly. People on both sides of the voucher debate see it either as a crucial step for good or doom for education's future.

And both sides are looking ahead to the U.S. Supreme Court for more clear direction. Groups opposed to the ruling have vowed to bring it to the Supreme Court on an appeal. Voucher supporters say, "bring it on," confident that vouchers will be given the court's blessing and not be found to violate church-state separation.

Amid such discussion about what impact this decision will have on other school choice rulings and the future of the nation's public schools, Robert Boston, spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, tries to regain a sense of calm.

"We have to keep in mind that this is a state Supreme Court decision, which doesn't set a national precedent," he told Catholic News Service. But all the same, his organization was working on appealing the case as he spoke.

Raymond Burnell, executive director of the Office for Catholic School Parent Associations for the U.S. Catholic Conference, calls the decision "historic" and "a useful blueprint for other states."

He doesn't see the ruling as something out of the blue, but reflective of "the prevailing winds of school choice all across the country" demonstrated by tax relief measures recently given to parents in some states.

Burnell said even if school choice decisions aren't becoming law, more pieces of voucher legislation are at least making headway in states, passing in one house or both before getting vetoed.

Currently four states have voucher cases pending before their state supreme courts: Arizona, Ohio, Maine and Vermont. Ohio's case is very similar to the Wisconsin one, involving a scholarship program in Cleveland, now in its second year, that grants 3,500 eligible students vouchers for the school of their choice within the school district, including private religious and nonreligious schools.

Tim Luckhaupt, director of Ohio's Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's bishops, said he was hopeful that the Wisconsin ruling would help their case, particularly since the "issues are almost the same."

But even if other state courts, and ultimately the U.S. Supreme Court, finds vouchers to private schools constitutional, the work isn't over for voucher supporters.

Boston says if voucher opponents lose their appeal, then government regulations will end up slowing voucher plans.

"Schools receiving public money open up an entire Pandora's box of regulations," he said. Potential lawsuits on behalf of students not admitted to religious schools or teachers fired for religious reasons could make "private schools rue the day they ever heard the word voucher."

Sister Dale McDonald, director of public policy and education research for the National Catholic Educational Association, also warns that a Supreme Court approval of vouchers would still involve "hurdles over how the states would interpret the ruling."

For now, the Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary said voucher supporters need to respond to much of the negative rhetoric against vouchers, and get out the positive aspects of what Catholic schools do well.

She doesn't buy the criticism that Catholics don't care about public schools because they only want to save their own schools. "Eighty percent of our kids are in public schools," she pointed out. "It's important that they get as good as an education as they can get."

Capuchin Brother Bob Smith, president of Messmer Catholic High School in Milwaukee, said he too is growing weary of the cloud of "conspiracy theories" surrounding voucher supporters.

In response, he tells people, "Look, the kids we're dealing with are the kids that were not doing well in the public schools. If we can do it, so can you."

He is wary of any voucher agreement that would involve regulations concerning what Catholic schools can teach.

He said his school was the first religious school to challenge Milwaukee's voucher program for not including religious schools, saying they "felt it was important for poor families to have other alternatives."

"You have a great school, all you have to do is teach religion after school, and you're in," Messmer officials were told at the time.

But they in turn replied, "Our Catholicism is not negotiable."

Brother Smith insists the students won't be proselytized, but says religion is an important part of the school. "We do pray and we do expect you to act morally and no amount of state or federal money will make us change our mind."

But the current Wisconsin legislation does include an "opt-out" provision, prohibiting private schools from requiring students to participate in any religious activity if the student's parent or guardian has submitted a written request to the teacher or principal asking the student to be exempt from such activities.

Messmer has 150 voucher-eligible students, and had more than 60 inquires in the week after the court decision.

Students know what they're getting into when they enroll at Messmer. Brother Smith tells them from the start: "We are who we are, if you want to be a part, take everything. We're not a cafeteria plan."

Diocesan News Briefs

Asheville Catholic School Receives Donation

ASHEVILLE — Ingles Markets, Inc., recently presented a check for $5,000 to Asheville Catholic School to assist in a multi-phase upgrade of the school's computer technology laboratory. Headquartered in Asheville, Ingles is a supermarket chain with 201 stores in six southeastern states. The company also operates 77 shopping centers. Ingles' donation to Asheville Catholic School is the company's first charity donation from a fund drive that raised more than $500,000 for children's charities in its sales region. The company also sponsors the "Register Tapes for Education" fund drive, in which Asheville Catholic School is participating. For details on how you can assist in the computer lab upgrade, contact Matt Bradley, ACS Computer Technology Committee Member, (828) 645-2332.

Ultreya

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets at St. Elizabeth Church each first Saturday following the 5:15 p.m. Mass. For details, call the parish office at (828) 284-8338.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin July 12 at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

"Fiesta del Sol"

CHARLOTTE — The Drug Education Center, Inc., sponsors "Fiesta del Sol," a celebration of the Hispanic community, June 27 from noon-6 p.m. at Methodist Home Recreation Center on 3200 Shamrock Dr. The event includes carnival rides, games, prizes, entertainment from local musicians, dancing and food. Information about various agencies and businesses providing health, legal, social and public safety services to Hispanics will also be available. For more information, call (704) 375-3784.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins July 24. For further information, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

LENOIR — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas group at St. Francis of Assisi Church is eager to welcome new members. For details, call Gail Stewart at (704) 726-0701.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Journey with John" is a July 6-12 retreat focusing on the "signs" and "glory" within the Gospel of John. Cost is $260. "Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount" is a July 19-25 retreat focusing on the Beatitudes as the way Jesus lived his earthly life and how they serve as the model of Christian discipleship. Cost is $260. "Be Still and Know That I Am God" is a July 26-Aug. 1 nature retreat in a serene mountain setting focusing on peaceful contemplation of God's greatness. Cost is $260.

To register, get more information or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Scriptural Rosary

MONROE — A scriptural rosary is prayed each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the grotto area of Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

BMHS Teacher Honored With Award

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School Latin and English teacher Linda Kennedy was honored during June 4 commencement exercises as the first recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award. The award program was initiated by the BMHS Home School Association and Board of Education to acknowledge teachers who have exhibited exemplary efforts in their profession. Kennedy has taught Latin and English at BMHS since 1981, has served as chair of the foreign languages department since 1983, and is the newly elected faculty representative to the Board of Education. She has also served as Latin club moderator since 1981 and student council moderator since 1988.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish, school, agency and organization news briefs and releases for publication in the Diocesan News Briefs page. Please limit submissions to 200 words. The deadline for the News Briefs page is 10 days before the publication date.

Due to a steadily increasing backlog, The Catholic News & Herald can no longer accept unsolicited photographs for publication. The newspaper encourages readers with photograph ideas to contact Mike Krokos, editor, at (704) 370-3330.

Around The Diocese

LIMEX Registration

Registration and tuition payment for Course One for applicants to the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program (LIMEX) will be hosted at the following sites:

— In Arden, at St. Barnabas Church on June 29 from 7-9 p.m.;

— in Charlotte, at St. Vincent de Paul Church on July 8 from 7-9 p.m.;

— and in Greensboro, at St. Paul the Apostle Church on July 18 from 1-3 p.m.

For details, call Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013, or Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344.

School News

GREENSBORO — Eight eighth-graders from Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro were recently named as winners of the NASA-sponsored Space Science Student Involvement Program, in which almost 10,000 students across the nation submitted entries. The National Science Teachers Association administered the program. The students are Diana Agresto, Shannan Beattie, Linsey Brunner, Jennifer Cleveland, Amy DiGiralamo, Holly Rhines, Beyke Saunders and Maria Thekkekandam. Agresto, Cleveland, Rhines and Saunders won first-place for their paper, "The Earth's Loss of Rainforests." Beattie, Brunner, DiGiralamo and Thekkekandam placed third in the state for their entry, "Burning of Fossil Fuels." The winners' science class is taught by Danita McDonald.

U.S. astronaut Col. William McArthur congratulated the winners during his May 20 visit to Our Lady of Grace and St. Pius X schools. McArthur's visit was sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 939 in conjunction with NASA's Astronaut in Schools education project. The astronaut addressed each grade and spoke at several school assemblies.

Our Lady of Grace School first-grade teacher Elaine Hoover has been named 1997 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year by the Wal-Mart store on West Wendover Avenue in Greensboro. Hoover received the award, and the school received a $500 gift. Hoover has taught at the parochial school for 21 years.

Youth Ministry News

GREENSBORO — "SPLUNGE" — Special People Living Uniquely Nourishing Growthful Experiences — is an inner-city service experience July 12-17 in Greensboro. Participants engage in spiritual reflection and learning opportunities that enhance their experience of service to the poor, hungry and people with special needs. Space is limited to the first 25 applicants who are at least 15 years old (no more than five youth from one parish). Adults working with youth in areas of service or justice and peace are also welcome. Our Lady of Grace Church is the host site. Cost is $160. The application deadline is June 30. Send your $75 non-refundable deposit to the Office for Youth Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Call (704) 370-3211 for more information.

GREENSBORO — The Catholic/Lutheran Covenant presents "Splash" for youth groups, families and singles July 12 at Emerald Pointe Water Park from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Cost is $20 per person; discount rates apply for young children and chaperones. Registration includes unlimited use of the park's water rides and attractions, dinner, a souvenir, and admission to a concert by Christian music group Age of Faith. For reservations, call (800) 555-5900, ext. 172, 173 or 101, by July 8.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is in the chapel area of St. Joan of Arc Church every first Saturday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Call the church office, (252) 252-3151, for more information.

BREVARD — Sacred Heart Church hosts eucharistic adoration each first Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass. The parish also hosts first Saturday devotions with adoration. Call (252) 883-9572 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church hosts eucharistic adoration each first Friday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass and lasting until midnight. Call (704) 549-1607 for more information.

DENVER — Nocturnal adoration is the first Friday of each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begin at 7 p.m. each first Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by rosary recitation and Mass. Call Jim Kennedy, (704) 732-2673, for more information.

HICKORY — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the first Friday through the first Saturday of each month at St. Aloysius Church. For details, call Jean Marie Hirsch at (704) 495-4339 or Sonja Bjerg at (704) 328-5074.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church hosts eucharistic adoration beginning at 9:30 a.m. every first Friday and ending at 9 a.m. Saturday. Call (336) 294-4696 for details.

NEWTON — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Joseph Church every first Friday of the month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasting until 8 p.m. For more information, call (704) 464-9207.

World And National News Briefs

One-Fourth of U.S. Diocesan Priests Not On Active Duty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — One-fourth of all U.S. diocesan priests are now retired, sick or otherwise absent from active duty, according to figures in the 1998 Official Catholic Directory. Directory figures show the number of U.S. parishes without a resident pastor has now grown to 2,460, or more than 13 percent of all parishes. The 2,200-page directory is a complete listing of all official U.S. Catholic institutions and organizations. The figures on retired priests and parishes without resident pastors are not available in the general summary appearing at the end of the directory. But they are given for each diocese at the start of that diocese's listings.

House OKs Bill To Restore Some Immigrants' Food Stamps

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House agreed June 4 to support a bill that would restore food stamps to about 250,000 legal immigrants who lost their benefits in the 1996 changes in welfare. The 364-50 vote followed the Senate's May 12 vote of 92-8 to restore food stamps to about one-quarter of the legal immigrants whose benefits were eliminated when Congress reorganized the welfare system. President Clinton was expected to sign the bill. The bill covers the elderly, children, people with disabilities and refugees who have lived in the United States since before Aug. 22, 1996.

Celam To Seek Developed Nations' Help On Latin American Debt

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — The Latin American bishops' council, or CELAM, was to make a series of recommendations to developed nations to help lift the burden of Latin America's massive foreign debt. Members of CELAM were to meet in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa June 29-30 for a special session in which the main items on the agenda were to be the effects of the continent's massive debt and the search for solutions to alleviate it. According to Tegucigalpa's Archbishop Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, president of CELAM, the bishops will carry out "a thorough analysis of poverty in Latin America" during the meeting, and "seek viable mechanisms for overcoming the debt burden." The bishops will call on international financial institutions to "pardon the debt owed by the poorest nations," he said. Estimates put the total amount owed by Latin American nations at about US$600 billion, with Mexico having the highest debt.

Suicide Foes Want Bill-Blocking Doctors From Giving Lethal Doses

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Some analysts are optimistic that Congress will approve a bill meant to block doctors from prescribing lethal drugs in response to the ruling by Attorney General Janet Reno saying doctors could not be prosecuted for such actions. Just moments after that announcement, Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., introduced the Lethal Drug Abuse Prevention Act. "The legislation reaffirms that physicians should use federally regulated drugs for legitimate medical goals such as relief of pain and suffering," said Hyde, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. "Lethal abuse of drugs has never been approved by the federal government, and is not supported by the American people."

Cuban Bishops Say Expanded Role Is Crucial To Church's Future

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After a week of high-level meetings at the Vatican, Cuban bishops said an expanded role in society was crucial to the church's future on the island. In some areas, such as prison ministry and humanitarian service, the Cuban government seems willing to accept a higher church profile, Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana said at a Vatican press conference June 12. But in others sectors like education and the mass media, the church intends to keep pressing for a wider role, he said.

Catholic Charismatics Urged To Be 'Docile' To Holy Spirit

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — A longtime leader of the Catholic charismatic renewal urged an audience of several thousand at the University of Notre Dame to prepare for the new millennium by being "docile to the Holy Spirit." "What does it mean to be docile to the Holy Spirit? It means to love the Holy Spirit. It means to welcome the Holy Spirit," said Ralph Martin, president of Renewal Ministries in Ann Arbor, Mich. "It means to pay attention to the Holy Spirit. Our life depends on being led by the Holy Spirit." He was keynote speaker for the opening session of the annual national Catholic charismatic conference, which drew about 3,800 participants to the University of Notre Dame June 12-14.

Oregon Liturgical Publisher Disappears In Apparent Scam

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A Portland-area liturgical publisher has disappeared, along with the money of Catholic parishes that never received what they ordered. Liturgy House Publications, also known as D.A. Haney, was known for a popular liturgy planning guide used across the country. Checks drafted to the company have been cashed, and orders placed have not been received. Repeated attempts by churches and Portland's Catholic Sentinel archdiocesan newspaper to reach publisher David Haney have failed.

Lutheran World Council OKs Joint Declaration On Justification

GENEVA (CNS) — The Lutheran World Federation Council unanimously approved the Catholic-Lutheran "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification." The June 16 vote by council members meeting in Geneva was the first official step toward removing the mutual condemnations Catholics and Lutherans leveled against each other more than 450 years ago because of disputes over how people are saved — by faith alone, or by faith and good works. The Vatican, which must also approve the declaration, was expected to make a statement in late June, Vatican officials said.

CNS photo from Reuters

An East Timorese girl prays alongside a procession of nuns during a Catholic service in East Timor's capital of Dili June 14. Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo of Dili urged the people to maintain peace and order amid the renewed Indonesia protests and currency crisis.

Victims Of Religious Persecution Testify On Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The cousin of the Catholic bishop who committed suicide to protest Pakistan's blasphemy laws was among those testifying June 16 at a congressional hearing for victims of religious persecution. Ludvica Bukhsh, whose family was forced to flee Pakistan because of her husband's conversion from Islam to Catholicism, said the suicide of her cousin, Bishop John Joseph of Faisalabad, "was a well-thought-out, contemplated act" to protest the blasphemy laws. She told Catholic News Service she believes "his sacrifice was the only way he could draw international attention to the persecution of Christians and other minorities in Pakistan."

Palm Beach Church Officials Say Three Men Seek Help For Abuse

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (CNS) — Palm Beach diocesan officials have confirmed that three adult men allegedly molested as teens by Bishop J. Keith Symons were recently offered apologies and material assistance from the church to provide for their therapy. Three men claiming to have been molested many years ago by Bishop Symons have been in contact with the diocese in recent weeks, according the diocesan chancellor, Father Michael Edwards.

Wisconsin Laws Penalize Pregnant Women Who Abuse Drugs, Alcohol

ST. FRANCIS, Wis. (CNS) — Wisconsin's new so-called "fetal homicide" and "cocaine mom" laws give the unborn heightened status, a Catholic official and members of state and area pro-life groups said. Both bills were signed into law by Gov. Tommy Thompson in June. The "cocaine mom" law allows judges to order pregnant women who are chronic abusers of drugs or alcohol into a treatment center until they give birth. The "fetal homicide" law covers crimes against unborn children who are killed as the result of a beating or other act of violence inflicted on the mother. Basically the law treats a crime in which the victim is an unborn child much the same as a crime in which the victim has been born.

Unconditional Aid To North Korea Called Key To Reconciliation

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — While welcoming Seoul's "softer" stance toward North Korea, a bishops' conference committee said the government must go further and provide unconditional aid if it truly wants North-South reconciliation. The Korean bishops' conference's Committee for the Evangelization of North Korea offered the advice in a message released June 21 to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of North and South Korea, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Benedictine Abbot Placidus Ri Dong-ho, president of the committee, said that since South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, a Catholic, took power in February, there have been positive policy changes toward the North. The changes, however, have not gone far enough to achieve national reconciliation, Abbot Ri said, because genuine reconciliation should not insist on reciprocity or conditions. The abbot is apostolic administrator of Hamhung and Tokwon Abbey territory in North Korea.

Vatican Encourages Approval Of Convention Against Child Labor

GENEVA (CNS) — A Vatican official encouraged the International Labor Organization to approve a convention against forms of child labor, saying the practice exploited the most vulnerable children across the globe. "The international community must fight this battle on several fronts. That means mobilizing together to find solutions for the reasonable and realistic replacement of child workers and to prevent the problem by attacking the structural causes, so that poverty can be reduced," Archbishop Giuseppe Bertello told a meeting of the ILO in Geneva June 10. The archbishop IS the Vatican's representative to U.N. organizations based in Geneva.

Parish Profile

St. Mark Church

St. Mark Church
15415 Ranson Rd.
Huntersville, NC 28078
(704) 948-0231

Vicariate: Charlotte

Pastor: Msgr. Joseph A. Kerin

Mass Schedule:
Saturday — 5 p.m., in
Huntersville United Methodist
Church; Sunday — 9 & 11 a.m.
at Davidson College

Number of parishioners: 2,889

Number of households: 834

HUNTERSVILLE — A little more than a year ago, the people of the newly established St. Mark Church gathered to celebrate Mass for the first time as a parish family. The site was a spacious building with state-of-the-art environs — complete with dozens of freshly polished bowling lanes, a snack bar, a game room and a shoe rental station.

That first Mass at Northcross Lanes at the Lake, near bustling exit 25 on Interstate 77, introduced to northern Mecklenburg County what was then the Diocese of Charlotte's newest parish.

While the St. Mark community gathered to celebrate that first liturgy on June 1, 1997, the framework for establishing a new parish was set several years earlier. In 1990, the diocese purchased a 23-acre tract of land on Stumptown Road, which intersects Highway 21 near one of the most rapidly growing areas in western North Carolina.

Following careful study and planning by diocesan officials, Bishop William G. Curlin announced the establishment of the parish May 13, 1997. Msgr. Joseph A. Kerin was appointed pastor, and Catholic residents in the northern Mecklenburg communities of Huntersville, Davidson and Cornelius were invited to register as parishioners.

Since then, a steady influx of families in the region has joined the faith community, and St. Mark Church now comprises almost 850 families, or nearly 3,000 parishioners.

While continuing to celebrate Sunday Mass at the bowling facility, Msgr. Kerin soon added a vigil Mass to the schedule. Huntersville United Methodist Church has been the home of the Saturday evening liturgy; from this Methodist hospitality has sprung a joint ministry to Room In The Inn homeless shelter in Charlotte.

The parish rectory, located on the corner of Ranson and Stumptown roads just across the street from the future church site, serves as both Msgr. Kerin's home and the parish office. Daily Mass is celebrated in a chapel set up in the former family room. The rectory and surrounding property have also hosted various parish events and activities.

The "bowling alley parish" received local and national press for its unique house of prayer and its enterprising spirit. A feature in The Wall Street Journal dubbed the worshippers "the holy rollers."

The congregation's steady growth continued, and St. Mark Parish turned to Davidson College for a larger place in which to have Mass. Liturgies are now being celebrated in the college's Love Auditorium and John M. Belk Arena.

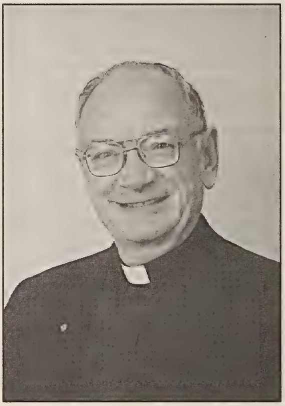
While operating with no permanent church home, St. Mark Parish has made its presence felt from the beginning through active service in the area. Parish and community ministerial highlights include ministry to the homeless; prison ministry; Habitat for Humanity; special holiday and seasonal outreach projects for needy families; ministry to single, pregnant mothers in need; Advent and Lenten discussion groups; and a Spanish Mass for participants in a community "English as a second language" program.

The parish maintains an active relationship with a local nursing home, where volunteers regularly visit, throw birthday and holiday parties and host classic movie viewings. On behalf of St. Mark Parish, Msgr. Kerin accepted an award from the facility in appreciation for outstanding volunteerism.

The parish family life committee organizes parish gatherings for all age groups, and the craft guild contributes altar cloths and priests' vestments.

St. Mark Parish officials are currently discussing a master plan with a builder and an architect, and a capital campaign is being organized for the near future.

The parish currently celebrates three weekend Masses, and daily Mass continues to be offered at the rectory.



Catholic Daughters Meet For Convention

ELIZABETH CITY — Newly elected officers of the North Carolina State Council of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas were installed last month during the organization's 22nd biennial convention, which took place in Elizabeth City.

Doreen Warren of Elizabeth City was elected state regent. Other officers elected to the state court are Joyce Rachid of New Bern, first vice regent; Maryann Grabasky of Greensboro, second vice regent; Sheila Storey of Durham, recording secretary; and Teresa Manner of Richlands, treasurer.

The new officers were installed during a weekend Mass at Holy Family Church. Also during the Mass, retiring State Regent Lucille Kroboth was presented the Traveling Award of Excellence by Maureen Daughtry, national director.

The convention included an address by Bishop Joseph F. Gossman of Raleigh, who spoke during an awards luncheon.

Founded in 1903, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is an organization whose members are active in the Roman Catholic Church's religious, charitable and educational apostolates. Through their programs and services, members strive to embrace the principle of faith promoting justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and dignity.

All 11 local units, called courts, in North Carolina were represented at the convention.

The Catholic News & Herald is now operating in its bi-weekly, summer schedule. We will resume our regular weekly schedule Aug. 21.

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Photo by Joann Keane

Mercy Sister Mary Edward Brennan completes a display of patriotism at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont in this July 6 photograph. The World War II veteran, who served as a physiotherapy technician, raises, lowers and salutes the American flag each day. Sister Mary Edward is one of six Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina celebrating jubilees in 1998. **See page 13 for related story.**

Daughters Of Charity Say Goodbye To Triad

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

GREENSBORO — "My heart is filled with gratitude."

So began Sister Celeste Donohue's farewell address to some 100 guests gathered at St. Pius X Parish in Greensboro on June 15. After a 94-year presence in Greensboro, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul were bidding goodbye. The sisters were reassigned by their order and are returning to Maryland.

Sister Celeste and Sister Marian Hagner were the last of their order to serve the Greensboro community. Their mission, like those of their predecessors, was to serve God and mankind through education and charity.

In 1904, when doctors from the Piedmont medical community requested their help, the Daughters of Charity of Emmitsburg, Md., arrived to help build and operate St. Leo's Hospital and Nursing School. Four years after the hospital opened, 1908, the religious order marked its centennial and paid honor to its founder, Elizabeth Ann Seton.

For the next 100 years, the Daughters of Charity ministered to, prayed with and lived among the people of the Piedmont. In 1926 their ministry expanded to include St. Mary's Parish and School and St. Benedict's School, which became St. Pius X School in 1955.

The sisters reached out again in 1984 to minister to the elderly residing at Dolan Manor. There they coordinated social and religious activities. In addition, they continued to serve the poor, remain a presence at St. Pius X School with frequent visits to the classrooms to teach religion, and build on the many friendships they made with people in Greensboro.

"I met the Daughters of Charity over 25 years ago in Reidsville," recalled Rosemary Martin, a St. Pius X parishioner. "They came to Holy Infant Parish to assist with religious education and first Communion preparation."

"The Daughters of Charity were a spiritual presence never to be forgotten," said Sue Geraghty, principal of St. Pius X School.

Martin praised the sisters for their help with migrant ministry in the Greensboro vicariate. "They did so much for the migrants," she said, "from collecting clothes and books for the children to read, to teaching the adults English."

In 1990 another Daughter of Charity, Sister Ann Joseph, operated the Greensboro extension office of Catholic Social Services. "Sister Ann Joseph did much for the justice and peace ministry," said Martin. "She brought a lot of spirit to the Greensboro Vicariate and helped its members focus on outreach as justice issues."

Dolores Ahrens, another St. Pius X parishioner, met the sisters eight years ago. "They found out I had a van and talked me into transporting the Dolan Manor residents to various outings," she

See **Daughters Of Charity,** page 2

Underlining Acceptance Of Church Teaching

Pope Changes Canon Law To Defend Catholic Faith

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Citing the need to defend the Catholic faith, Pope John Paul II changed the Code of Canon Law to underline Catholics' obligation to accept church teaching.

The pope said he was adding two items to canon law "to defend the faith of the Catholic Church," particularly when dealing with teachings that are "definitive" but have not been solemnly proclaimed as infallible.

In an apostolic letter, "Ad Tuendam Fidem" ("To Defend the Faith"), the pope ordered the changes to be made in the Latin-rite and Eastern-rite codes of canon law.

The Vatican press office distributed the letter June 30 in Latin and Italian after all other Vatican offices had closed for the day. The office also published a commentary in several languages written by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The commentary said the pope's 1994 letter explaining that only men could be ordained to the priesthood was an example of the teachings that require "firm and definitive assent," even if they are not solemnly proclaimed as infallible.

"Whoever denies these truths would be in a position of rejecting a truth of Catholic doctrine and would, therefore, no longer be in full communion with the Catholic Church," the doctrinal congregation said.

Canon 750 of the Latin code and Canon 598 of the Eastern code say Catholics must believe all that is contained in the written Word of God and all that has been proclaimed as being divinely revealed.

The pope added a second paragraph to each code to underline the assent required when dealing with church teaching that has not been proclaimed as divinely revealed but has been taught as belonging to the Catholic faith and its unbroken tradition. The new paragraph says:

"Each and every thing definitively proposed by the magisterium of the church regarding faith and morals, that is those which are required in order to piously safeguard and faithfully expound the deposit of faith, also must be firmly accepted and held; one who denies the propositions which are to be held definitively, therefore, opposes the doctrine of the Catholic Church."

The second change ordered by the pope applies church penalties to those who deny the definitive teachings.

The papal letter reaffirmed the three traditional levels of church teaching and the type of assent required by each.

Truths contained in the Word of God and those teachings which the church says are divinely and formally revealed are in the first category.

Those who "obstinately" doubt or deny the first category of truths fall "under the censure of heresy," according to

See **Changes To Canon Law,** page 9

More Catholic Schools Needed Now, Say Triad Parents And Parishioners

By **JOANN KEANE**
Associate Editor

GREENSBORO — If parents made one thing clear during the recent Triad Catholic Schools Survey, it was their desire that "more Catholic schools are needed in my city now." This belief resonates with support from both the parents of students and future students, and parishioners outside the Catholic school system.

More than 11,000 surveys were mailed in February to Triad-area Catholic parishioners and to parents of children who attend Catholic schools in the Triad to determine their opinions and attitudes about building new Catholic schools in the area. "The results were phenomenal," said Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Charlotte. "Our return rate was over 60 percent by parents and over 50 percent by parishioners who do not have children in Catholic schools."

Survey results were presented in public meetings in late May at locations in Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point, giving parents and interested individuals a first-hand look at the data gleaned from the surveys.

The survey was utilized to measure parent and parishioners' beliefs on Catholic school education. "The conclusions show very positive support for Catholic schools from all survey participants," said Skube. "The survey data will help shape the future of Catholic school education in the Triad."

A response committee — comprised of local Triad and diocesan leaders — will examine the survey recommendations over the summer. The comprehensive survey results will help the committee as it develops recommendations to Bishop William G. Curlin about Triad Catholic schools early this fall.

The independent research commissioned by the Diocese of Charlotte was conducted by Epley Associates, a statewide communications and research firm.

Daughters Of Charity, from page 1

said. "I just couldn't say no to Sister Celeste."

Ahrens said the sisters' ability to ask St. Pius X Church for help has enabled the parish to grow in its outreach ministries. "The good people of St. Pius have responded generously to the needs of their community," she said.

For Margie Lipford and Bill Law, the sisters' presence was personal. "Both of us battled colon cancer four years ago," said Law. "Sister Marian came to me in the hospital to give me the Eucharist. She was so compassionate as she sat and talked with me."

During Lipford's 64-day hospital stay, the sisters made frequent visits. "Sister Marian was go gentle, bright and calming," she said. "I could not swallow much, so she would break off tiny pieces of the Eucharist and feed them to me. Her presence was reassuring that God was with us."

Throughout the celebration, the numerous sisters who served the Greensboro area were remembered with love and reverence. And throughout the evening, laughter, tears and memories were standard fare.

"The Daughters of Charity were a spiritual presence never to be forgotten," said Sue Geraghty, principal of St. Pius X School.

"The sisters came to serve and did it well," said Father Frank Connolly, pastor of St. Pius X Church.

In the end, it was the Daughters of Charity who were served with special liturgy and catered meal. "We will never forget you," said Sister Marian. "We consider this event to be a tribute to the many sisters who came here since 1906."

Courtesy photo by St. Pius X

Daughters of Charity Sisters Celeste Donohue and Marian Hagner are shown before a special Mass held in their honor. The sisters were the last of their order to serve the Greensboro community.

Scripture

Readings for the week of July 12 - 18, 1998

Sunday
Deuteronomy 30:10-14
Colossians 1:15-20
Luke 10:25-37

Monday
Isaiah 1:10-17
Matthew 10:34—11:1

Tuesday
Isaiah 7:1-9
Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday
Isaiah 10:5-7,13-16
Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday
Isaiah 26:7-9
Matthew 11:28-30

Friday
Isaiah 38:1-6,21-22,7-8
Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday
Micah 2:1-5
Matthew 12:14-21

Readings for the week of July 19 - 25, 1998

Sunday
Genesis 18:1-10
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

Monday
Micah 6:1-4,6-8
Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday
Micah 7:14-15,18-20
Matthew 12:46-50

Wednesday
Jeremiah 1:1,4-10
John 20:1-2,11-18

Thursday
Jeremiah 2:1-3,7-8,12-13
Matthew 13:10-17

Friday
Jeremiah 3:14-17
Matthew 13:18-23

Saturday
2 Corinthians 4:7-15
Matthew 20:20-28

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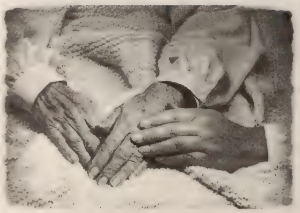

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Pope John Paul II's New Apostolic Letter

Sunday Prayer Is Human Need, Religious Obligation

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sunday prayer and rest is a human need and a religious obligation, Pope John Paul II said in a new apostolic letter.

In the letter published July 7 at the Vatican, the pope focused on "the duty to keep Sunday holy, especially by sharing in the Eucharist and by relaxing in a spirit of Christian joy and fraternity."

> *Just as for the Jewish community, the pope said, the Catholic obligation to observe the Lord's day is "not just a matter of community religious discipline, but a defining and indelible expression of our relationship with God."*

"Dies Domini" ("The Day of the Lord") reaffirmed church teaching that Catholics must attend Sunday Mass and that other Sunday activities should be in harmony with the sacred character of the day.

While not criticizing store openings, entertainment and sporting events on a Sunday, the pope said all people have a right to a day of rest, and the Sunday rest should be dedicated first of all to communal prayer and praise of God.

Sundays are a very appropriate day for an after-Mass trip to the countryside, seaside or mountains, he said.

"As the day on which man is at peace with God, with himself and with others, Sunday becomes a moment when people can look anew upon the wonders of nature" and praise their Creator, he said.

Although the church's teaching about Sundays "may merge naturally with the human need for rest, it is faith alone which gives access to its deeper meaning and ensures that it will not become banal and trivialized," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said he wrote the letter to encourage people who make Sunday Mass the center of their week and to exhort those who have given up the practice.

"In the minds of many of the faithful, not only the sense of the centrality of the Eucharist but even the sense of the duty to give thanks to the Lord and to pray to him with others in the community of the church, seems to be diminishing," the pope said.

Keeping the Lord's day holy is so important that it is included in the Ten Commandments and in the Code of Canon Law, he said.

Just as for the Jewish community, the pope said, the Catholic obligation to observe the Lord's day is "not just a matter of community religious discipline, but a defining and indelible expression of our relationship with God."

Christians celebrate Sunday as the Lord's day, instead of marking the Saturday Sabbath, because they are remembering each week the victory of Jesus on Easter Sunday, he said.

Because it is an Easter celebration, Sunday Mass must be a gathering marked by obvious joy, the pope said.

"The festive character of the Sunday Eucharist expresses the joy that Christ communicates to his church through the gift of the Spirit," he said.

The pope called on pastors and those involved in parish liturgies to give particular attention to the songs chosen for Sunday Mass, "since singing is a particularly apt way to express a joyful heart, accentuating the solemnity of the celebration and fostering the sense of a common faith and a shared love."

Special care also must be taken in preparing the homily, he said.

The Second Vatican Council reaffirmed the importance of listening to Christ in the Liturgy of the Word by allowing the readings to be proclaimed in the language of the local assembly, he said.

"In considering the Sunday Eucharist more than 30 years after the council," the pope said, "we need to assess how well the Word of God is being proclaimed and how effectively the people of God have grown in knowledge and love of sacred Scripture."

The entire Mass, he said, including the prayers, songs and homily, should reflect the theme of the Scripture readings proclaimed.

Sunday Mass is a special sign that the unity of the church is nourished by and expressed in the Eucharist, the pope said.

While various groups and movements present in a parish have their importance and place, the Sunday Mass must be an expression of the unity of the whole parish, he said.

CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

Catholics worship together at Sunday Mass. In his new apostolic letter on keeping the Lord's Day holy, Pope John Paul II says the Christian Sunday leads the faithful to "ponder and live the event of Easter."

"This is why on Sunday, the day of gathering, small group Masses are not to be encouraged," he said.

Communion with Christ, the pope said, is tied to communion with our brothers and sisters.

"The sign of peace — in the Roman rite significantly placed before eucharistic communion — is a particularly expressive gesture which the faithful are invited to make as a manifestation of the people of God's acceptance of all that has been accomplished in the celebration and of the commitment to mutual love which is made in sharing the one bread," Pope John Paul said.

After listening to the Gospel and participating in the eucharistic sacrifice, he said, Catholics must leave the Mass with a renewed commitment to performing works of charity, promoting solidarity and sharing the Gospel message with others.

While each Catholic has a serious obligation to attend Sunday Mass, bishops and priests must do all they can to make Masses available, including on Saturday and Sunday evenings, the pope said.

When no priest is available, he said, Catholics are encouraged to keep Sunday as a day of prayer and gathering by participating in a prayer service.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil — 5:30PM
Sunday — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
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Saturday — Rosary 8:45AM; Mass 9:00AM; Novena 9:30AM
Confession: Saturday — 4:00 to 5:00PM or by request

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Pro-Life Corner

"I'm the most hated physician in America," says Dr. John Stephen, "and I'm proud of it." For $1,200 cash, Stephen offers early-term "fetal sex determination" services so parents can abort the child if they're not happy with the gender of the child they've conceived.

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 12 — 4 p.m.
Charismatic Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

July 19 — 2:30 p.m.
St. Gabriel Parish Center Dedication
Charlotte

July 26 — 11 a.m.
Mass with candidacy for seminarians
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

God does not love us because we are valuable.

We are valuable because God loves us.

— Fulton J. Sheen

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Evangelizing The World Through The Holy Spirit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience July 1.

Dear brothers and sisters,

On Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles to begin the church's mission of evangelization. Jesus today calls the church to evangelize the world in the power of that same Holy Spirit. This is the very power we see at work in the ministry of Jesus himself: the power to liberate from sickness, from sin and even from death; the power to speak with authority and boldness, especially in a world which does not always welcome the Gospel. The Holy Spirit makes the proclamation of the Gospel fresh from age to age; this is why we can speak of "a new evangelization" in our time — an evangelization which is new in fervor, new in method and new in expression. This requires of us a life of prayer in which the power of the Spirit is at work. As the church moves towards the new millennium, may the Holy Spirit bring all Christians to full communion, creating a single voice of praise and proclamation from the many voices of believers scattered throughout the world.

I welcome the Sisters of the Resurrection who have come to Rome for their general chapter. May the Holy Spirit guide you in all your decisions. I also welcome the delegation from the Polish American Congress. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Scotland, Canada, Australia, Japan and the United States of America, I cordially invoke God's blessings of joy and peace.

Pope Presents Pallium To 19 Archbishops, Including Two From United States

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Nineteen archbishops, including two from the United States, reaffirmed their allegiance to Pope John Paul II and received the sacred pallium from him. "This pallium will be for you a symbol of unity and a sign of communion with the Apostolic See," the pope said as each archbishop knelt before him June 29 to receive the circular band of wool marked with crosses. Archbishops John G. Vlazny of Portland, Ore., and Alexander J. Brunett of Seattle, along with archbishops appointed over the past year in Africa, Europe, South America and Asia, vowed to be "always faithful and obedient" to the church, to the pope and to his successors.

Papal Middle East Visit, Other Events, Considered For 2000

ROME (CNS) — Despite health and logistical problems, Pope John Paul II still says his dream is to travel to the Middle East as part of his year 2000 celebrations, the Vatican spokesman said. Meanwhile, the Vatican is planning interreligious meetings for the jubilee year, said the spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, and Cardinal Francis Arinze, the president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Navarro-Valls said that as recently as mid-June the pope was talking about a trip "to follow the footsteps of Abraham" from Ur in what is now Iraq, through Syria and into Israel.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

New Spotlight on Assisted Suicide

All of us should be concerned about developments in the physician-assisted suicide issue. Oregon voters have approved a law allowing physicians to prescribe lethal doses of drugs for terminally ill patients with less than six months to live. And Dr. Jack Kevorkian in Michigan now wants to combine organ donation with assisted suicide.

Oregon is the first state to go so far as to have a law that permits physician-assisted suicide.

Opponents of physician-assisted suicide had tried to get the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to revoke the drug licenses of doctors in Oregon who provide the lethal doses. But in early June, Attorney General Janet Reno said no, explaining the DEA does not regulate and resolve what she called moral issues. Their mandate is to take care of drug trafficking, period. Editorials in major newspapers agreed with her decision.

A few days after Reno's decision, a newspaper headline read "Kevorkian Donating Kidneys From Suicide." I really got the chills as I read about Kevorkian saying the "ultimate aim" of assisted suicide — which he also calls "medicide" — should be organ donation and human research!

No wonder many physicians have been tremendously wary of physician-assisted suicide, calling it the "opening of a floodgate" and "a slippery slope."

I remember covering a state-wide conference for family physicians in Connecticut a few years ago when one doctor explained the "slippery slope." He asked, "If we start out accepting this 'medicide,' can it degenerate into an abuse'' where, for example, relatives looking for a faster financial settlement, "can make decisions about others' lives?" It's scary when "medicide" is about greedy money-grabbing or the cannibalization of human organs.

Then there is the greatest problem with Kevorkian's "kindness." It takes away the humanity of a person near death.

I think we need to put much more attention on the spiritually beautiful time that dying can be and less focus on pain and suffering. An article in Woman's Day magazine subheaded one paragraph "Death Is a Sacred Event," and quoted a chaplain who said being with someone who is dying is "one of the most holy of experiences."

The article quotes Dr. Sherwin Nuland, author of "How We Die." It said he is a man "who is not given to spiritual explanations, (but) has felt the same grace. 'When a man is dying,' he explains, 'the walls of his room enclose a chapel, and it is right to enter it in hushed reverence.'"

I related to that in remembering my Uncle Dominic in the week before he died. He never focused on his pain; he was too busy rejoicing with those of us who came to visit.

Six of us were there one day. He turned to look at me. His face was radiant, and with a beaming smile he said, "Look Antoinette, all the people I love are here." I knew then some others were there whom the rest of us could not see.

What's ultimately wrong with the Kevorkian model is that it cuts off all the possibilities for the dying person to harvest the spiritual riches that can bring joy in the midst of pain and suffering. If for no other reason than this, an assisted suicide is always a wrongful death.

Antoinette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

Attitude: A Matter of Choice

Jerry Zentis is the kind of guy that can drive most people bananas. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone asks him how he is doing, he replies, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

As a restaurant manager, Jerry was unique. He had several waiters who stuck with him, following from restaurant to restaurant because of his attitude. Jerry was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry would tell him or her to look on the positive side of the situation. One became curious enough to say, "I don't get it, Jerry! You can't be that positive all of the time. How do you do it?"

Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself , 'Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood.' I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining, or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, but it's not that easy," his assistant protested.

"Yes it is," Jerry said. "Life is about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or a bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

Several years later, Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business: He left the back door open one morning and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand shook from nervousness. It slipped off the lock. The robbers panicked and shot him.

Luckily, Jerry was found and rushed to the local trauma center. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, he was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body.

About six months after the accident, Jerry met up with one of his former waiters. When asked how he was, Jerry replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins! Wanna see my scars?"

His friend declined, but did ask what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door. Then as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" the waiter asked. Jerry replied, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

"Well," he continued, "there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me. She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses suddenly stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'BULLETS!' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead'."

Jerry pulled through thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. My friends, every day we have a choice to live fully or not. Attitude can be everything.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

The Anointing of a Priest's Hands

Q. I am an extraordinary eucharistic minister for our parish. Recently, two people have told me they do not want to receive Communion from me or any of the other sisters or lay ministers.

They both claim the priest's hands are anointed at ordination to give Communion, and no one else should do it.

I don't believe this. I asked our pastor; he just said they are wrong, but didn't explain further. What are they talking about?

A. The objection you heard was one raised by some when the practice of having nonordained people minister Communion was restored in the church more than 30 years ago.

I had not heard this argument, however, for nearly three decades until a few months ago when it was revived in certain periodicals and at least one new so-called "orthodox Catholic" prayerbook I have seen.

As your pastor said, people who make this claim about the ordination of priests are wrong. It's just bad erroneous thinking, theologically and liturgically, and a surprising lack of knowledge of history.

The symbolism of placing oil on a person, whether at baptism, confirmation, anointing of the sick or ordination, is not intended as a particular sanctification of that part of the body. It signifies rather, as it did even in the Old Testament, a consecration and dedication of that individual to an exalted position in the religious life of the people. In the Christian life, of course, that is directed to the spiritual lives of the family of Christ.

Jesus himself is called the Christ, the one christened or anointed by the Father to a role and mission of unique dignity.

Obviously, a central function of the ordained priest is to preside at the eucharistic liturgy, to make possible the celebration of the unbloody renewal of the death and resurrection of our Lord by the Christian community.

The anointing of his hands at ordination, however, is not directly related to the priest's giving Communion any more than it is to the forgiveness of sins or any other essential responsibilities which are his as leader of a Christian people.

If we need further clarification and certainty on the matter, we have it from the fact that for 1,200 years or so any Christian commonly gave Communion to other Christians.

People took Communion in their hands at Mass, gave it to each other and ministered the Eucharist to family or friends at home who could not be present at Mass.

It seems to me the hand is no less holy than the tongue. The incredible truth is that our Lord gave his body and blood as our spiritual food and drink in the first place. From that viewpoint, at least, it seems ridiculous to make a big case out of which part of our body touches the host first.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Starting a Family

When is the right time for a couple to have a child? This question was addressed at a Pre-Cana seminar we led a few weeks ago. Four engaged couples in a small group discussion reported back to the large group a set of criteria that made sense from a secular, objective perspective. Yet, their "common sense" seemed detached from the lived experience of many couples who make the choice to be "fruitful."

Four small-group discussions focused on scenarios pertaining to different issues common in marriage. They were to offer advice to the couples in the scenarios on problems relating to in-laws, finances, friendships, and children. These small-group discussions are opportunities to tap into the wisdom that is present among the engaged couples. Their opinions in key areas of marriage and family life often give us, the facilitators, opportunities to present to them "food for thought" that may challenge conventional wisdom.

The advice the small group gave about the right time to have a child was to:

"Look at their financial situation and determine if they can afford to have children. Take into consideration the cost of childcare, healthcare, food, shelter and clothing."

"Do you have the living space? Do you need to move into a larger home?"

"Consider their educational and career goals. Is the time right? Would having children now be reasonable in light of those goals?"

"Consider your 'biological clock'. How much time do you have?"

"Are you emotionally ready for children? Are you both mature enough?"

These suggestions make sense and probably any responsible couple would consider these and other questions about having a child. Yet, when we think about our actual decision to be open to children in our relationship, these considerations became tertiary.

Our initial reluctance to having children was driven by fear. We were afraid that we would be too young, too financially insecure, too immature, too impatient, too selfish. We didn't think that we had what it would take to be good parents. We didn't think that we were worthy.

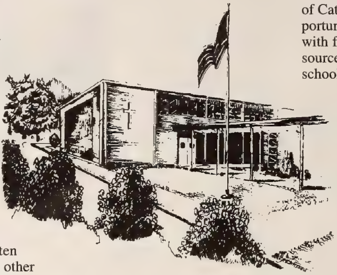
Then an amazing thing happened. We discovered God in our marriage. We found something in our relationship that was more than just the two of us. We experienced a shared spirit among us that became the object of our dedication. And our cup began to overflow. Our love had to be fruitful. And we knew.

This is the experience of many couples. All the sensible discernment over the right time, right space, and right circumstances fade into the background. The fears and doubts don't necessarily disappear. But they recede. And faith takes its proper place.

Many of our initial concerns were real and legitimate. Through faith and openness to God's guidance, we have gained all we need. But we don't kid ourselves. We are not worthy because we're smart. We are worthy of the gifts of children because we were open to "the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that [we would] be filled with all the fullness of God."(Ephesians 3:19)

Endowment Assists Asheville School As It Moves Toward Future

By **MIKE KROKOS**
Editor



ASHEVILLE — While many of the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic schools are affiliated with individual parishes, Asheville Catholic School is unique.

As the only interparochial institution, the school is responsible for ministering to the educational needs of five Catholic communities in Asheville and other surrounding parishes as well.

Asheville Catholic, which serves students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, is unique in other ways, too. When former school administrator Father Jim Solari saw the need to address some of the major focuses of Asheville Catholic's educational ministry, he turned to the diocese for guidance. An endowment campaign was initiated in the area's Catholic community that included friends of the school, alumni, and alumni families. By the end of the drive, approximately $400,000 was raised, and the result was the establishment of the Asheville Catholic School Educational Foundation in 1990.

"The endowment enables the school to retain quality teachers, offer scholarship assistance, offer continuing education, and enhance the school's curriculum," explained the school's current administrator, Father Frank Cancro, who shares chaplaincy duties at Asheville Catholic with other area pastors. "Father Solari saw the benefits an endowment could provide, and it seemed that the best answer (to meeting the school's needs) was setting up an ongoing structure that would provide some regular income that the school could rely on."

In recent years, funds from the endowment have benefited the school with computer hardware and software programs, and in upgrading the computer education program. Monies have also assisted in integrating computers within other parts of the curriculum as well. Also, school officials recently finalized TAP — a Tuition Assistance Program — that will help students with educational costs.

"Since we are committed to offering an education both to the Catholic community and others who see the value of Catholic education, TAP is a real opportunity for us to continue that mission with families who may not have the resources necessary to enroll in a Catholic school," Father Cancro said.

The current Asheville Catholic School endowment totals more than $430,000. The gift will continue to generate funds for the school, because as an endowment, the principal is never used. The number of endowments in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is up to 50 and the total assets of the diocesan Foundation are at $4.9 million.

"Through their gifts, Asheville Catholic supporters are allowing the school to grow and meet its needs in perpetuity," said Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation.

Kelley added that individuals contributing to endowments take another step in living out a life of stewardship. "Just as we make gifts from our monthly income, we also have an opportunity to give from the accumulated assets to endow schools, churches and other organizations in the Diocese of Charlotte," he said.

For more information about the Foundation or establishing an endowment, contact Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203, or call (704) 370-3301.

Conference To Explore Christian Experience Of Prison/Jail Ministry

HICKORY — *"Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord ... (w)hen did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25: 37, 39-40)* So concludes the Gospel discourse on the final judgment, a message that will be explored in depth at a prison/jail ministry seminar in Hickory Aug. 15.

Bill Matevie, chaplain at Mecklenburg County Jail North and coordinator of prison ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte, will facilitate the day of listening and learning about ministry to the incarcerated. The seminar will take place at the Catholic Conference Center. All laypeople, clergy and religious interested in the many facets of prison/jail ministry are invited.

The seminar will feature sharing from prison ministry volunteers, former inmates, clergy and family members of inmates. "We wish to put a face to this ministry," Matevie says.

The conference lasts from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. A continental breakfast is provided, and lunch is available. Admission is free, though reservations are suggested. For reservations, call Matevie at (704) 336-8235. For directions to the conference center, call (704) 327-7441.

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Entertainment

CNS photo from Touchstone Pictures

A roughneck crew of oil drillers set out on a space journey to save the world from an oncoming asteroid in the action-drama “Armageddon.'” The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

“Smoke Signals” Tells Tale Of Anger, Love, Forgiveness

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — In “Smoke Signals” (Miramax), the ashes of a deadbeat dad in Phoenix lure two Native Americans off their Idaho reservation.

Leaping between past and present, writer Sherman Alexie and director Chris Eyre spin a modern tale of pain and anger, love and forgiveness, shot from a distinctly Indian perspective.

Since infancy, the fates of Victor (Adam Beach) and Thomas (Evan Adams) were intertwined when a deadly house fire orphaned Thomas while Victor's dad Arnold (Gary Farmer) managed to save Thomas.

A dozen years later, alcoholic, abusive Arnold deserts his wife and son, never to return.

At 22, Victor is a surly young man who only tolerates nerdy chatterbox Thomas. But when word comes that Arnold has died in Phoenix and his ashes must be picked up, Thomas offers to pay the bus fare there — if he can accompany Victor.

Thus begins a journey during which Victor urges Thomas to act and think more like a warrior (“Get stoic!”) while Thomas encourages Victor to open up his hardened heart.

Arnold's ashes are being held by his trailer-park neighbor (Irene Bedard), who breaks through Victor's hostility by revealing his father's shameful secret that eventually compelled him to leave the tribe.

Just as Thomas suggested, Victor's father was more than just a drunk to be hated and forgotten.

Despite its dark themes of poverty on the reservation, alcoholism and absentee fathers, the movie is filled with droll observations about contemporary Indian life. When the reservation radio station has nothing to say during the traffic report — there is no traffic — the DJ simply suggests, “It's a good day for being indigenous.”

Dryly self-effacing wit crops up repeatedly in a film where Native Americans don't fall into the usual categories of solemn, noble or, as in Hollywood past, savage. Here it's OK for Thomas to aspire to be the tribe's storyteller in the revered oral tradition — but also to act downright silly at times.

The sting of prejudice surfaces when two burly white men usurp Victor and Thomas' seats on the bus, but the younger men get the last laugh by singing a witty ditty mocking John Wayne's teeth. In another development, a drunk driver blames a car accident on Victor, who is surprised by the white sheriff's (Tom Skerritt) handling of the charges lodged against him.

The cast is fresh and appealing, their performances subdued and nicely nuanced. By the end, this road movie has become a very human story touching on universal emotions as pent-up hatred gives way to tolerance and the beginnings of forgiveness.

Due to fleeting violence and an instance of profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

“The Alligator People” (1959)

Woefully inept monster movie in which wife Beverly Garland tries to keep hubby Richard Crane from being turned into a reptile by mad doctor George Macready's alligator serum. Directed by Roy Del Ruth, the back-country setting is creepy but the script is ludicrous, with acting to match. Stylized violence and menacing situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Fox, $14.98)

“The Boxer” (1997)

Against the backdrop of a shaky IRA cease-fire, the efforts of a Belfast IRA ex-con (Daniel Day-Lewis) to resume a boxing career and romance his old flame (Emily Watson) are complicated by the fact that she is now the wife of an IRA political prisoner. Director Jim Sheridan explores IRA infighting in a grim yet hopeful drama that stresses surviving in a culture of violence. Some violence, much rough language and intermittent profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Universal, rental)

“Different for Girls” (1997)

British drama in which a bike messenger (Ruppert Graves) is attracted to a woman (Steven Mackintosh) whom he finally recognizes is an old school buddy after a sex-change operation and proceeds unwittingly to wreck his old friend's new life, then tries to make amends. Directed by Richard Spence, the story's bizarre situation is given some plausibility by the credible performances of the two leads and the serious treatment given to the human dignity of a person who's attempted to switch genders. Troubling theme of transsexuality, several sexual encounters with brief nudity and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox Lorber, rental)

“The Fly” (1958)

Classic horror fantasy in which a French-Canadian scientist (David Hedison) invents a device capable of reducing an object to a stream of molecules for transmission and reassembly elsewhere, but in trying the process on himself, his molecules get mixed up with those of a housefly. Directed by Kurt Neumann, the story unfolds in flashbacks during the investigation of the scientist's disappearance, with the memorable payoff as the man's brother (Vincent Price) and a Montreal policeman (Herbert Marshall) discover a fly with a human head caught in a spider's web. Some menace, a few frights and the killing of two half-human creatures. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Fox, $14.98)

“Good Will Hunting” (1997)

Feel-good drama about a tough South Boston youth (Matt Damon) with a brilliant mind and deep-seated emotional problems whom an MIT professor (Stellan Skarsgard) wants to rush into a top professional job while a psychologist (Robin Williams) pushes him to deal first with his problems, then decide on his future. Directed by Gus Van Sant, the theme of a wounded psyche being made whole is helped greatly by credible performances from a talented cast but the story is highly manipulative and the treatment needlessly vulgarized. Stylized violence, an implied sexual relationship, a restrained bedroom scene, sexual jokes, recurring rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Miramax, rental)

“Melody Time” (1948)

Another of Walt Disney's feature-length variety shows with songs, stories and musical interludes presented in cel animation, live-action photography and sometimes a mixture of both. The music segments vary from the lively to the lyric with visuals to match, but more memorable are the stories of itinerant planter Johnny Appleseed, exuberant young tugboat Little Toot and, best of all, the tall tales of Western folk hero Pecos Bill as earnestly told by singing cowboy Roy Rogers. An enjoyable family diversion. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Disney, $22.99)

“Phantoms” (1998)

Dreary horror movie pitting a shape-shifting monster against a small-town sheriff (Ben Affleck), two sisters (Rose McGowan and Joanna Going) and an eccentric professor (Peter O'Toole) who holds the key to destroying the deadly menace. Director Joe Chappelle uses familiar cliches to advance the narrative but neglects to build the suspense necessary to make the fright formula work. Recurring fantasy violence, some profanity and occasional rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Dimension, rental)

Diocese Launches Appeal For Church Destroyed By Fire

By JOHN STRANGE

KILL DEVIL HILLS, N.C. (CNS) — All registered Catholics in the Raleigh Diocese will be asked to help rebuild a popular Outer Banks church that was heavily damaged in a deliberately set fire June 11.

Investigators determined that arson was the cause of the early morning fire that practically destroyed Holy Redeemer Church, popular with vacationers to the North Carolina coast.

Debbie Rossi, diocesan development director, said a letter from Bishop F. Joseph Gossman appealing for help was scheduled to be sent to all families the first full week of July.

"I am asking each diocesan family to consider making a donation to our brothers and sisters at Holy Redeemer to help them put their lives back together again," writes Bishop Gossman.

Said Father Terry Collins, pastor of the Outer Banks parish, "We find it most heartening and encouraging that the bishop and the diocese are responding to our great needs, not only spiritually but financially as well."

Father Collins said summer visitors, parishioners and past vacationers from as far away as Maine have already been generous with donations. While Holy Redeemer boasts about 700 families year-round, the numbers swell with vacationers in the summer.

A few days after the fire, Father Gerald Lewis, vicar general, sent letters to all parishes asking them to support the parish financially.

In his letter Bishop Gossman notes that many parishes have come through with collections and other efforts. Now, he said, "aware of the actual need" the diocese is going to individual families for help.

Among the support received so far was a $500 check from an interchurch fellowship.

Diocesan officials are calling the damages to the church building a total loss. While parish offices took the brunt of the fire, heat and smoke collected in the sanctuary, charring most of altar area.

Kill Devil Hills Deputy Fire Chief Craig Clark said the sanctuary was minutes from a "flashover," where much of the interior space reaches combustible temperatures at the same time.

Holy Redeemer Church is the centerpiece of the Outer Banks Catholic Parish, which includes the missions and stations of Holy Trinity in Nags Head; Our Lady of the Seas, Buxton; Annunciation, Ocracoke; and Corolla Chapel in Corolla. It is currently using First Flight Middle School in Kill Devil Hills for its worship space.

The fire remained under investigation.

Those interested should send donations to The Outer Banks Catholic Parish, P.O. Box 327, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948-0327.

Book Says Vatican Representative Confronted Hitler On Persecution

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's representative to Germany during World War II confronted Adolf Hitler about persecution of Jews, prompting the Nazi leader to hurl a glass to the floor in anger, says a new book published in Italy.

The episode was highlighted June 25 by the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, in defense of Pope Pius XII, who has been accused by some Jewish groups of not doing enough to stop the Holocaust.

"In order to speak in defense of the Jews, a representative of the pope was not afraid to face Hitler directly. This episode speaks for itself," the Vatican newspaper said of the incident involving Archbishop Cesare Orsenigo.

The book by Monica Biffi, titled "Msgr. Cesare Orsenigo: Apostolic Nuncio in Germany (1930-46)," offers a detailed account of the diplomat's contacts during the war years. The story of Archbishop Orsenigo's meeting with Hitler in 1943, it said, was related by the nuncio himself in these words:

"A few days ago I finally was able to go to Berchtesgaden, where I was received by Hitler; as soon as I touched upon the Jewish question, our discussion lost all sense of serenity. Hitler turned his back on me, went to the window and started to drum on the glass with his fingers ... while I continued to spell out our complaints.

"All of a sudden, Hitler turned around, grabbed a glass off a nearby table and hurled it to the floor with an angry gesture. Faced with this kind of diplomatic behavior, I thought my mission was over," Archbishop Orsenigo said.

The book said the encounter came as the nuncio was hearing increasingly alarming reports about the fate of Jews deported from Germany. Like Pope Pius XII, the book said, Archbishop Orsenigo felt something must be done and said about the situation.

But the archbishop and much of the church hierarchy were mindful that in the Netherlands the year before, the church's vocal condemnation of Nazi persecution had provoked Germany to deport and execute even more Jews, including converts to Catholicism, who had previously been spared, the book said.

Parishioners Take Part In Summer Dramas At Globe Park

Jesus, played by Devin McEnnerney, teaches the crowds in "The Ministry of Christ," one of nine short Bible plays being presented at Globe Park during the Corpus Christi Festival.

ALEXANDER MILLS — Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City will be well-represented when the Globe Repertory Company opens its summer season. Several parishioners, including director Matthew McEnnerney and musical arranger Diane McEnnerney, are among the group's casts and crews.

Playing on the outdoor Elizabethan Stage in Globe Park, Alexander Mills, N.C., the company is featuring four weekends of family entertainment, including two Shakespeare dramas and nine short Medieval Bible Plays.

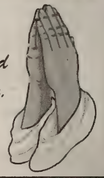
This expanded summer season opens July 11, with the inauguration of the Corpus Christi Drama Festival — an all-day outdoor event featuring Bible plays, along with food, unicorn rides, puppet shows and musicians. The festival begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 3 p.m. The second weekend features two events, Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale," on July 17 at 6 p.m., and a second day of the Corpus Christi Festival on July 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The third weekend features "The Winter's Tale" in its second performance on July 24 at 6 p.m. and the opening performance of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" on July 25 at 4 p.m. The fourth weekend features the second performance of "Hamlet" on Aug. 1 at 4 p.m. In case of rain, the performances will be held in the old Alexander School gymtorium, a block away from Globe Park.

A summer pass, which includes admission to all three events (Corpus Christi Drama Festival, "The Winter's Tale," and "Hamlet") is $25 per individual, $50 per family. Admission to individual events is $12 per person, $25 per family, and for church groups, classes, scouts or other organized groups, there is a special rate of $10 per person. Alexander Mills is located off Highway 74 at Exit 182.

The Corpus Christi Drama Festival is modeled on the Corpus Christi Festivals popular in medieval times. For this inaugural festival, the Globe Repertory Company is presenting nine plays, including: The Fall of Man, The Annunciation, The Birth of Christ, The Shepherds, Herod and the Magi, The Ministry of Christ, The Centurion's Conversion, The Harrowing of Hell, and The Resurrection.

For more information, call (704) 245-4000.



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Ministry Of Priesthood Celebrated At Anniversary Mass

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Like St. John the Baptist and others who have focused their lives on Jesus and his teachings, today's priests can announce the presence of the Lord through their own holy example, said Bishop William G. Curlin at a recent diocesan gathering.

"In an age which cries out for heroes in the world, my heroes are my brother priests," the bishop said during the annual anniversary celebration of priestly ordination and recognition of service for those retiring from active ministry.

The Mass honored 20 jubilarians as well as three retiring priests who are serving or who have served in the Diocese of Charlotte. It was held at St. Patrick Cathedral on June 24, the solemnity of the birth of John the Baptist.

Including those jubilarians and retirees who were able to attend, about 80 diocesan and religious priests joined the bishop in celebrating the Mass. Principal concelebrants were Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor; the Right Rev. Oscar C. Burnett, OSB, abbot of Belmont Abbey; and Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral.

In his homily, the bishop reflected on the joys and struggles in the life of a priest. He commended the jubilarians and retirees for their zeal and dedication as men of God.

"What a privilege to know these men," the bishop said. "What a blessing for the church they are. We are privileged to gather and celebrate with them, ... and praise them for that faith that has carried them through good things and the bad, the easy moments and the difficult moments."

Photo by Mike Krokos

Shown at the recent Mass honoring jubilarians and priests retiring from active service, from left: Father Joseph Kelleher; Benedictine Father David Kessinger; Father Mauricio W. West; Father Edmund Kirsch; Father Richard McCue; Jesuit Father James Devereux; Jesuit Father Joseph McGovern; Abbott Nullius Walter A. Coggin, OSB; Bishop William G. Curlin; Abbot Oscar Burnett, OSB; Father Jerome Aung Shwe; Benedictine Father Kenneth Geyer; Father Wilbur Thomas; Monsignor Thomas Burke; Father Tan Van Le; Father Thomas Walsh.

The bishop recalled the need for all priests to be men of healing, hope and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. He extolled the virtues of John the Baptist, whose love for God "permeated everything he did"; St. John Vianney, "a humble man on fire with Christ"; and the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, who strove for evangelization of oneself and the community.

Bishop Curlin suggested that the priest base his ministry, above all else, in a deep-rooted passion for Jesus. "That's always been the way with great champions of Christ," he said.

The following priests are this year's jubilarians and retiring honorees:

25th anniversary: Father Tan Van Le, Father Jerome Aung Shwe, Father Wilbur Thomas, Spiritan Father Edward J. Vilkauskas. ***40th anniversary***: Jesuit Father Vincent de P. Alagia, Jesuit Father James A. Devereux, Jesuit Father George R. Hohman, Benedictine Father David R. Kessinger, Father Richard T. McCue. ***45th anniversary***: Msgr. Thomas P. Burke, Father Patrick Gavigan, Benedictine Father Kenneth A. Geyer, Father Joseph Kelleher, Father Thomas R. Walsh. ***50th anniversary***: Msgr. Felix Kelaher, Jesuit Father William J. Lynch, Father Joseph P. McGovern. ***55th anniversary***: Retired Abbot Nullius Walter A. Coggin, OSB. ***65th anniversary***: Msgr. John R. Rouche. ***70th anniversary***: Father Edward F. O'Doherty. ***Retiring from active ministry***: Father Joseph Kelleher, Father Edmund D. Kirsch, Father Richard T. McCue.

Changes To Canon Law, from page 1

the doctrinal congregation commentary.

Truths in the first category include everything in the creed, the solemnly defined dogmas regarding Christ, the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, the infallibility of the pope and "the grave immorality of direct and voluntary killing of an innocent human being," the congregation said.

The second category includes dogmatic and moral teachings "which are necessary for faithfully keeping and expounding the deposit of faith, even if they have not been proposed by the magisterium of the church as formally revealed."

Truths in the second category have a logical or historical connection to the truths in the first category, the congregation said. It gave several examples: church teaching against euthanasia, the canonization of saints, the legitimacy of the election of the pope, and the teaching that only men can be ordained.

The third category refers to other teachings of the pope or of bishops that are not intended to be definitive. The congregation did not provide examples, but said such teaching deserves a "religious submission of will and intellect."

Pope John Paul's three-page letter and his changes to canon law regard only the second category of church teaching.

The doctrinal congregation said, "Every believer ... is required to give firm and definitive assent to these truths, based on faith in the Holy Spirit's assistance to the magisterium and on the Catholic doctrine of the infallibility of the magisterium in these matters."

It said the fact that they have not been proposed as "formally revealed" does not diminish their authority, nor does it rule out the possibility that some day a pope or a church council will promulgate them at the higher level.

Regarding the teachings of the first and second categories, the congregation said, "it is important to emphasize that there is no difference with respect to the full and irrevocable character of the assent which is owed to these teachings."

The difference, the commentary said, regards the virtue of faith. With the first category, "the assent is based directly on faith in the authority of the Word of God," while in the second it is based on faith in the Holy Spirit and the infallibility of the church's teaching authority.

The doctrinal congregation said Pope John Paul, "while not wishing to proceed to a dogmatic definition" on the ordination of men only, "intended to reaffirm that this doctrine is to be held definitively."

As with the centuries-long process leading to the formal declaration of papal infallibility, the commentary said, Pope John Paul's placing the teaching on ordination into the second category does not rule out that "in the future the consciousness of the church might progress to the point where this teaching could be defined as a doctrine to be believed as divinely revealed."

The doctrinal congregation said that as the pope noted in his 1994 letter, the church's practice of reserving ordination to men is "founded on the written Word of God, constantly preserved and applied in the tradition of the church."

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People In The News

Bishop McHugh: Baptists' Statement Should Be An Inspiration

CAMDEN, N.J. (CNS) — The Southern Baptist Convention "showed perception, fidelity and courage" in a new statement on submission in marriage, and it should be an inspiration to Catholics, according to Bishop James T. McHugh of Camden, N.J. In a June 19 column in his diocesan newspaper, the Catholic Star-Herald, Bishop McHugh commented on a revision to the Baptist statement of essential beliefs, which drew often-critical press coverage earlier in June. The delegates voted overwhelmingly to include a phrase stating that in a marriage, the wife should "submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband" and that a husband "should provide for, protect and lead his family." Despite other reactions that described the new clause as redefining and demeaning women's role in marriage, Bishop McHugh said the Baptists' decision came out of an effort to be fair, objective and understanding.

Meeting Orthodox Delegation, Pope Underscores Building Unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics and Orthodox must seek unity as they carry out Christ's charge to share the Gospel with the world, Pope John Paul II said. The pope met June 28 with a three-member delegation representing Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. The delegation was in Rome for the annual celebration of the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, the patrons of the church of Rome. The pope and the patriarch of Constantinople have exchanged a delegation on their church's respective patron feast days since 1977. However, in 1997, for the first time, the Orthodox canceled their participation in the Vatican festivities, citing ecumenical tensions, especially in Eastern Europe.

Archbishop Urges Support For New Northern Ireland Assembly

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — With the election process for Northern Ireland's new assembly complete, the primate of all Ireland said an environment of peace and mutual understanding is needed. Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, said in a statement, "Now that the people of Northern Ireland have elected the members of the new assembly, the most urgent need is for an atmosphere of peace in which trust can be established and the assembly can settle down to work." He asked people of faith to "pray that we do not squander the glorious opportunity for a new beginning."

Jesuit Named To Government Advisory Group On Religious Disputes

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — India's National Commission for Minorities has appointed a 10-member group including a Jesuit theologian and a Protestant bishop to help check growing estrangement among religious communities in India. "We are deeply distressed by the increasing disaffection and distrust between the Hindu majority community and the various minorities, especially Christians and Muslims," said minorities commission chairperson Tahir Mahmood. The committee, formed in mid-June, will advise the government on ways to help resolve major religious disputes in India, Mahmood told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Brazilian Cardinal Named Head Of Congregation For Bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Brazilian Cardinal Lucas Moreira Neves, one of the most influential Latin American church leaders in recent years, was named by Pope John Paul II to head the Congregation for Bishops. The appointment, announced June 25, fills a key Vatican position. The congregation is in charge of preparing the pope's nominations of bishops around the world. In selecting Cardinal Moreira Neves, the pope continued a trend of appointing older prelates to top Vatican jobs. The cardinal, who turns 73 in September, replaces Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, who retired at age 76.

Attorney Says Guatemalan Army Involved In Bishop's Death

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. attorney with ties in Guatemala says she has learned a secret government death squad is connected to the April 26 murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi. At a Washington press conference June 25, Jennifer Harbury said a witness with ties to the military has said a Guatemalan army commando unit is in reality a notorious death squad that claimed responsibility for beating Bishop Gerardi to death, days after he presented a report on human rights abuses during Guatemala's civil war. Two men have been arrested for the murder, but human rights groups say neither one committed the crime. The man first arrested was reported to have had an injured arm at the time of the murder that would have made him incapable of wielding the chunk of concrete used to bash the bishop's head. The man also was said to have been passed out drunk at the time of the murder.

Magazine Names Catholic War Hero Most Important Canadian

OTTAWA (CNS) — Who's the most important Canadian in history? A Canadian weekly newsmagazine, Maclean's, says it is a World War I hero whose cause for sainthood is now being promoted. Gen. Georges Philias Vanier, who represented Canada in Paris and served as governor general from 1959 until his death in 1967, was "the exemplar of service and duty and courage," said the publication. "He spoke to rich and poor in the same way ... and everywhere he talked of the joys and duties of being Canadian. Duty, obligation, service — those are words that, like heroism, Canadians are inclined to avoid. But Vanier epitomized all those noble ideas," it said.

N.J. Woman Uses Web To Launch Medical Mission To Needy Kids

DOVER, N.J. (CNS) — Little did Gloria Weichand know that one trip into cyberspace would lead her on a series of lifesaving global missions. While browsing on the Internet, Weichand, who is a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church in Dover, came across the story of 1-year-old Yineng Wang of China. Yineng was suffering from congenital heart disease, and doctors gave him no chance of survival because China's leading heart hospital did not have the proper resources or facilities to treat him. Through perseverance and countless hours of hard work, Weichand enabled Yineng to come to the United States, where he received treatment at New Jersey's Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills. Nearly a year later, Yineng is on his way to a complete recovery, and his life is no longer in danger. Weichand's life has changed as well. In April, she founded Gloria's Place of Hope Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of children who, like Yineng, would most likely die without life-saving surgeries that are available only in the United States.

CNS photo from Reuters

Protestant Orangemen step up to a barbed-wire barricade near Drumcree Church in Portadown, Northern Ireland, July 5. The march was not allowed to proceed along Garvaghy Road, a Catholic nationalist enclave.

Sudanese Bishop Says Thousands Of Children Kidnapped, Enslaved

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Sudanese bishop said at least 3,000 children have been kidnapped for slavery in his country during the first half of 1998. Bishop Macram Gassis of El Obeid, Sudan, said the Catholic Church tries to ransom the children when it can and it provides material assistance to parents trying to get their children back. "Sometimes we buy them back and sometimes they are able to escape and reach areas controlled by the SPLA," the rebel forces of southern Sudan, the bishop told Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. "The 12- and 13-year-old girls arrive exhausted and pregnant; they are wounded spiritually and materially," he said.

Episcopal Ordination A Homecoming For Chicago's New Auxiliary

CHICAGO (CNS) — On June 29, Bishop-designate John N. Perry, a native of Chicago, returned after 35 years to become the archdiocese's newest auxiliary bishop. He was ordained at Holy Name Cathedral by Cardinal Francis E. George, another Chicago native who was called back to the city just over a year ago. Bishop Perry, who becomes the 13th active U.S. black Catholic bishop, was serving as pastor of All Saints Parish in Milwaukee when he was named a bishop by the pope May 5.

Indian Journalist Wins UCIP Award For Promoting Dialogue

NEW DELHI (CNS) — Ignatius Gonsalves, an Indian-language journalist, has won the International Catholic Union of the Press's Titus Brandsma award for promoting dialogue and human dignity through journalism. The award consists of a certificate and 3,000 Dutch guilders (US$1,500) from the commission for social communication of the Catholic bishops' conference of the Netherlands. Gonsalves said he would apply the money toward setting up a scholarship for media education and toward developing his library for students interested in media and church studies, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Gonsalves, 44, is a visiting professor of media education and church history at St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary in Alwaye, Kerala state, 1,500 miles south of New Delhi.

Three Catholic School Principals Receive National Honor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three Catholic school principals have been selected as 1998 National Distinguished Principals, an award presented by the U.S. Department of Education with the National Association of Elementary School Principals. The winning principals are: Joan Bransfield of the School of St. Mary in Lake Forest, Ill., Chicago Archdiocese; Sister Barbara Davis, a Sister of Charity, of St. Mary School in Shelby, Ohio, Toledo Diocese; and Karen Fasanella of Our Lady of the Magnificat School in Kinnelon, N.J., Paterson Diocese.

Filmmakers Say Exploring Cardinal's Life Changed Their Lives

By BILL HOWARD

DALLAS (CNS) — As film documentarians, Martin Doblmeier and Frank Frost understand that each project they work on will impact their lives.

But little did they expect the depth of change they would experience while working last year on a film on the life of the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago.

"I think I was changed forever in some ways," Doblmeier told the Texas Catholic, newspaper of the Dallas Diocese. "I understand what true courage is and what it takes."

"He taught me a lot about tolerance and the need to find common ground," Frost added.

Doblmeier and Frost co-produced "Bernardin," a one-hour film that was to debut on most public television stations in July. The film aired on public television in the Diocese of Charlotte on July 6 and 7.

The film covers the cardinal's accomplishments in social justice, including his anti-poverty programs, as well as the Catholic Common Ground Initiative he launched. But the film quickly develops into a study of the cardinal's gradual opening of his heart to the public shortly after he arrived in Chicago from Cincinnati.

"Bernardin" also explores in-depth how the cardinal successfully countered allegations by former seminarian Steven Cook in 1993 of sexual abuse. It also shows how he learned to embrace the media during his struggle with cancer, diagnosed in June 1995.

Doblmeier and Frost felt viewers needed to see the personal side of Cardinal Bernardin.

"In the cardinal, I saw one person who was the consummate diplomat, a person who really forged ahead on the standing issues and the value of each one of the people that came forward in the issues," Doblmeier said.

"Then during the last three years of his life, which begins with the (sexual abuse) allegations, there came out of him a courage I really admire," he continued. "The courage to stand in front of allegations that were really personal. It wasn't so much the church being persecuted, it was him."

The film climaxes with the public's outpouring of emotion over the cardinal's death on Nov. 14, 1996, at age 68.

"His death was so public. There was a constant watch on his life. He created an expectation, whether it was intentional or not, that he would die well," Doblmeier said. "He wound up getting the headline from Newsweek, 'Teaching Us How to Die.'

"It sort of sets the standard of how you're going to be accepting of your own death. I just found it to be wonderfully, personally enriching that someone can live a life that comes to an end with great dignity."

Frost felt an impact from interviews and the contact he had with the cardinal's friends and family.

"You get your name by the company you keep, and we met some extraordinary people. Meeting them has given me a sense that the cardinal lives on in the community of friends he left," he said.

On a humorous note, Frost said the cardinal's influence often found its way directly into the filmmaking process.

"When you have two producers, sometimes you get different ways of looking at things. We used to joke when we were having a creative quarrel that this is Cardinal Bernardin ... we have to get back to the table and resolve this peacefully," he said. "Even though that was in a humorous vein, that was one of the things that I think I'll never look at the same way again — the need to find common ground."

According to Doblmeier, the film aims to remind the viewer that God gives us examples of faith and virtue to follow in the slippery world of politics and religion.

"It's hard for people to accept in our skeptical and insecure society that they may be dealing with the real thing," Doblmeier said. "I really think he was the genuine article."

Frost came to share Doblmeier's conclusion while putting the film together.

"I wasn't close to (the cardinal), but I knew him," said Frost, who had met the cardinal several times over three decades. "And even though I knew him, I learned an awful lot more by working on this show.

"I didn't really see the holiness that emerges from getting archival footage and watching interviews. I think the reason this show works is we see him speaking for himself."

Doblmeier and Frost also stressed how important Msgr. Kenneth Velo was in the cardinal's latter years. Msgr. Velo, appointed president of the Catholic Church Extension Society in February 1994, had been the cardinal's administrative assistant and remained a close friend and confidante.

"I was impressed with his consistency," Msgr. Velo told the Texas Catholic about the cardinal. "He was the same person in front of the camera and behind the microphone asking people to pray for Steven Cook that he was on the third floor of our community room in his old gray sweater and slippers."

When the cardinal was suffering from cancer, he added, he was moved by his ability to reach out to others when he was so sick."

And when he learned it was terminal, "he was able to embrace it with great peace and helped all of us very peacefully," Msgr. Velo said.

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Employment Opportunities

Order Entry Specialist: Providence Ventures, LLC, a nationwide marketer of Catholic books, videos and gifts, is currently seeking candidates for the following full-time position at its Charlotte, NC location. Responsibilities include order entry, data management and a variety of customer service duties. Strong verbal and written communications skills and computer experience are required. Proficiency with Microsoft products is highly desirable. Please submit resume to: Bill Brown, Providence Ventures, LLC, 229 N. Church St., Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28202. Phone: (704) 358-9970 Fax: (704) 358-1360

Freelance Writer: *The Catholic News & Herald* is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward resume and writing samples to *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

MSW Social Worker: Catholic Social Services is seeking to hire a MSW Social Worker Prefer experience with adoption and foster care. 30 hours per week, negotiable. Please send resume to 35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Director of Faith Formation: Holy Family Catholic Church is seeking a team-oriented Catholic visionary to plan and implement a catechetical program for pre-school through fifth grade for a student population of 500 and administer adult education programs in die 1,200+ growing parish in Clemmons, west of Winston-Salem, NC. MA in religious education and/or theology preferred, experience in parish administration beneficial. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume to: DFF Search Committee, Holy Family Catholic Church, P.O. Box 130, Clemmons, NC 27012-0130.

Full-Time Director of Liturgy and Music: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Liturgy and Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 800 households who are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. The Director of Liturgy and Music will be responsible for overseeing the total music ministry program and the liturgical ministry of the parish. The position requires a minimum of a Bachelors' Degree in a relevant field although a Masters' Degree is preferred. Other requirements include a solid background in liturgical theology, keyboarding skills, and careful attention to detail. A professional salary will be offered to the candidate who sends with their resume three references *and* salary history to: Search Committee, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470. *References and salary history are required to be considered for this position.*

Teaching Positions: Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, NC, has the following teaching positions available for the 1998-99 school year: 3rd grade, 5th grade, middle school math (part-time). Send a resume to Sacred Heart Catholic School, 123 N. Ellis Street, Salibury, NC 28144 or call the school office between 9:00-12:00 at (704) 633-2841 for an application.

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Study Finds Links Between Parish Life, Priestly Vocations

By JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Parishes with a Catholic elementary school and at least one assistant pastor are far more likely to produce new priestly vocations than parishes with no school and no assistant priest, according to a study released June 21.

The study also found that parishes with no priestly vocations in the past 20 years are generally smaller and less likely to offer regular Marian or eucharistic devotions, youth Bible study, youth groups, or Mass roles or service projects for young people.

It found that pastors in multiple-vocation parishes were more likely to say they frequently preach on vocations, speak about priesthood to parishioners and personally invite others to consider the priesthood.

The findings "show that the shape of parish life has a direct impact on a vocation decision and suggest that personal attitudes about vocations originate in a parish context," said the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

CNS photo by Thomas Moloney

Msgr. James P. Lisante, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in West Hempstead, N.Y., talks with Paul and Sean O'Donoghue on the front steps of the rectory. St. Thomas is in the 20 percent of U.S. parishes generating multiple vocations in recent decades.

CARA, an independent Catholic research agency based at Georgetown University in Washington, conducted the study for the Committee on Vocations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

For its data, in late 1997 and early 1998 CARA obtained 1,012 responses to a questionnaire mailed to a national sampling of pastors and 2,103 responses from a similar questionnaire mailed to all diocesan priests ordained from 1992 to 1996.

Of the pastors surveyed, 204 reported three or more vocations from their current parish in the past 20 years, while 424 reported no new vocations from the parish in that time.

The median size of parishes reporting three or more vocations in the past 20 years was 1,300 families, while the median size of zero-vocation parishes was 500 families.

The study found that among pastors who reported multiple vocations, 58 percent said the parish had a parochial vicar, or assistant pastor, for all or most of that time, and 64 percent had an elementary school. Sixty-six percent reported regular parish eucharistic devotions and 77 percent Marian devotions.

By contrast, among pastors who reported zero vocations, only 26 percent had a parochial vicar and 28 percent an elementary school. Forty-six percent reported regular parish eucharistic devotions and 62 percent Marian devotions.

In response to a series of questions about opportunities for youth involvement in parish life, among the multiple-vocation parishes 70 percent of the pastors said the parish offered Mass roles; 69 percent, service projects; 67 percent, youth groups; and 39 percent, youth Bible study groups.

Among zero-vocation parishes, 62 percent of the pastors said the parish offered Mass roles for youth; 49 percent, service projects; 49 percent, youth groups; and 25 percent, youth Bible study groups.

"Parishes producing multiple vocations differ from those that do not," CARA said. "Further, many of these differences are ones over which parishes have some control."

In its report CARA did not break out separately the findings on parish life and youth opportunities in those parishes whose pastors reported one or two vocations over the past 20 years.

But its summation of all 1,012 responses to the questionnaire indicated that the remaining 384 parishes with one or two vocations fell somewhere between the other two sets of parishes on all indicators.

In the survey of recently ordained priests, who were asked about characteristics of the home parish in which they spent most of their life up to the age of 16, CARA found results similar to those given by pastors.

Compared with priests who were their home parish's only recent vocation, those priests who said their home parish had multiple vocations were more likely to report that the parish had an elementary school, at least one parochial vicar and more opportunities for youth involvement.

Those from multiple-vocation parishes were also slightly more likely than those from one-vocation parishes to report that the "example of a priest I knew" or a "personal invitation from a priest" had been a very important factor in their own vocation decision.

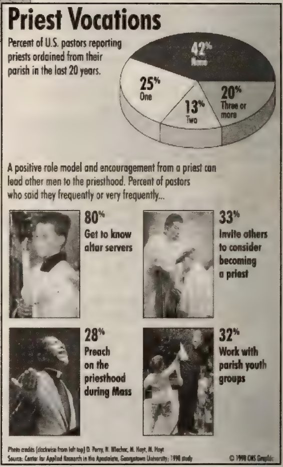

Photo credits (clockwise from left top) D. Perry, N. Wiechec, M. Hoyt, M. Hoyt

Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Georgetown University; 1998 study

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For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

Six Mercy Sisters Celebrate Jubilees

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

BELMONT — Six Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina were recognized recently for 60, 50 and 25 years of service at a jubilee celebration in Belmont, home of the sisters' regional community.

Sister Mary Annette McBennett, Sister Mary Edward Brennan, Sister Mary Alma Pangelinan, Sister Soledad Aguilo, Sister Martha Elizabeth Hoyle and Sister Jill Katherine Weber were honored at a eucharistic liturgy June 13 in Sacred Heart Convent's Cardinal Gibbons Chapel. A reception followed in Curtin Hall, located in the Mercy Administration Center.

The jubilees are based on the sisters' anniversaries of being received into the Mercy community. The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina is a regional community of the pontifical religious institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

The following are biographical sketches of this year's jubilarians.

• Sister Mary Annette McBennett celebrates her diamond jubilee in 1998. A Fayetteville, N.C, native, Sister Mary Annette entered the Sisters of Mercy community in August 1937. She was received in February 1938, and made her final profession in February 1943. She has ministered in schools throughout North Carolina and in Guam, where she was sent in 1946 as one of three sisters who established a new foundation there. She has served as novice directress for the community, has been involved in several national education and library associations, and has held the position of parliamentarian of the sisters senate for the Diocese of Charlotte. Much of her work since the late 1970s has involved pastoral care. She founded the pastoral care departments at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville and at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte. She returned to the motherhouse in 1996, when she initiated a reading room and library for Sacred Heart Convent residents.

• Sister Mary Edward Brennan celebrates her golden jubilee in 1998, 50 years after entering and being received into the community. She made her final profession in August 1953. Before embarking on her religious life, the native of Belfast, Northern Ireland, served as a physiotherapy technician during World War II. A registered therapist and X-ray technologist, she ministered in St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville for two years before beginning a 27-year teaching ministry in Charlotte at Mercy Hospital's School of Radiology. She has also been involved in several national radiological associations. Each day the veteran raises, lowers and salutes the American flag at the motherhouse.

• Sister Mary Alma Pangelinan celebrates her golden jubilee in 1998. A native of Agaña, Guam, she entered the Sisters of Mercy community in Guam in December 1947, was received in December 1948 and made her final profession in August 1956. She served as a catechist and teacher in Guam during the '50s, and in 1963 came to Belmont. In North Carolina, she has ministered in the fields of food service, hospitality and finance.

• Sister Soledad Aguilo is the second of this year's jubilarians born in Guam. A native of Tamuning, this silver jubilarian joined the Sisters of Mercy in August 1972 and was received the following year. An enthusiastic artist with a master of fine arts degree, she is frequently invited to speak to artists' groups and submit her work for shows and festivals. She has taught in Guam, Florida and in several western North Carolina schools. Currently, she teaches art at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She continues to work as a professional artist, creating jewelry and other items from a variety of materials.

• Sister Martha Elizabeth Hoyle celebrates 25 years as a Sister of Mercy in 1998. A graduate of the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, this Cooleemee, N.C., native worked as a charge nurse in Mercy Hospital in Charlotte before entering the Sisters of Mercy community in September 1972. She helped establish a skilled and assisted living care wing — now called Marian Hall — at the motherhouse in Belmont. She made her final profession in 1978, and then embarked on a teaching and nursing ministry in Florida and western North Carolina. Since 1991, she has served in many ways at the House of Mercy in Belmont, a residential facility for men and women in the final stages of AIDS. She currently serves at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, where she facilitates a homebound parishioner visitation program. She also uses her computer and photographic skills to design various graphic products.

Sister Mary
Annette McBennett

Sister Mary
Edward Brennan

Sister Mary
Alma Pangelinan

Sister
Soledad Aguilo

Sister Martha
Elizabeth Hoyle

Sister Jill
Katherine Weber

• Sister Jill Katherine Weber is one of three silver jubilarians this year. From Mount Vernon, N.Y., she credits a Franciscan nun she knew as a youth with leading her toward a religious vocation. She earned a bachelor's degree from Sacred Heart College in Belmont in 1972. She entered the Sisters of Mercy community around the same time and was accepted in 1973. Her past 25 years have focused on education; she has taught and administered in Charlotte, Belmont and Salisbury, and has also earned three master's degrees. In recent years, she has ministered through physical therapy to residents at Holy Angels residential center in Belmont and to patients at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte and Gaston Memorial Home Health in Gastonia.

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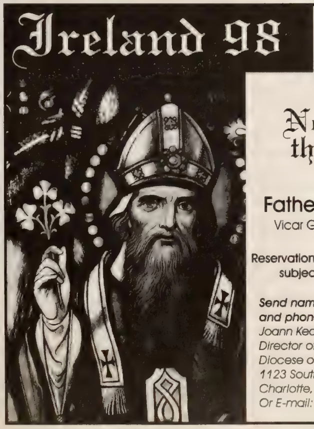

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Diocesan News Briefs

Photo by Mike Krokos

St. Matthew Church Brownie Troop #1083 was recently recognized as the Charlotte chapter of the National Society of Fundraising Executives' (NSFRE) outstanding philanthropic youth group. Shown receiving the award from NSFRE member Cassandra Tidings Harris are troop members Stephanie Shaheen and Shannon Kelley. The Brownie troop was recognized for their outreach efforts to assist crew members of the USS Charlotte. The girls collected more than 140 donated boxes of cookies for the submarine's crewmen stationed in the Persian Gulf.

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence provide tours of the historic church following each weekend Mass. The Mass schedule is Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. (Spanish Mass). For more information, call the parish office at (828) 252-6042.

Catholic Home-School Support

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a Catholic home-school support group, meets for biweekly "park days" and monthly "moms' meetings" during the summer. Call Sheryl Oligny, (828) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (828) 645-6990, for more information.

Parish Anniversary

CHARLOTTE — The 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Assumption Church is commemorated Aug. 14 at a 7 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin; Jesuit Father Francis Gillespie, pastor; and former pastors. A dessert reception follows the Mass. Anyone with photographs related to the parish over the past half-century are invited to submit them for a special display by calling Mary Kay Crotty, (704) 536-5452.

Hibernians Install Division, Welcome National Director

CHARLOTTE — The national director of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Cathie Linton, came to Charlotte June 20 for installation of the order's first ladies division in North Carolina. At the June meeting, charter members and the following board of directors were installed: Linda Hart, president; Cheryl Jones, vice president; Helen Gassen, recording secretary; Breda Dunne, financial secretary; Julie Byrne, treasurer; Margaret Shannon, historian; Linda Hannon, chairman of missions; Mary Milan, chairman of Catholic; Patricia Wilkie, mistress at arms; and Mary Kay Crotty, sentinel.

The women's order is an Irish Catholic organization whose motto is "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity." Members must be practicing Catholics and Irish by birth, descent or adoption or the wife or mother of a Hibernian. There are currently 28 states in the U.S. with ladies divisions. To join, call Helen Gassen at (704) 542-9406. Meetings are every third Monday in the St. Gabriel Church parish center.

Belmont Abbey Exhibit

CHARLOTTE — An exhibit on Belmont Abbey College and Monastery is at Museum of the New South, 324 N. College St., through Jan. 2, 1999. The compilation of archival images and artifacts captures the essence of the abbey and provides a glimpse of the people and events that have shaped its unique spirit and rich history. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is $5 for families, $2 for adults, and $1 for students, seniors and teachers. Admission is free each second Saturday. For more information, call (704) 333-1887.

Ultreya

CHARLOTTE — Ultreya Christian communities meet monthly in Charlotte to share experiences, prayer and ideas for apostolic action in the St. Gabriel Church fellowship hall on second Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and on fourth Sundays at St. Matthew Church at 1 p.m. Call Don or Cheryl Bohlen, (704) 542-1741, for more information.

Catholic Television Programs

GREENSBORO — Dominican Father Michael Burke presents a series of half-hour programs on the Catholic faith and spirituality on GCTV, Greensboro Community Television, each Sunday at 6 p.m. Episodes are repeated each Thursday at 7 p.m. The programs are produced by the Diocese of Raleigh. If you have comments, call the producer, Mark Hite, at (919) 821-9734.

Single Again Catholics

GREENSBORO — The Single Again Catholics group meets in the Greensboro area for social and spiritual gatherings. Call Mike Bohen, (336) 373-7358, or Patrick Tracey (336) 545-6939, for details.

Young Adult Ministry

GREENSBORO — A young adult ministry group meets each first and third Sunday at Helen's House after the 7 p.m. Mass. For more information, call Julia at (330) 856-9664.

LIMEX Registration

GREENSBORO — Registration and tuition payment for applicants of Course One of the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program (LIMEX) will be hosted in Greensboro at St. Paul the Apostle Church on July 18 from 1-3 p.m. For details, call Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013, or Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344.

Engaged Encounter

HICKORY — Engaged Encounter, a weekend of spiritual counseling for engaged couples, is sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte at the Catholic Conference Center Sept. 4-6 and Nov. 13-15. Call (800) 849-2620 for registration and availability information.

Catholic Daughters Of The Americas

LENOIR — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas group at St. Francis of Assisi Church is eager to welcome new members. For details, call Gail Stewart at (704) 726-0701.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Be Still and Know That I Am God" is a July 26-Aug. 1 nature retreat in a serene mountain setting focusing on peaceful contemplation of God's greatness. "Praying the Psalms with the Voice of Christ" is an Aug. 2-8 retreat focusing on the recitation of the Psalter in the Liturgy of the Hours as an experience of the praying church as the body of Christ. "Jubilee Spirituality" is an Aug. 9-15 retreat focusing on the three years of preparation for the year 2000 as called for by Pope John Paul II. The cost of each retreat is $260. To register, get more information or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Spanish Rosary

NEWTON — The rosary is prayed in Spanish each Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church.

Widowed, Separated, Divorced Support

SYLVA — A support group for those who are widowed, separated, divorced, or with new or unresolved grief meets each third Friday at St. Mary Church at 7 p.m. For details, call the parish office at (828) 586-9496.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish, school, agency and organization news briefs and releases for publication in the Diocesan News Briefs page. Please limit submissions to 200 words. The deadline for the News Briefs page is 10 days before the publication date.

Due to a steadily increasing backlog, The Catholic News & Herald can no longer accept unsolicited photographs for publication. Readers with photograph ideas are encouraged to contact Mike Krokos, editor, at (704) 370-3330.

Around The State

Diocesan Lay Ministry Training Program

The Charlotte Diocese's two-year lay ministry program begins in the fall in Arden, Charlotte and Greensboro for persons wishing to be affirmed in their present ministry, upgrade their catechist or religion teacher certification, or fulfill the prerequisite for the permanent diaconate. The academic program is designed to help participants appreciate and more fully understand the call to ministry by virtue of their baptism. For details, send name, address and phone number to Office of Lay Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, or call (704) 370-3213.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin July 12 at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated each third Thursday in the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel at 7:30 p.m.

Carmelite Retreat

DURHAM — "Jesus said, 'Come and see,' 'Follow me,' 'You lack no spiritual gift'" is the theme of a Secular (Third) Order Discalced Carmelites-sponsored silent retreat Nov. 20-22/23 at the Avila Retreat Center. Cost is $105 for three days, or $150 if you option to stay until Nov. 23. To register, send a check for $15 payable to OCDS to Kathy Smith, 3619 Courtland Dr., Durham, NC 27707. For more information, call (919) 493-2712.

World And National News Briefs

Jewish Professional Women Oppose Partial-Birth Abortion

BETHESDA, Md. (CNS) — Thirty Jewish women in various professions have urged Congress to override President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban of 1997. In their June letter to the lawmakers, the women said the ban was a measure "widely supported by a consensus of the American people — Democrat and Republican, conservative and liberal, Jewish and Christian." The letter campaign was organized by the Institute for Religious Values, a Bethesda-based group that also sent a letter to Congress from more than 80 rabbis who oppose partial-birth abortion. Signers included actress Lainie Kazan; singers Marilyn Michaels and Julie Budd; syndicated columnist Mona Charen; and author Midge Decter.

Italian Missionary In Brazil Murdered

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An Italian priest who had been working as a missionary in Brazil for almost 30 years was murdered June 20 as he was returning to the mission. Father Leo Commissari, a priest of the Diocese of Imola, Italy, was shot three times. His body was discovered near the mission outside Sao Paolo in his car with his seat belt still fastened. His wallet was empty. Bishop Giuseppe Fabiani of Imola told Vatican Radio June 22 the motive for the murder of the 56-year-old priest may have been robbery. However, he said, it also could have been a vendetta because the priest made people uncomfortable as he tried to educate and empower the poor and fight crime and injustice.

Senate, House Pass Tax Credit Bills, But Veto Promised

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although both the House and Senate passed bills in June to give tax credits to parents saving for school expenses, the measures failed to get enough votes to override a promised veto by President Clinton. Msgr. Thomas McDade, the U.S. Catholic bishops' education secretary, called the savings account legislation "good public policy" whose aim is to "assist parents who want to provide a solid education for their children." "I strongly urge President Clinton to demonstrate his commitment to families and children by signing this legislation," he said in a statement.

House Votes To Block FDA Approval Of Abortion Pills

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A pro-life spokeswoman for the U.S. Catholic bishops said she was delighted by the June 24 legislation passed by the House barring the government from using taxpayer money to test, develop or approve of abortion-inducing drugs such as RU-486. "RU-486 has been moving along near public distribution as if nothing could be done to stop it," said Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. But she said the margin of approval in the House vote of 223-202 is "enough of a sign" that there is a will to stop the drug's production.

Vatican Accepts Lutheran-Catholic Agreement On Justification

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Most of the 450-year-old Catholic condemnations of Lutheran teaching about how people are justified and saved no longer apply, the Vatican said. The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity announced June 25 that the Vatican had approved the Lutheran-Catholic "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification," although it called for further discussion on three points. The joint declaration said Roman Catholics and Lutherans both agree that salvation is a totally free gift of God and cannot be earned by performing good works, but rather is reflected in good works.

Catholic-Lutheran Declaration Seen Aiding Local Ecumenism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A leading U.S. Catholic ecumenist said he hopes the new Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification will encourage ecumenically active Catholic and Lutheran parishes and challenge the inactive ones. To Catholic and Lutheran parishes that have worked together and developed bonds of understanding and trust, "this declaration will be a source of great joy," said Christian Brother Jeffrey Gros, associate director of the U.S. Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and Catholic staff officer for the U.S. Catholic-Lutheran dialogue. For local congregations that are still wary of or distant from each other, he said, "this should be a great call to conversion, to deepen our understanding of one another and to enter into situations of joint prayer, common witness and dialogue."

Workers Have Right To Organize, Group Says

CHICAGO (CNS) — The Chicago-based National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice sponsored nationwide hearings June 24 and released a theological statement in support of workers' rights to organize. "All religions believe in justice," said retired United Methodist Bishop James DeWitt, committee president. "Justice applies not only in our personal relationships, but in our corporate relationships as well," he said in releasing the theological statement. "And a fundamental voice for justice in the workplace is a union. Workers deserve to have this voice without fear and harassment."

Bill Would Ban States From Enacting Welfare Family Caps

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., has introduced legislation that would bar states from imposing family caps on welfare recipients. An announcement from Smith's office said the lawmaker successfully blocked the implementation of nationwide mandated family caps when a welfare revision bill was debated in 1995, after he failed an earlier bid to get a nationwide ban in place. There are 23 states with family caps in effect. Under their provisions, states limit the number of children for which the mother will receive additional welfare benefits. Once that number is reached, the state will pay no more money regardless of whether the welfare recipient has another child. The bill would prohibit states from imposing a family cap under their welfare programs at the risk of losing their share of $16.5 billion in federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant funds.

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A South Korean Christian woman carries a sign inviting people to go to church to overcome the despair brought about by South Korea's financial crisis. Religious organizations have launched a nationwide campaign to help ease the effects of high unemployment.

CNS photo from Reuters

Disabled Advocates Urge Reversal Of Reno Ruling On Suicide Drugs

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic advocates for the disabled have called on Congress and President Clinton to overturn Attorney General Janet Reno's recent decision not to prosecute doctors who participate in assisted suicide under Oregon's new law. "The millions of people we serve are already being cut off from adequate medical coverage as we move toward a 'bottom-line' approach to the management of health care," said Kent A. Peters, who chairs the board of directors of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities. Mary Jane Owen, executive director of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities, said she was "appalled by Reno's decision and puzzled by her apparent misunderstanding of what constitutes the proper role of medical professionals in addressing the depression, pain and fear their patients are experiencing."

Group Protests Stations Carved By Artist Accused Of Sex Abuse

LONDON (CNS) — A group of victims of childhood sexual abuse held a vigil outside Westminster Cathedral to protest church authorities' refusal to remove Stations of the Cross carved by an artist accused of sexual abuse. The Christian Survivors of Sexual Abuse group has been asking cathedral authorities and Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster to remove the stone panels carved by Eric Gill. Margaret Kennedy, coordinator of the London-based survivor's group, said the purpose of the June 27 vigil was to pray for Gill's victims and all victims of abuse.

Session Looks At Improving Health Of Those With Down Syndrome

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — A seminar hosted by the Office for Social Ministries of the San Diego Diocese challenged participants to examine how the quality of life for people with Down syndrome is measured. More than 100 members of Human Life International, pro-life coordinators and parents of children with Down syndrome attended. The keynote speaker told participants that gains in improving the overall health of people with Down syndrome are virtually ignored by many in the medical community because these health gains do not improve their IQ. Dr. Kent MacLeod, the keynoter, is the owner and founder of Nutri-Chem, a pharmacological company that conducts research into the connection between nutrition and certain metabolic disorders.

Catholic-Orthodox Commision To Meet Next Year In Maryland

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The joint Catholic-Orthodox International Commission for Theological Dialogue will meet for the first time in the Western Hemisphere next year, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore said July 2. The meeting will take place June 7-15, 1999, at Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., which is part of the Baltimore Archdiocese. Cardinal Keeler, the only U.S. Catholic bishop on the commission, first extended the invitation several years ago and reiterated it last October when Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople visited Baltimore and became the first ecumenical patriarch to preach in a U.S. Catholic church.

Bishops' Message To Parents Of Homosexuals Revised, Reissued

By JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family has reissued "Always Our Children," a pastoral message addressed to parents of homosexual children, after making several revisions that were cleared through the Vatican.

The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith "has reviewed the textual modifications and has told us it is satisfied with the result," said Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien of Phoenix, the committee chairman, in a letter June 26 to the U.S. bishops.

"The core message, tone and direction of 'Always Our Children' remain the same as in the first printing," Bishop O'Brien said. "The modifications have been made in order to ensure the completeness and to clarify the intent of this pastoral statement."

He said because of "several misunderstandings of the text" since it was issued last Oct. 1, his committee worked out the changes, in consultation with Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, head of the bishops' Committee on Doctrine. Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, president of the conference, then submitted the changes to the Vatican's doctrinal congregation for review, he said.

The bishops received copies of the revised text in the June 26 mailing.

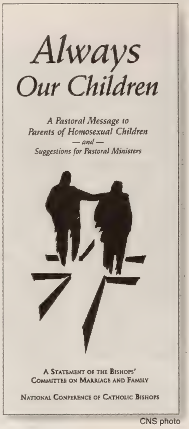
The revised version was also published in the July 2 issue of Origins, the Catholic News Service documentary service, with the changes highlighted in bold print within the text and spelled out in marginal notes.

"Always Our Children" urges parents with an adolescent or adult child who is homosexual to "respond lovingly" and never to break off contact or reject the child, whatever emotions and conflicts arise.

"Your child may need you and the family now more than ever," it says. "He or she is still the same person."

It says loving an adult child does not mean approving all of his or her choices. "In fact, you may need to challenge certain aspects of a lifestyle which you find objectionable," it says.

Seven modifications were made in the original pastoral statement — three substitutions, one deletion, one addition in the text, and two additions in the form of footnotes.



Always Our Children

A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children — and — Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers

A Statement of the Bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family

National Conference of Catholic Bishops

CNS photo

This is the cover to the U.S. bishops' revised pastoral document "Always Our Children." The document, addressed to parents of homosexual children, includes several modifications of the first document, which was released last year.

One change was a single word, from describing sexual orientation as "a fundamental dimension of one's personality" to "a deep-seated dimension of one's personality."

A second modified passage, discussing ways to "seek appropriate help for your child and for yourself" originally referred to adolescents "experimenting with some homosexual behaviors as part of the process of coming to terms with sexual identity."

It said that "isolated acts do not make someone homosexual" and suggested that during such adolescent confusion, "sometimes the best approach may be a 'wait-and-see' attitude, while you try to maintain a trusting relationship and provide various kinds of support, information and encouragement."

The revised version refers to an adolescent "displaying traits which cause you anxiety such as what the child is choosing to read or view in the media, intense friendships and other such observable characteristics and tendencies."

It goes on to say: "What is called for on the part of parents is an approach which does not presume that your child has developed a homosexual orientation and which will help you maintain a loving relationship, while you provide support, information, encouragement and moral guidance. Parents must always be vigilant about their children's behavior and exercise responsible interventions when necessary."

A third modification was the addition of a footnote to a passage which says that a homosexual orientation in itself "cannot be considered sinful." The footnote quotes from the "Catechism of the Catholic Church": "This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes for most a trial."

A fourth modification was the deletion from the text of a quote from the catechism, "Everyone ... should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity."

Although the quotation was placed in a paragraph about the inherent dignity of every person created in God's image and about sexuality as a gift from God — the same context as that of the original catechism statement — the overall topic of the pastoral statement could lead readers to misunderstand "sexual identity" as meaning "sexual orientation."

Following a passage on the call of all people to chastity, whatever their state in life, and the need to struggle against sin and draw strength from the sacraments of penance and Eucharist, the revised version adds a paragraph: "Furthermore, as homosexual persons 'dedicate their lives to understanding the nature of God's personal call to them, they will be able to celebrate the sacrament of penance more faithfully and receive the Lord's grace so freely offered there in order to convert their lives more fully to his way.'" The quotation in the paragraph is from the Vatican doctrinal congregation's 1986 letter, "The Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons."

A sixth revision deals with the document's statement, "Nothing in the Bible or in Catholic teaching can be used to justify prejudicial or discriminatory attitudes and behaviors" toward those with a homosexual orientation. The revision adds a footnote: "In matters where sexual orientation has a clear relevance, the common good does justify its being taken into account, as noted by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 'Some Considerations Concerning the Response to Legislative Proposals on the Nondiscrimination of Homosexual Persons,' 1992, No. 11."

The final revision shortens an original passage which advised those in church ministry: "Use the words 'homosexual,' 'gay,' 'lesbian' in honest and accurate ways, especially from the pulpit. In various and subtle ways you can give people 'permission' to talk about homosexual issues among themselves and let them know that you're also willing to talk with them."

The revised passage reads simply: "When speaking publicly, use the words 'homosexual,' 'gay' and 'lesbian' in honest and accurate ways."

That change is the only revision in the pastoral recommendations to parents and church ministers which form the final section of "Always Our Children."

In both versions the document suggests a variety of ways —including counseling and pastoral assistance from church agencies and the use of church-based support groups — for parents to work through the flood of emotions and tensions that often accompany discovery of an adolescent or adult child's homosexual orientation and establish trust, communication and love.

Its calls for respect for the dignity of homosexual men and women and Christian understanding and care for them remain intact.

Its fundamental message to parents, to continue loving and communicating with a homosexual son or daughter, is untouched.

The modified text of "Always Our Children" — Publication No. 5-131 for English, No. 5-130 for Spanish — is available from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office of Publishing and Promotion Services, for $1.25 a copy plus $3 postage and handling, with discounts available for orders of 50 copies or more. Telephone (800) 235-8722; on the Internet: www.nccbuscc.org.

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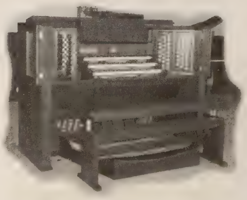

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 7 Number 41 • July 24, 1998

Diocesan Teens Learn, Grow Through Inner-City Service Experience

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

GREENSBORO — Josh Smeltzer leads a sheltered life in the mountains of western North Carolina.

With a roof over his head, food on the table each night, and a family that gives him constant love and encouragement, the rising high school junior, a parishioner at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill, admits his blessings are numerous. During the week of July 13-17, Smeltzer and 15 other teenagers from the Diocese of Charlotte took part in SPLUNGE (Special People Living Uniquely Nourishing Growthful Experiences), an inner-city service experience sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry that showed them firsthand how others in society struggle to live.

Modeled after an action program developed at the University of Notre Dame, SPLUNGE's goal is to heighten young people's awareness of the needs of the poor, show that their help is valuable and perhaps most importantly, put a human face on poverty. One of the program's motto's is "live simply so that others may simple live."

"This week has taught me about trust, to be more open, and helped me grow in my faith," Smeltzer said. "As participants, we were also encouraged to work more for the people in our community who need help the most — the needy and homeless — and not to be afraid."

Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro served as SPLUNGE participants' home base, the place where they returned after each day's activities to reflect on what they had experienced, share a simple supper, pray, and sleep.

The week of intense immersion featured in-service visits from several area agencies, including an older adults agency, a battered women's organization, and the Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center. The group assisted at Room at The Inn, a Catholic ministry to homeless, single, pregnant women and children. They also toured the Guilford County Courthouse and Jail and met with the district attorney. On Thursday, SPLUNGE participants cooked and fed nearly 300 people at Claremont Courts, a government housing subdivision.

See **SPLUNGE**, page 2

Rescue Efforts Slowing In Papua New Guinea

By PETER ROSENGREN

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — The rescue effort following three tidal waves in northern Papua New Guinea was slowing down, a church official said.

"The first two days we were scrambling to get choppers in — we could see they were dying," Franciscan Father Augustine Crapp, diocesan administrator of Aitape, Papua New Guinea, said on Australian national television July 20.

He said the survivors he had spoken to as he toured devastated villages were happy to see him but also distressed and stunned by their experiences, with some crying on his shoulder.

"They were sort of spaced out and traumatized completely," he said.

In the days after the wave, people everywhere were picking through the debris of their wrecked villages and looking for relatives, he said. Everywhere there were people who had lost most of or their entire families. Meanwhile, health was a major worry.

"We're getting worried now. In the village I walked through yesterday, the stench was incredible. We're worried that malaria and other (diseases) will set in," he said.

Father Crapp said he was on top of a mountain overlooking the ocean in the northern coastal town of Aitape when the earthquake that caused the waves hit the evening of July 17. He said he realized it was a big quake and went outside to see what had happened.

He said there was nothing but silence for about 10 minutes or so.

"Then we heard a tremendous roar as the wave hit the beach, then the sound of wrenching, then later people screaming," he said.

The villages devastated by the waves were predominantly populated by fishermen. The estimated death toll continued to mount as troops and police moved throughout the area burying victims where they had died — often on the beach or close inshore.

See **Rescue Efforts**, page 2

Photo by Joann Keane

New Ministry Center Dedicated At St. Gabriel Church

Bishop William G. Curlin snips a ceremonial ribbon for the dedication of St. Gabriel parish in Charlotte's new ministry center. The new 30,000 square foot, three story facility contains space to serve the 90 service and outreach ministries of the 3,500-member parish. "It's not the building that defines the parish, it is the charity of Christ in the service of the Lord in one another, and the community at large," said the bishop. The new ministry center was completed at a cost of $4 million. Tim Dixon of the parish council said, "What we honor and recognize today is not a building; we are here to honor and recognize the [parishioners] for sharing their time, their talent and their treasure."

SPLUNGE,

from page 1

Photo by Mike Krokos

Erin Leonard of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point helps make tea for residents of Claremont Courts. SPLUNGE participants cooked dinner for nearly 300 residents of the government housing subdivision the week of July 13-17.

Mattie Townsend, president of Claremont who also works at the neighborhood's Police Resource Center, said the youth ministry outreach was about community reaching out to help others. "This is about bringing the neighborhood and people closer together," she said.

As part of her SPLUNGE experience, Kerry Waldrep, a parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Winston-Salem, had dinner one night with a family whose home was built through Habitat for Humanity. "You could see they didn't have much, yet they opened their home and cooked this huge meal for me. It was really touching," she said.

Waldrep added the program taught her to "look for beauty everywhere."

Spending a day walking through low-income neighborhoods opened Winston-Salem teen-ager Vinnie Patrillo's eyes as well. "These were high crime areas, but you still had kids playing on the streets," said the Our Lady of Mercy parishioner.

Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry, said the week's activities helped youth develop a deeper appreciation for their call as Christians to help the least of their brothers and sisters. "I also hope the students gained a broader awareness of the infrastructure that exists in cities to alleviate the poor, poverty, and people in crisis or need," he said.

Katherine Bombell, youth minister at Our Lady of Grace Church agreed, adding the week spent together allowed the group to form their own community and work together to make a difference. "When the group is small enough so you get to know each other, a lot more gets done, and you really get to see the kingdom of God in action," she said.

"It's like we planted small seeds in these 16 youths, and now they can go back to their communities and spread more seeds," Bombell added. "They know it can be done. If just 16 of them did it here in Greensboro, they know they can do it elsewhere too."

Rescue Efforts, from page 1

Although the official death toll stood at just more than 700 on the evening of July 20, the provincial governor of Aitape estimated the number of dead would exceed 2,000 or 3,000.

Father Crapp said he hoped it was not that high but feared it could reach that number.

"I do hope 2,000 is not correct, but I'm afraid it might be," he said.

Earlier, a clearly emotional Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Bill Skate spoke to Australian journalists after having toured the devastated area, saying he would never be able to forget what he had seen.

Skate canceled the national celebrations planned to mark the first anniversary of his party coming to power in Papua New Guinea.

Australian missionaries working in the area said the tidal waves caused devastation "much worse than at first reckoned."

Australian Franciscan officials said that in the wake of the tidal wave, the lagoon in Sissano, Papua New Guinea, was full of bodies and debris from trees, houses and household goods. The mouth of the canal into the lagoon was choked with bodies, making canoe access impossible.

Entire villages were wiped out, and survivors were hiding in the jungle far from the sea after fleeing in terror of another wave, said a July 20 statement issued by the Australian Franciscan provincial office in Sydney.

A large number of the dead were children too small to outrun the waves.

"Many children have disappeared. There are a lot of injured adults coming into the hospital, but no children," a priest in Aitape told Reuters, the British news agency.

In a telegram to Archbishop Hans Schwemmer, apostolic nuncio in Papua New Guinea, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state, said Pope John Paul II offered his condolences to the families of the victims of the tragedy.

"Profoundly saddened by the news of the tragic consequences of the tidal wave which has struck the Sandaun province, the Holy Father offers fervent prayers for the victims and invokes divine consolation upon those who mourn and those who are suffering," the message said. The pope urged the international community to aid victims.

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Scripture

Readings for the week of
July 26 - August 1, 1998

Sunday
Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

Monday
Jeremiah 13:1-11
Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday
Jeremiah 14:17-22
Matthew 13:35-43

Wednesday
Jeremiah 15:10,16-21
John 11:19-27

Thursday
Jeremiah 18:1-6
Matthew 13:47-53

Friday
Jeremiah 26:1-9
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday
Jeremiah 26:11-16,24
Matthew 14:1-12

Readings for the week of
August 2 - 8, 1998

Sunday
Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:21-23
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

Monday
Jeremiah 28:1-17
Matthew 14:13-21

Tuesday
Jeremiah 30:1-2,12-15,18-22
Matthew 14:22-36

Wednesday
Jeremiah 31:1-7
Matthew 15:21-28

Thursday
Deuteronomy 7:9-10,13-14
2 Peter 1:16-19
Luke 9:28-36

Friday
Nahum 2:1,3;3:1-3,6-7
Matthew 16:24-28

Saturday
Habakkuk 1:12—2:4
Matthew 17:14-20

THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

His Excellency,
Bishop William G. Curlin,
announces the following
appointments in the
Diocese of Charlotte.

Effective July 16, 1998

Rev. Frank Cintula
Vicar of Boone vicariate

Rev. Msgr. William Pharr
Vicar of Charlotte vicariate

Rev. Larry Heiney
Vicar of Gastonia vicariate

Rev. Michael Buttner
Vicar of Hickory vicariate

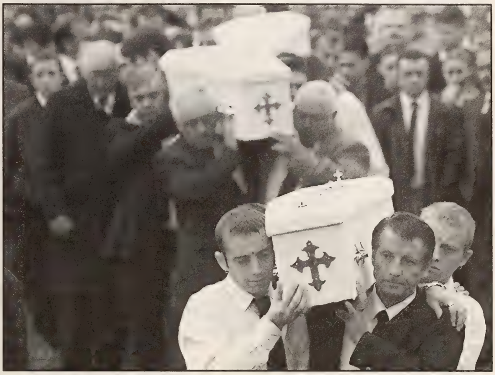
Rev. George Kloster
Vicar of Smoky Mountain vicariate
(Rev. Jim Cahill will continue as vicar until September)

Rev. Jim Solari
Vicar of Winston-Salem vicariate

Rev. Abbot Patrick Shelton
Vicar of Albemarle vicariate

Bishop Celebrates Mass For Peace In Ireland

By FATHER DOUGLAS K. CLARK



CNS photo from Reuters

The coffins of three young brothers, Jason, Mark and Richard Quinn, are carried by relatives and friends to a funeral service July 14 in Ballymoney, Northern Ireland. The boys, whose mother is Catholic, were killed in a sectarian firebomb attack July 12.

SAVANNAH, Ga. (CNS) — Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah told a thousand worshipers July 12 that few understand the difficulties standing in the way of a final, peaceful settlement to "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland.

During a Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the Irish-born bishop said that the situation in Northern Ireland "has the ingredients of differing amounts of politics, religion, history and economics and national awareness."

The regularly scheduled 11:30 a.m. Mass was dedicated to the cause of peace in Ireland. At the Mass, Bishop Boland proposed that Savannah's Irish societies take the lead in helping people understand the complexities of Northern Ireland's situation.

"It is probably fair to say that the vast majority of Savannahians, and indeed perhaps the vast majority in the United States, do not fully comprehend what the issues are," Bishop Boland said.

Those who make the effort to inform themselves could speak for the Irish community and provide "an objective perspective in regard to all the issues," the bishop said.

He added, "To begin to understand is an achievement in itself."

Bishop Boland also recounted the news that broke early the morning of the Mass about the three young Quinn brothers — Richard, 11, Mark, 10, and Jason, 8 — who were killed as they slept in their home July 12 in an early morning gasoline bomb attack in Ballymoney, Northern Ireland. The boys were buried July 14.

He asked the worshipers to pray for the special needs of the Quinn family.

Bishop Boland said the July 12 date for the Mass he was celebrating to pray for peace was both coincidental and providential.

"It was on this day in 1690 that the seeds were planted for the current animosities," at the Battle of the Boyne, which assured Protestant supremacy in Ireland for centuries to come.

"Three hundred and eight years of mistrust and confrontation (resulted)," he said, and, "like all family feuds that last a long time," the Irish family feud has been "so destroying."

In honor of the victory of the Protestant William of Orange in 1690, "Orange societies" march in Northern Ireland every year on July 12. Their route through Catholic neighborhoods generated controversy again this year.

Bishop Boland called on those at the Mass not only to pray, but to ground themselves in God's way, to be Christ-centered and to act and work on behalf of peace.

"The bottom line is not who wins and loses, but the development of a situation that leads to a just society, a society where there are no second-class citizens, where the dignity of each individual is respected, where getting a job is not dependent on one's religious affiliation," he said.

He asked the congregation to pray "for peace that eliminates fear — fear of the bomb, the plastic bullet, sectarian killings, the excruciating fear of intimidation that one family will be harmed.

"It is incumbent upon all to lead others to the conviction that violence and evil must be outrightly condemned," the bishop emphasized.

"We must be convinced that every act of violence — from whatever side — does violence to the peacemaking process. We must be convinced that violence only begets violence. ... All Irish-Americans must directly shun those who advocate, support or encourage such violence."

The bishop reminded his audience that "our ultimate goal has to be reconciliation. It is the ultimate test of our Christian convictions because it is the essence of the Gospel message."

He asked, "Do we live too much in the past? Are our memories too long? Is it our purpose in life to keep brooding over past injustices and wrongs?"

Twelve Savannah Irish societies together took the initiative in proposing the celebration of a special Mass for peace.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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— Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 26 — 11 a.m.
Mass with candidacy for seminarians
St. Patrick Cathedral,
Charlotte

July 26-31
Joint Conference of the National Black Sisters, National Black Catholic Clergy, National Black Catholic Seminarian Association and National Association of African-American Deacons
Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel,
Charlotte

August 4-5
Speaker
Jewish-Catholic Ecumenical Dialogue
Little Switzerland

August 7 — 7:15 a.m.
First Friday Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral,
Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Sunday Prayer, Rest Help People See God In Nature

LORENZAGO DI CADORE, Italy (CNS) — With the forests and towering Dolomite mountains as a backdrop, Pope John Paul II said Sunday prayer and rest help people rediscover God's reflection in creation.

The pope spoke about keeping Sundays holy July 12 in a midday address to more than 1,000 people crowded into the yard around the little house in Lorenzago di Cadore where he was vacationing.

Commenting on his apostolic letter, "The Day of the Lord," released July 7, the pope said Sunday is a day to rediscover the "joyful gaze of God," who, on the seventh day, looked at all he created and declared it good.

"The day of the Lord is the day which manifests God's love for his creatures," the pope said.

"In an era of technology," he said, people's lives run the risk of becoming anonymous or being seen as simply another component in the production process.

"Man, then, becomes unable to enjoy the beauty of creation and, even more, unable to read in it the reflection of the face of God," the pope said.

"Christians," he said, "stop every Sunday not only because of their legitimate need for rest, but especially to celebrate the work of God the creator and redeemer.

"From this celebration, there arise reasons for joy and hope which give a new taste to everyday life and constitute a vital antidote to the boredom, lack of meaning and desperation which may tempt some people," he said.

Pope John Paul, tanned after spending three full days outdoors, thanked the people of Lorenzago for welcoming him to their village while respecting his need for rest. He also thanked officers from the Italian forest service and police, as well as the head of Vatican security for protecting his privacy and making a real vacation possible.

Pope Reportedly Joins Billions Watching World Cup Final

LORENZAGO DI CADORE, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II reportedly joined an estimated 2 billion people worldwide in watching the final game of the World Cup July 12. During a Sunday noon prayer at the pope's mountain retreat in Lorenzago di Cadore, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told journalists that the pontiff was to view the soccer match between France and Brazil on television that night.

Mexican Church Leaders Announce Plans For Papal Visit

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican church leaders have announced plans for Pope John Paul II's January visit. The pope will begin his fourth visit to Mexico Jan. 22 and will receive the keys to Mexico City from Mayor Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. A highlight of the visit will be a Mass in the Basilica of Guadalupe Jan. 23 with the bishops who participated in the 1997 Synod of Bishops for America. The pontiff will present the synod results in an apostolic exhortation. Later that day, Pope John Paul will meet President Ernesto Zedillo, his family and members of his cabinet at the official presidential residence, Los Pinos. On Jan. 24, the pope will celebrate Mass in the velodrome built for the 1968 Olympic Games. A series of short meetings was schedule for Jan. 25.

Coming Of Age

Amy Welborn

From Opposing Abortion to Obtaining One

A few weeks ago I went to our local crisis pregnancy center to interview the center's director, Mrs. Smith, as part of some research I was doing for a workshop presentation.

The workshop's theme was "Forming Children Who Value Life," but there was a particular angle I was interested in exploring: What happens when a girl who previously professed pro-life convictions gets pregnant and then chooses to have an abortion?

First of all, I asked, "It does happen, right?"

Smith nodded, sadly.

I asked what her experience had taught her about the dynamics of that shift — from professing opposition to abortion to obtaining one.

It was simple, she said. "What happens is that the principles are just not held deeply enough — they're not integrated enough into the girl's life to overcome the crisis of being pregnant."

Smith uses the analogy of a balloon with her clients. When you're experiencing that situation, she said, it's like you're in a balloon, and the crisis is the balloon's wall, and that's all you can see: Your vision is so limited that you think the world and life itself is defined by the wall of that balloon.

What you can't see is that outside the balloon there are lots of other things going on — maybe even people who will be much more supportive than you'd ever imagine.

Seeing that is particularly difficult for teens because adolescents have a severe handicap in dealing with tough moral decisions. They lack perspective.

Teens simply haven't had enough life experience on their own to have weathered very difficult circumstances and see that life does indeed go on, and that, most of the time, it's the choices that require self-sacrifice and taking responsibility that bring long-term peace.

There are other factors as well, of course.

Many times a pro-life girl will agree to an abortion because the father of the baby insists on it, perhaps even threatening her with abandonment if she doesn't agree, and she'll do anything to preserve that relationship.

Of course, as Smith points out, what they don't see is that once you've violated your own values for a boyfriend, the relationship is doomed anyway.

Tragically, sometimes even so-called pro-life parents will bring in their pregnant daughters for a pregnancy test at the center, then transport them right over to the abortion clinic. Why?

"It's different," they say, "when it's my daughter. We can't see our daughter's life ruined."

So what can we do, as parents, schools and churches, to help teens not only maintain a commitment to life in word, but also in deed, if the unexpected happens to them or to one of their friends?

"Instill the values," responded Smith. "Instill the spiritual relationship that supports the values. And love them. Pick them up when they fall. Forgive them when they blow it. We all blow it sometimes, and we all need to be forgiven."

Smith's experience should reveal that developing a conscience is an ongoing process. Saying you believe in something sometimes is not enough to get you through tough times.

Inner strength, discipline, an understanding of consequences and developing the habit of taking responsibility in matters large and small are the strands of the rope you'll need to draw yourself over from the land of "saying" to the much rougher terrain of "action," the place where mature adults dwell.

Amy Welborn is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

Black, Catholic and Free

Augustus Tolton thought the Catholic priesthood was open to any man who was Catholic and had the vocation. He was wrong. If you were black and living in 1880's America, the very idea of a black clergy was anathema. Even though the roots of black Catholics went back to the 16th century in Florida, this son of slaves could find no American seminary willing to accept him.

If it were not for the support of the Franciscans at Quincy College in Illinois, Augustus Tolton's calling to priestly service would have languished. However, the monks were able to arrange for his studies at a seminary in Rome. He was ordained there in 1886.

Before returning to a black parish, St. Joseph's, in Quincy, Tolton wrote fervently: "I really feel that there will be a stir all over the United States when I begin... I shall work and pull at it as long as God gives me life, for I see that I have principalities to resist anywhere and everywhere I go."

In this he was right. Robert Ellsberg explains in "All Saints": "His effectiveness as preacher and spiritual leader is reflected in the fact that he began to draw a sizable number of white parishioners. This seems to have generated resentment on the part of many of the white priests of neighboring parishes. The friendliness that had greeted his arrival steadily cooled. It was not blatant racism that he encountered so much as a sense of marginalization, as if he did not really exist."

Tolton's struggles express the painfully slow disappearance of racial disparities in American parishes and its hierarchy. It took Pope Paul VI to remind us on the occasion of the canonization of the martyrs of Uganda in 1964 that Africa has provided the church with incalculable service, including the pontificates of three early African popes: Saints Victor I, Militades and Gelasius.

It was that same year on July 2 that President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, or national origin. Yet the "cultural divide" continues to trouble the American Catholic experience.

Edward Braxton, the black auxiliary bishop of St. Louis, drew from the remarks of a former seminarian to make this observation: "How would Catholics of European origin feel, if starting tomorrow, all the images of the Trinity, Jesus, Mary, the saints... had black, Hispanic, Asian or Native American features, and none were white? Would they feel fully at home and welcome? Is this not what black Catholics have lived with for generations?"

Yet, in spite of this, the ranks of black American Catholics have swelled to over two million, including lay people, religious sisters and brothers, priests and 11 bishops. These are individuals who have moved the American Church to become Catholic in every way.

Augustus Tolton died at the age of 43, never certain that he was accomplishing anything for the aspirations of African-American Catholics. He is rightfully celebrated as a pioneer. Today, 101 years after his death, what have we learned? How have we changed?

Bishop George Murry of Chicago puts it this way: "There was a time when the doors of the Church were opened to us [blacks] but a crack. There were no religious, no priests, no bishops of our color or hue. That was a time past, an opportunity missed. That was then. This is now. And timing is everything!"

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Costly Promise

Q. *Approximately four years ago I married a girl of the Baptist faith. I agreed to be married before a minister, since she was divorced from a previous marriage that lasted 10 months.*

She agreed, if the annulment were granted, to marry in the Catholic Church. She made the condition, however, that the children must be raised in her faith.

The annulment was granted two years ago, but she is reluctant to marry in the church. She doesn't want me to raise the children Catholic and feels I cannot keep my promise to her and to God.

I know I made a bad decision to marry the way I did. Now that I understand about the children, I feel hopeless.

After being a practicing Catholic all my life, I cannot imagine trying to live a normal life without the sacraments of penance and Communion. It's sad I have caused such a mess for myself. Can you offer any guidance?

A. Before offering whatever response I can, I wish every couple even remotely considering an interfaith marriage had an opportunity to read and think seriously about your letter.

Unfortunately, your situation is not uncommon. Couples in love tend easily to think all differences and conflicts will work out somehow.

Too often they end up with the choices confronting you, end the marriage or consent to something (like how you raise your children or how you live your own faith) that seriously violates one's own conscience.

As part of its marriage preparation process, the Catholic Church today has a simple but common-sense procedure to be sure the couple have at least surfaced these major questions and, hopefully, resolved them in such a way that neither partner will be forced to do anything later on that contradicts what is believed to be right.

If those conflicts cannot be resolved satisfactorily, the couple need to consider very seriously whether they should marry each other; either that or resign themselves to the possibility of an eventual, painful spiritual dilemma like yours.

As you have discovered, if one or both partners have a strong personal faith, whatever that might be, failure to work through these problems can wreak enormous spiritual damage to the family later on.

What can you do?

First, don't do anything until you have discussed the whole situation, including the present weaknesses of your marriage, with a priest in whom you can have confidence. You have many to choose from in your area.

Ask him to help you. It will take time, but with some wise guidance you should be able to return to the sacraments, as you desire. I hope you do.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Parish Diary

Father Peter Daly

Why I'm Learning Spanish

This summer I will be studying Spanish. Not just toting a book to the beach to learn a few phrases. I will be enrolled in a school and living with a family in Central America, immersing myself in the language and the culture for a month. Why?

Because if you are going to minister to the Catholic Church in most parts of the United States today, you need to know Spanish.

For a freckle-faced Irishman like myself, it is a new challenge. How do we reach out to people who need the ministry of the church?

For the past couple of years it has been a series of little steps.

First we got a bilingual missalette so our new visitors could at least follow the Mass. Then I tried saying a few prayers in Spanish, which drew some smiles and giggles. At one Mass we began doing the first two readings in Spanish and English, drawing upon lectors from the migrant workers' ranks.

We bought catechisms and Bibles in Spanish. We subscribed to our archdiocesan Spanish-language paper. We sent our school bus to pick up the workers, who have no cars, for Mass. Next year we will have a Spanish-language Renew group.

We also tried to be of practical help. In April we found people to do tax forms that the immigrants could not understand. Some parish members also have helped with teaching English classes, which seem more and more popular.

Are we doing too much? One man told me, "They are here in the United States, they should learn English." He has a point. One great strength of America is its linguistic unity.

But I think we are only doing what the church in America always did — helping the new immigrants adapt to their new home. When I was a kid in Chicago, we had ethnic parishes everywhere — Polish and Slovak, Italian and German, Ukrainian and French. Nobody thought it strange or wrong.

Like earlier waves of immigration, Hispanic people are more diverse than they might appear. Spanish-speaking immigrants cannot be treated as a single block. There is a big difference between Cuban aristocrats and El Salvadoran farm laborers. But all must be attended to.

Language is their common denominator and unifying force. Some familiarity with the Spanish language and the various cultures of Latin America should be a requirement for priestly ordination in most dioceses because it certainly is a requirement in most parishes these days. If the Catholic Church does not attend to their needs, others are eager to visit, help and convert them.

I personally believe that these new waves of immigrants may be the salvation of the Catholic Church in America. They keep us vibrant and growing. They make us aware of the needs of the poor.

They are the children of the church, which cannot ignore them. Even if that means retreading old guys like me on a summer vacation at language school.

Father Peter Daly is a CNS columnist.

Everlasting Remembrance From the Heart

By JIM KELLEY
Diocesan Director of Development

Each year, we celebrate special occasions with those we love. Birthdays, anniversaries, Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, and other festive events offer opportunities to rejoice and give thanks for those who guide or inspire us to be the best we can.

At such times, we also remember beloved ones who, though no longer with us, continue to live in our memory and influence our lives.

The Choice Is Yours

Visiting with folks here in the Charlotte Diocese and elsewhere, I continually hear stories about wonderful family members, dear friends, and exceptional teachers who have touched the heart and soul and inspired so much goodness.

What better way to acknowledge one so cherished than by a gift in memory or in tribute to your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese, or the diocesan Foundation? At the same time, devoted Catholics can continue to be faithful stewards of God's many gifts by making such a commitment.

Forms Of Giving

These types of gifts frequently come as cash, often in the form of a check, a convenient way to make gifts to the Church.

There are other ways, however, that you may not have considered. Stocks, certain bonds and mutual funds, life insurance, retirement funds, or collections of value (for example, an art collection or stamp collection) can be put to charitable use. A non-cash gift helps reserve your cash for another use and may also enable you to make a gift larger than you originally thought.

A Special Bequest

You may be surprised to learn that people who make loving memorial or tribute gifts are not necessarily wealthy. Few of them can afford to part with a large amount of money or property, which may be needed later. For this reason, please keep in mind that a variety of ways exist to make a gift of lasting meaning without jeopardizing future security.

Making your gift through a properly drafted will, trust, or other legally recognized arrangement helps assure the gift will be made only after you no longer need the assets.

Known as a "residual" or "remainder" budget, it means that property will be distributed to your loved ones just as you wish. Whatever remains in your estate (the "remainder") can be bequeathed to your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese, or the diocesan Foundation, according to your wishes.

Overlooked Assets

Life insurance also makes an excellent gift to our Church. You simply name a charitable beneficiary to receive all or a portion of the policy proceeds if there are no surviving beneficiaries. Or you may prefer to take out a new policy and name the Church as beneficiary or co-beneficiary.

Retirement plans (Individual Retirement Account, pension, or profit sharing plans) also make good gift vehicles. As with life insurance, it's possible to give whatever remains after your primary beneficiaries receive their benefits. The administrator of your plan has further information and change of beneficiary forms.

Significant tax savings may be possible. Feel free to contact me or my associate, Cindy Rice, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203, (704) 370-3301 or 370-3320, for additional details about gifts, giving, and all the good work your generosity accomplishes.

First Friday/Saturday Adoration

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is in the chapel area of St. Joan of Arc Church every first Saturday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Call the church office, (704) 252-3151, for more information.

BREVARD — Sacred Heart Church hosts eucharistic adoration each first Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass. The parish also hosts first Saturday devotions with adoration. Call (704) 883-9572 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church hosts eucharistic adoration each first Friday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass and lasting until midnight. Call (704) 549-1607 for more information.

DENVER — Nocturnal adoration is the first Friday of each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begin at 7 p.m. each first Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by rosary recitation and Mass. Call Jim Kennedy, (704) 732-2673, for more information.

HICKORY — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the first Friday through the first Saturday of each month at St. Aloysius Church. For details, call Jean Marie Hirsch at (704) 495-4339 or Sonja Bjerg at (704) 328-5074.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church hosts eucharistic adoration beginning at 9:30 a.m. every first Friday and ending at 9 a.m. Saturday. Call (336) 294-4696 for details.

NEWTON — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Joseph Church every first Friday of the month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasting until 8 p.m. For more information, call (704) 464-9207.

WAYNESVILLE — St. John the Evangelist Church invites all to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. each first Friday. Call the parish office at (828) 456-6707 or Ann Rollman at (828) 456-7313 for more information.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church hosts the rosary and eucharistic adoration each first Friday following the 8 a.m. Mass.

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Entertainment

"Polish Wedding" Is Muddled, Romantic Tale

By HENRY HERX

NEW YORK (CNS) — A Polish-American family holds together despite the wife's infidelity and a daughter's unwed pregnancy in the muddled romantic tale, "Polish Wedding" (Fox Searchlight).

The Pzoniak family lives in Detroit, where both parents work while maintaining a crowded household of three grown sons, an adolescent daughter and a preteen son.

Also living with them is the wife of one of the sons and the couple's infant baby.

The head of the family is Bolek (Gabriel Byrne), a morose baker who works nights and arrives home in time for breakfast with the rest of the family.

It's his wife, Jadzia (Lena Olin), who really runs the household and lays down the rules for the family.

Though she is quite practical in home matters, Jadzia is at heart an incurable romantic who believes a woman's destiny is summed up in love, sex and motherhood.

Despite working evenings as an office cleaning woman, Jadzia somehow has enough time to carry on a passionate affair with a local businessman.

Suspecting his wife's infidelity, Bolek follows her one night and confirms his fears, then withdraws unobserved but dissolved in tears.

Unaware of her husband's discovery, Jadzia ends her affair and returns home to Bolek, who embraces her as if nothing had happened.

This is one of the better moments in a story which also focuses on the sexually precocious Hala (Claire Danes), the Pzoniak's teen-age daughter.

A high school dropout whose parents are too preoccupied to keep tabs on her activities, Hala spends her nights on the streets satisfying her curiosity about men.

One of those who finds her attractive is a local police officer (Adam Trese), but after he gets her pregnant, he refuses to marry her.

Led by Jadzia, the entire Pzoniak family descend on the hapless young cop, threatening him with clubs and worse, but still he refuses.

This sets up a completely bogus ending involving Hala having been chosen to crown a statue of the Blessed Virgin in a traditional ceremony at the local church.

Just as she is about to do so, someone shouts she is not a virgin and in the confusion that follows, Hala puts the crown on her own head.

Aghast, the pastor tries to pull her down from the pedestal but Jadzia intervenes and leads Hala through the crowd, which inexplicably begin blessing themselves reverently as the girl makes her way past them.

For a Catholic, the sequence makes no sense, though the intention apparently is to link Hala and the Blessed Virgin as unwed mothers.

Symbolic rather than literal, it's meant to serve the picture's theme that there is something sacred about human love. Whatever its intention, the sequence doesn't work dramatically and many will find it in bad taste, if not offensive.

The essential failure, however, is writer-director Theresa Connelly's thin script, which relies on ethnic, cultural and religious stereotypes in portraying the Pzoniaks.

Moreover, the narrative's events are treated in such broad strokes that the result borders on romantic fantasy which, despite an excellent cast, is laboriously overdone, stretches for ribald humor and ultimately proves tiresome.

Because of numerous sexual situations, ethnic stereotyping, some profanity and occasional rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 —parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS photo from Universal Pictures

Kirtsen Dunst stars as curious teenager Christy Fimple in the fantasy film ``Small Soldiers." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV -- adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Four Days in September" (1998)

Gripping yet thoughtful fact-based thriller about the 1969 kidnapping of the U.S. ambassador to Brazil (Alan Arkin) by an underground group seeking to force the country's military dictatorship to release some of their imprisoned comrades. Directed by Bruno Barreto, the step-by-step account of the kidnapping and police search is quite suspenseful, but the treatment of the period's politics and character motivations clearly shows the kidnapping as a brutal act of terrorism no less morally repugnant than the regime against which it is directed. Subtitles. Scenes of violence including torture, menacing situations and occasional rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Great Expectations" (1998)

In this reworked and updated version of the Charles Dickens classic, a poor Florida youth (Ethan Hawke) is given the chance to make good in the New York art world thanks to an anonymous patron (Robert De Niro), but his expectations center on winning the love of the cruel girl (Gwyneth Paltrow) he has idealized from his youth. Directed by Alfonso Cuaron, the movie keeps the core of Dickens' story while making considerable changes in adapting it to a contemporary American setting but the coming-of-age tale that results is dramatically uneven and the characters uncompelling. Stylized violence, sexual situations, brief nudity, occasional profanity and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Home in Oklahoma" (1947)

Small-town newspaper editor Roy Rogers and St. Louis reporter Dale Evans team up to solve a murder and save a young boy from being done out of his inheritance by greedy relations in a modern-day Western directed by William Witney. Simple formula fare with a minimum of stylized violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Kissing a Fool" (1998)

Slack romantic comedy in which an engaged playboy (David Schwimmer) decides to see if his fiancee (Mili Avital) will be faithful to him by asking his best friend (Jason Lee) to try to seduce her. Director Doug Ellin's crass romantic triangle is utterly predictable with few comic sparks along its tired route. A live-in relationship, drug references, occasional profanity and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"My Pal Trigger" (1946)

Western programmer directed by Frank McDonald in which an itinerant horse dealer (Roy Rogers) flees the law when wrongly accused of killing a prize palomino stallion, then finds the real culprit (Jack Holt) after raising the stallion's colt into the champion horse, Trigger. Mild violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Palmetto" (1998)

Absurd thriller in which an embittered ex-con (Woody Harrelson) is ensnared by a seductive woman (Elisabeth Shue) in an elaborate kidnapping scheme that leaves him framed for murder. Directed by Volker Schlondorff, the glaring lapses in logic reduce this film noir to mere pulp. Some violence, discreet sexual encounters, much rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Swept from the Sea" (1998)

Engrossing drama from Joseph Conrad's story in which a Ukrainian immigrant (Vincent Perez) bound for America in the 1890s is shipwrecked on the rugged English coast of Cornwall where he courts a lonely servant girl (Rachel Weisz) and they wed to live in blissful isolation from their hostile neighbors until tragedy strikes. Directed by Beeban Kidron, the British production succeeds as a lyric love story of two strangers clinging to each other in an alien land with enough period interest to satisfy even those who ordinarily disdain movie romantics. Some stylized violence, a restrained sexual encounter, an illegitimate birth and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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What's in church history for me?

By John F. Haught
Catholic News Service

To know who we are we must be able to say where we came from.

Apparently even our earliest tribal ancestors instinctively realized that without a sense of origins they could have no sense of their own identity. So they told stories — we now call them myths — about the decisive events in their past.

And what about the church? Without a story to tell about the church's own communal history, its members would have only the most nebulous sense of what it means to be Christian or Catholic. Knowledge of the church's past is essential for our own sense of who we are religiously.

We need to know the struggles our predecessors underwent, the heroic figures and deeds that shaped the church's unique character, and how the faith's fundamental teachings came to be formulated.

But there is a deeper reason to familiarize ourselves with the church's history. The church understands itself to be a community of hope. As the biblical authors were fully aware, however, talk about God's promises and faithfulness cannot enkindle hope as long as it remains only an abstract idea. It has to be embodied in narrative — story — form.

The substance of faith, even that of the most theologically sophisticated believers, still comes alive for us only when we meet it in the humble form of stories.

By telling stories about God's actions to save and renew — even in the most desperate of circumstances — our hearts become imprinted afresh with faith's healing power. Stories penetrate to levels of awareness that theoretical or scientific expression can never reach.

It is especially in stories that we learn to trust.

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We can best appreciate church history's importance, then, by approaching it as a necessary extension of the need to tell stories about God's fidelity and about human responses to it.

Already in the New Testament we have clear evidence of the early Christian community's sense of obligation to pass on — in the form of stories — the saving truths about a promising and faithful God.

The Gospel stories about Jesus, of course, are the most obvious instances of Christian faith's instincts in this regard. To these stories St. Luke's Acts of the Apostles adds fascinating new accounts of the deeds of Christianity's earliest heroes, especially Peter and Paul.

In a sense, in Acts we have "church history's" first installment.

Reciting the struggles, victories and squabbles of the primitive church, Acts can serve for us as a bridge linking the past 20 centuries of church history to the earlier narrative traditions of the Bible.

Following the example of Acts, it seems to me, we are invited today to keep on telling the extended story of the church. If we fail to do so, we begin to lose touch with the grander story of God's promise that constitutes the leit motif of the entire biblical vision.

In her collective memory the church holds a rich, varied and often troubled archive of reports about its members' efforts, throughout the Christian centuries, to remain faithful to the "old, old story" of God's promise to Abraham.

It nourishes our hope today when we repeatedly encounter the many different ways in which the sense of living in the presence of a faithful God has been expressed in holy lives, art, architecture and writings since the days of Jesus and Luke.

For this reason, above all others, we do well to learn about the story of the church's life in history.

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However, along with the edifying accounts of martyrs and saints, church history chronicles some most disturbing episodes of violence, cowardice and compromise. Do we have to include these in the telling of our church's story?

We may reasonably guess that for theological purposes Luke left a lot out of his own account. But he did not refrain from including embarrassing episodes. Recall, for example, his accounts of simony, idolatry and the contentious way Paul confronted Peter for insisting on circumcision as a condition of church membership.

Paul's own writings, incidentally, also refer to a number of scandals in the early Christian church.

Surveying the biblical accounts more generally, we cannot help but notice how honest they are in highlighting human weakness, even in the case of their most exalted heroes. The Bible does not excessively beautify its narratives. Neither do we have to leave out all the unsightliness in our own church's story.

In fact, biblical faith gives us every reason to be completely honest in telling the church's story. The point of so many Bible stories, after all, is to have us realize that even human sin and weakness cannot break down God's fidelity or destroy our capacity to trust in God's promise. Nothing we humans do can wreck that.

Once we allow the whole story to surface in all its ambiguity, we find in it more than enough examples of heroic trust to nourish our hope today.

(Haught is chairman of the Theology Department at Georgetown University.)

CNS photo by Frank Methe

"The substance of faith ... still comes alive for us only when we meet it in the humble form of stories. By telling stories about God's actions to save and renew — even in the most desperate of circumstances — our hearts become imprinted afresh with faith's healing power."

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FAITH alive!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We can be glad we don't have to start from scratch when it comes to living a Christian life in this world. Others — whether in the year 100, or 1200, or 1900 — have gone before us, clearing the way.

That doesn't mean that the world in which we are making our way would be recognizable to the great figures of church history. We'll have to figure out what St. Benedict's insights into the meaning of Christian hospitality and the spirit of welcome imply for our era of globalization, with its vast potential for human solidarity. Still, Benedict's insights remain compelling guides.

What's in church history for us? More than a jumble of dates and obscure events.

During 1998, when people in the church everywhere are becoming reacquainted with the Holy Spirit and the meaning of hope, it may be worthwhile to look to church history as a history of the Spirit in the world.

The record of all the good the Spirit has done can inspire and motivate us.

Furthermore, the record will show how often the Spirit has drawn good from something that, at the outset, appeared rather bad. That alone should give us hope.

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

Reflections of ourselves in the past

By Father Robert L. Kinast
Catholic News Service

As everyone knows, members of the church have experienced tension over some changes introduced by Vatican Council II in the 1960s. But everyone may not know that this is not the first time in church history that this has happened.

CNS photo by Bill Wittman

The history of the church is filled with parallels to situations we face today. Does it help us to live our own history more fruitfully when we know the history of our ancestors in faith?

Take, for example, the numerous disputes over theology witnessed in the years since Vatican II. Most of these were the result of different methods of doing theology. How threatening is such diversity? How surprising is it?

> "Does it help us to live our own history more fruitfully when we know the history of our ancestors in faith?"

Here I find it helpful to recall that, taking history as a whole, it was fairly common for diverse methods of theology to coexist and interact in the church. The classic example of this is found in the various schools of theology in medieval universities.

Each major religious order in those times had its own approach to theology: the Augustinians, the Benedictines, the Franciscans, the Dominicans. St. Thomas Aquinas himself championed a new approach that drew upon the philosophy of Aristotle.

Theological diversity is not new for the church.

The renewal of the liturgy by Vatican II is another example of an area in which stresses have been experienced in modern times. Has the church contended with anything similar in the past?

Vatican II's renewal has tried, among other things, to disentangle — to distinguish — personal devotional practices and the public prayer of the church. The purpose hasn't been to minimize devotions such as praying the rosary, completing novenas, making the stations of the cross, celebrating Benediction, honoring saints. The purpose is to ensure that the liturgy is the central prayer of the people and that they participate in it well.

But this effort pales by comparison to the difficult, different task that faced the church in the so-called Dark Ages. During the influx of migrating nations between the years 400 and 800, and for centuries thereafter, the church had to contend with the impact on religion of customs, symbols and references which were often extraneous to the purpose of worship and sometimes were superstitious.

There is no doubt that we in the church face many challenges today. Some challenges come to us through our surrounding culture. Other challenges arise from the relationships among the church's people and the effort to grasp the meaning of the Gospel for our times.

The fact is, however, that our ancestors in the faith faced similar situations and challenges. We can learn and draw hope from this.

(Father Kinast is the director of the Center for Theological Reflection, Indian Rocks beach, Fla.)

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FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Tell why it is important for people now to learn from the past.

"Because you draw from the past, learning from your mistakes and your successes. The past gives you a road to follow toward the future." — Mary Rose Cecola, Shreveport, La.

"If you don't learn from the past, you're doomed to repeat it. I know it's a cliché, but I think it's true." — Karla Legato, Wilmington, Del.

"Learning from the past allows us to change our attitudes and actions in the present and future — if we actually learn from the past." — Barbara Calhoun, Yakima, Wash.

"Even though new situations come up, often they are similar to old problems with a new spin on them. The human condition doesn't change that much." — Colleen Hughes, Girard, Ohio

An upcoming edition asks: Do you ever turn to the Bible when praying? Why, and how? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

When the historical context is misunderstood

By Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
Catholic News Service

The New Testament took pains to situate Gospel events in history. For example:

—Luke's Gospel situates Jesus' birth in the reign of Caesar Augustus while Quirinius was the governor of Syria (2:1).

—Luke also situates the beginning of the prophetic mission of John the Baptist in the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea (3;1).

Knowing the historical background of a New Testament writing helps us to understand — and not to misunderstand — its purpose and what it means for us. For instance, take the Book of Revelation.

For a long time we thought that Revelation was written for Christians suffering a great persecution launched by Emperor Domitian. And we thought the book's purpose was to bolster their courage at a time when the end of the world was thought to be imminent.

To this day, many look to the Book of Revelation for predictions regarding the world's end. They interpret the book, with its dragons and beasts, as a code referring to people and institutions today. Often the book is viewed as dark and vengeful, predicting the destruction of people perceived as evil.

Today we know there is no evidence of such a persecution in Domitian's time. For a long time, then, we were mistaken.

We can trace this mistake to Bishop Melito of Sardis (circa 160-170), who addressed a writing to the Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

For Melito, only evil emperors, like Nero, persecuted Christians. A good emperor, like Marcus Aurelius, did not!

But Domitian had a bad reputation among the nobles. And the Roman historians were mostly from the upper class. Especially at the end of Domitian's reign, they thought of him as a second Nero.

From there it was an easy step for Melito to present Domitian as the second great persecutor of the Christians.

It was also an easy step to believe Melito, since he was bishop of Sardis, one of the seven churches that received a special message from the Lord in the Book of Revelation.

Surely there were persecutions at the time the book was written (circa A.D. 95), but they were local and sporadic. They also came from different sources. They are described in the message to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation (2:1-3:22).

With a correct historical understanding of the Book of Revelation, it can help Christians to persevere in the ordinary difficulties they experience. But we may lose sight of this if we think the book focuses only on the end times. It is a book of hope.

But there is another point to make about the background of the Book of Revelation. Domitian presented himself as Lord and God. For the Christians, that was an affront to the true God.

That's why the Book of Revelation has a very dim view of the Roman Empire. The author presents a God whose dominion overpowers and destroys Caesar's dominion.

Nobody can pretend to be God and endure!

The Book of Revelation invites us to have a similar attitude in the face of evil. And in the Lord's Prayer, we pray for that every day:

"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.... And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen!"

Misunderstanding the historical context of a biblical book, we may read meanings into it that aren't there. Grasping the historical context makes a big difference.

(Father LaVerdiere, a Blessed Sacrament priest, is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)

In a Nutshell

- ***It nourishes our hope when we encounter in church history the many different ways people lived in the presence of God.***
- ***The church's history is filled with parallels to situations we face today.***
- ***Knowing the historical background of a New Testament writing helps us to understand its purpose and what it means for us.***

People In The News

CNS photo from Reuters

American archaeologist Thomas Parker stands in a passageway of what he believes to be the world's oldest remaining Christian church. Parker, a professor of history from North Carolina State University, and his team made the discovery while excavating near Aqaba in southern Jordan. He believes the structure was built in the late third century. Although the team found no conclusive evidence that it was a church, it's size and orientation to the east, the close proximity to a cemetery and some artifacts point to it being so, Parker said.

Castro Says Cuba Would Consider More Freedom For Education

HAVANA (CNS) — Cuban President Fidel Castro said his government would consider a Vatican request to allow the Catholic Church greater freedom in educational matters. But the government does not yet plan to enter into a public discussion of the issue, he said in brief remarks to television newsmen after a visit to Cuba in late June by Cardinal Pio Laghi, head of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education. Cardinal Laghi raised the issue of greater educational freedom with Cuban officials.

Former Josephinum Rector Named Bishop Of Rapid City

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Msgr. Blase Cupich as bishop of Rapid City, S.D. Bishop-designate Cupich, a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb., and a former rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, will succeed Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who was named head of the Archdiocese of Denver in February 1997.

Archbishop From India Defends Country's Nuclear Tests

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — The real crisis in the world today is not nuclear testing but the lack of genuine respect for the dignity of humankind in every country of the world, said retired Archbishop Angelo Fernandes of Delhi, India. To understand the recent nuclear testing by India and Pakistan, Americans must understand the individual and collective values of Asian countries, he added. The 84-year-old Archbishop Fernandes, founder and president emeritus of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, made the comments to the media during a visit to Dayton.

N.Y. Priest Arrested In Cocaine Possession Case

NEW YORK (CNS) — A priest of the Archdiocese of New York was arrested July 7 by police who said he and a layman with him were carrying nine glassine envelopes of cocaine. Msgr. James E. White, rector of the archdiocesan St. John Neumann Residence for college students and others considering study for the priesthood, was held overnight and released without bail the following day, a court official told Catholic News Service.

Heaney Named Executive Publisher For L.A. Catholic Papers

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Dennis W. Heaney, an 18-year Catholic Press veteran widely respected for his expertise in newspaper circulation and advertising, has been appointed as the new executive publisher of The Tidings and Vida Nueva newspapers. Msgr. Terrance Fleming, archdiocesan moderator of the curia, announced Cardinal Roger M. Mahony's appointment of Heaney July 8. A native of Minneapolis, Heaney spent the past 18 years as associate publisher/general manager of the Catholic Bulletin Publishing Co. of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The company publishes the weekly archdiocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit, and New Earth, the newspaper of the Diocese of Fargo, N.D.

Priest Encourages Support For Needle-Exchange Programs

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jesuit Father Jon Fuller has urged support for needle-exchange programs, citing Catholics' responsibility to protect the welfare of the most vulnerable. In the cover story of the July 18 issue of America magazine, Father Fuller wrote, "A fundamental moral issue is at stake: the failure to act to save human lives." He wrote that Catholic churches deserve criticism because they "can seem to be more concerned about potential 'scandal' — sending the wrong message about drug use — than with (exchange programs') ability to prevent lethal HIV transmissions to particularly vulnerable populations." Father Fuller is a medical doctor and is assistant director of the Adult Clinical AIDS Program at Boston Medical Center. He also is the 1997-98 Margaret Pyne professor of theology at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass.

Racism, Anti-Immigrant Ideas Have Common Roots, Speaker Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Race and immigration ought to be thought of as integrally related to each other, according to the keynote speaker at a July 13 conference on immigrants and race. Douglas S. Massey, chairman of the University of Pennsylvania's sociology department, told the audience at Georgetown University's Law Center that immigration and race are connected in ways quite different from what most people think. "Racial minorities face many problems, but immigrants are not one of them," Massey said. Instead, the two groups are likely to be victims of the same limitations, such as housing discrimination.

Maryland Catholic Conference Staffer Named To MRS Post

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The deputy director of the Maryland Catholic Conference has been named to head the Migration and Refugee Policy office of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Migration and Refugee Services. Kevin Appleby, an attorney and former U.S. Senate staff member, will begin his new job Aug. 10. His duties will include developing and implementing advocacy strategies for the U.S. bishops' public policy objectives on immigration.

San Francisco Archbishop Decries California Execution

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — San Francisco Archbishop William J. Levada decried the July 14 execution of a man who maintained to the end that he was innocent of rape and murder charges. In a July 14 statement, Archbishop Levada said he was deeply saddened by the execution by lethal injection of Thomas M. Thompson. "I am convinced that executing human beings for violent crimes does not stop the cycle of violence," the archbishop said. "Instead, these executions by the state deny the genuine respect we should have for the dignity of all persons as children of God, no matter how heinous their crime may be." He also expressed sympathy with the family of Ginger Fleischli, whose half-naked body was found in a shallow grave in Irvine, Calif., in September 1981.

Two U.S. Youths To Be Confirmed At Chile Gathering

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two U.S youths are to receive the sacrament of confirmation during an international gathering of young people in Santiago, Chile, in October. An announcement from the U.S. Catholic Conference in Washington said the two to be confirmed are Jenny Rivera, 21, of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, and Nathaniel Earl Bean, 17, of the Diocese of Juneau, Alaska. The theme for the Santiago gathering is "The Holy Spirit Will Reveal All Things to You," in keeping with Pope John Paul II's wish that 1998 be a year of focus on the Holy Spirit in preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000.

Human Rights Organizations Recognize Work Of Chiapas Bishop

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Representatives of 400 national and international human rights organizations recognized a Mexican bishop for his efforts to mediate a solution to the conflict in the country's southern state of Chiapas. Daniel Gomez Ibanez, executive director of the Peace Council, said the work of the National Mediating Commission directed by Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de las Casas had inspired mediation efforts in other parts of the world. The Peace Council, which organized the July 10 ceremony in San Cristobal de las Casas, is a global organization of religious leaders.

Former Notre Dame Coach Wins Age Discrimination Lawsuit

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Joe Moore can still remember the conversation that ended his football coaching career at the University of Notre Dame two years ago and started his discrimination lawsuit. "(Head coach Bob) Davie sat in my home and said, 'At your age, we're looking for somebody younger,' in other words, you're too old," recalled Moore, now 66, during a press conference at Erie's Cathedral Preparatory School, where he will serve as an assistant football coach this fall. Moore responded by filing a $1.3 million lawsuit against Notre Dame, charging the university with age discrimination. An eight-member jury ruled July 15 that Notre Dame discriminated against its former offensive line coach and awarded him nearly $43,000 in back pay. That amount was doubled because the age discrimination was termed "willful" and lawyers for both sides were to meet later in July at a hearing to decide any additional damages for "potential future earnings."

Dodge City Bishop Urges New Flock To Help Build 'God's City'

GARDEN CITY, Kan. (CNS) — Newly ordained Bishop Ronald M. Gilmore asked his flock at his installation July 16 to help make every city in the Diocese of Dodge City "God's City." Ordained as the fifth bishop of the southwest Kansas diocese, Bishop Gilmore, a native of Pittsburg, Kan., gave a short address to the over 800 attending the ceremony at St. Dominic Church in Garden City.

Virginia Parish Visited By Salvadoran First Lady

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (CNS) — Attending Mass at a northern Virginia parish, the first lady of El Salvador said she was pleased to see "families coming from every corner of Latin America united here in prayer." "We in El Salvador are a big family too," said Elizabeth Aguirre de Calderon Sol, in a brief talk at the end of Mass at St. Anthony Parish in Falls Church. Aguirre de Calderon Sol led the Salvadoran delegation to the Second International Conference of Women in Agriculture, held in Washington June 28-July 2. Her husband, Armando Calderon Sol, has been president of El Salvador since 1994.

Employment Opportunities

Pastoral Associate: St. Mary's, a growing and diverse parish of 2500 families in Richmond, VA, is seeking a full-time pastoral associate. This person will serve on a collaborative team as a full-time pastoral associate. This person will serve on a collaborative team with the pastor, staff and volunteers while having direct responsibility for the following areas: Pastoral Care (ministry to the sick & homebound, funeral ministry, persons in crisis); RCIA; Adult Formation. Duties include formation and supervision on ministry teams, assessing needs, and budgeting. We seek a person who is mature in ministry with strong interpersonal and organizational skills. Salary and benefits commensurate with education and experience. Please send resume by August 29 to Pastoral Associate Search Committee, 9505 Gayton Road, Richmond, VA 23229.

Fourth Grade Teacher: Immaculate Heart of Mary School is seeking a teacher for a self-contained 4th Grade class for the 1998-99 school year. Teacher will also be responsible for teaching Religion. Please send resume to principal, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262-4154, or fax to (336) 884-1849.

French/American Student Organization seeks a local coordinator for individual summer exhanges. Some French required. Students 13-17. Call Michael at (404) 982-9831. Junior Diplomat International Homestays.

Controller: Providence Ventures, LLC, a rapidly growing Charlotte-based distributor of Catholic books and merchandise, is currently seeking a controller. This person will report to the president and will be responsible for a full range of financial/accounting services, including: financial analysis, internal and external reporting, general ledger maintenance, state sales & use taxes, payroll, account payable/receivable, etc. This is the ideal role for a current controller who is seeking a new challenge or an accounting manager or assistant controller who wants increased responsiblity and opportunity. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting and several years of related experience is required. A working knowledge of information systems and project management is preferred. Please submit current resume and salary history/requirements to: Providence Ventures, LLC, c/o Bill Brown, 229 N. Church St., Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28202. Fax: (704) 358-1360

Freelance Writer: *The Catholic News & Herald* is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward resume and writing samples to *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

MSW Social Worker: Catholic Social Services is seeking to hire a MSW Social Worker. Prefer experience with adoption and foster care. 30 hours per week, negotiable. Please send resume to 35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Director of Faith Formation: Holy Family Catholic Church is seeking a team-oriented Catholic visionary to plan and implement a catechetical program for pre-school through fifth grade for a student population of 500 and administer adult education programs in this 1,200+ growing parish in Clemmons, west of Winston-Salem, NC. MA in religious education and/or theology preferred, experience in parish administration beneficial. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume to: DFF Search Committee, Holy Family Catholic Church, P.O. Box 130, Clemmons, NC 27012-0130.

Full-Time Director of Liturgy and Music: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Liturgy and Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 800 households who are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. The Director of Liturgy and Music will be responsible for overseeing the total music ministry program and the liturgical ministry of the parish. The position requires a minimum of a Bachelors' Degree in a relevant field although a Masters' Degree is preferred. Other requirements include a solid background in liturgical theology, keyboarding skills, and careful attention to detail. A professional salary will be offered to the candidate who sends with their resume three references *and* salary history to: Search Committee, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470. *References and salary history are required to be considered for this position.*

Teaching Positions: Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, NC, has the following teaching positions available for the 1998-99 school year: 3rd grade, 5th grade, middle school math (part-time). Send a resume to Sacred Heart Catholic School, 123 N. Ellis Street, Salibury, NC 28144 or call the school office between 9:00-12:00 at (704) 633-2841 for an application.

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Ecumenical Event To Celebrate Faith, Family Through Music

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte hosts "One in the Spirit," an ecumenical event celebrating faith through music, at Marshall Park in uptown Charlotte Aug. 22 from 1-6 p.m.

The all-ages event will feature seven Christian music groups representing Charlotte-area churches. Each is schedule to perform about 30 minutes.

Among the performers are Centro Católico Hispano choir, scheduled for 2 p.m.; St. Matthew Catholic Church's Alive in the Spirit choir, scheduled for 4 p.m.; and Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church's gospel choir, scheduled for 5:20 p.m.

Bishop William G. Curlin will welcome concert-goers at 1 p.m.

The focus of the event is on celebrating faith as a family, organizers say. In addition to the concert's ecumenical nature, the performers represent a diversity of styles. Groups were chosen to appeal to a variety of age groups with different musical tastes. As concessions will not be available, organizers encourage families to bring a picnic lunch to the park.

Admission to the concert is free, although donations will be accepted. Commemorative T-shirts will be on sale at the park during the concert and at local Catholic churches after the event.

In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled for Aug. 29.

The Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte is a group of Charlotte-area parish representatives committed to promoting evangelization in the congregations and communities. The CECC has sponsored past visits by Scripture theologian Dr. Scott Hahn and evangelists Peter Herbeck and Ralph Martin.

Knights Give Millions In Money And Time In 1997

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The Knights of Columbus contributed a record $107.1 million to charitable efforts in 1997 and volunteered more than 50.2 million hours of personal service to the Catholic Church, community projects and youth programs, the organization announced last month.

The figures are based on activity reports received from 73 percent of Knights of Columbus councils, Fourth Degree patriotic assemblies, Columbian Squires youth groups and other jurisdictional entities responding to the Knights' annual Survey of Fraternal Activity.

A total of 10,510 units answered the survey, which is conducted by the organization's international headquarters in New Haven, Conn.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest family fraternal service organization, with more than 1.6 members and their families throughout North America, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Panama, Guatemala, Guam, the Dominican Republic, the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas and Saipan. It was founded in 1882 in Connecticut by Father Michael J. McGivney.

Last year marked the first time the number of volunteer hours given by Knights surpassed 50 million hours in a single year. The $107.1 million in giving is also an all-time high for the order. The funds were given to programs and institutions of state councils' and local units' choosing, as well as to national and international programs.

Contributions were made in areas of church, community and youth activities.

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Middle School Students Grow in Catholic Traditions

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

NEWTON — The Knights of Columbus of District 15 were following their motto for the year — Mother Teresa's adage, "Do small things with great love —" when they assisted the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office with "Roots and Wings: Growing in Our Catholic Traditions," a program for middle-school students held last month at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Diocesan youth take part in one of many activities at "Roots and Wings," a program held for middle-school students at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Newton last month. The event was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in collaboration with the diocesan office of Youth Ministry.

"We wanted to share the treasures of our faith with young people," said Frank Cogger, Knights district deputy. The Knights assisted in the planning and operation of the program.

The all-day event included workshops, games and prayer followed by a youth Mass, celebrated by Father Gordon Pillon, administrator of St. Joseph Church. Some of the workshops included discussions on the Eucharist, vocations, prayer, Scripture and media.

"Roots and wings is precisely what we hope to nurture in these middle schoolers — the tradition of Jesus Christ which is the means for them to reach their loftiest heights," said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry.

During one workshop, Father Pillon explained some of the long-standing traditions of the church regarding proper veneration and respect to the Eucharist. He emphasized how the Eucharist must be the center of worship. "When you make the Eucharist the center of your life, you will be able to show others the face of Christ and see his face in others," he said.

John Robichaux of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro facilitated a program on the popular WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) theme. He challenged the young people with questions about their faith and had them perform several skits involving contemporary issues. At the end of the workshop, Robichaux asked the participants to say daily, "What will Jesus do through me today?"

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Seminarian Matthew Kauth instructs teams before a basketball game at the recent "Roots and Wings" retreat. Other leisurely activities included a dunking tank and Bible Jeopardy, a particular favorite among youth ministry participants.

Bill Brockhoff, a member of the Knights, led a session on different forms of prayer: adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and supplication, which Kotlowski coded with the acronym ACTS for the youth. Brockhoff also had the youth search for a "personal text" in the Book of Psalms. A term coined by religious writer William Barclay, a "personal text" is a sentence in the Bible which starts with the first letter of a person's name, and the final word in the sentence ends with the last letter of their name.

Integrated in the day was time to relax and have fun. Included were a dunking tank, basketball games, and games of Bible Jeopardy, a particular favorite led by the area's young adults group.

At the day's conclusion, the youth gathered to pray the rosary in the newly constructed rosary garden outside the church. During the closing Mass, Father Pillon spoke on the importance of unity. "We can only be united in truth, not through compromising it," he said.

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Mediated Settlement Announced In Dallas Abuse Cases

By BRONSON HAVARD

DALLAS (CNS) — The Diocese of Dallas announced July 10 that it has settled the widely publicized pedophile lawsuit against the diocese and former priest Rudolph "Rudy" Kos, plus several lawsuits brought against two other priests in separate cases.

The settlement ends all litigation against the diocese.

The diocese is paying about $10.16 million to the plaintiffs plus another $1.4 million to settle claims of others. Insurance carriers are paying a total of $24.3 million to settle all claims.

The court-ordered mediated settlement means the diocese will pay roughly 6.5 percent of the $159 million judgment ($119 million plus interest) that a Texas court ordered paid to 11 plaintiffs in a civil trial verdict on June 24, 1997.

Both sides hailed the settlement as a means of preventing years of any further litigation and struggle over the court judgment.

The record-breaking jury award against the diocese last year received worldwide media coverage and moved the Dallas Diocese into the center of a maelstrom that has struck the U.S. church over pedophile priests.

The July 10 settlements mean an average award of more than $2 million for each plaintiff in the Kos case. The actual amounts each plaintiff will receive may be far less after their attorney fees and litigation costs are deducted, and depended on how "lump sum" funds are divided by their lawyers.

The diocese announced that "the settlement will be funded by the sale of some diocesan property and loans." No parish or school property will be utilized in the settlement, it said.

"To the victims and their families, I once again want to apologize on behalf of the diocese," the bishop said. "We hope this ends the long period of conflict so that we can move forward as a church committed to the message of Jesus Christ."

Dallas Bishop Charles V. Grahmann, who pushed for a settlement and sweeping reforms in the diocese to prevent years of litigation, announced the settlement in Dallas.

"To the victims and their families, I once again want to apologize on behalf of the diocese," the bishop said. "We hope this ends the long period of conflict so that we can move forward as a church committed to the message of Jesus Christ."

The settlement include a formal acceptance of the bishop's apology by the plaintiffs and a pledge to work together to prevent sexual abuse in the church.

Reforms instituted by Bishop Grahmann since the sensational trial have included creation of new policies and new boards.

Lay persons and deacons now hold key advisory positions on a new Personnel Board, Pastoral Concerns Board and Conduct Review Board. In addition, the bishop created an Ordination and Accreditation Board that reviews all candidates for ordination to the priesthood or permanent diaconate, and reviews the applications of all clergy from other dioceses who seek to work in the Dallas Diocese.

The settlement remains the largest known involving lawsuits against dioceses and priests in the world. Previously, the largest reported settlement in a clergy pedophile case was more than $20 million paid by the Diocese of Lafayette, La., to victims of sexual abuse by a priest who was sent to prison for his crimes in 1985.

The Dallas settlement involves three former priests of the diocese, but criminal charges were filed only in the Kos case. Kos was tried in Dallas criminal court in April and sentenced to life imprisonment for sexually abusing altar boys in the 1980s and early 1990s. The Diocese of Dallas announced earlier in July that the Vatican had ordered the forced laicization of Kos.

Besides Kos, the settlement involved former priest Robert Peebles, who was accused of molesting altar boys, and Father William J. Hughes, who faced a single accusation of illicit involvement with a minor girl. Peebles sought and received voluntary laicization. Father Hughes is in suspended status.

Vatican News

Priests Can Refuse To Hear Face-To-Face Confessions

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Under most circumstances, priests have the right to insist on hearing confessions only through a screen, the Vatican said.

The Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts said that even if a penitent requests a face-to-face confession, the final decision is up to the priest.

The council's decision was published in the July 13-14 issue of L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, with the approval of Pope John Paul II.

"For a just reason and excluding cases of necessity, the minister of the sacrament can legitimately decide, even in the event that the penitent asks otherwise, that sacramental confession be received in a confessional equipped with a fixed grill," the council said.

The Code of Canon Law says that penitents have the right to the privacy and anonymity of a screen, but it also allowed for the option of face-to-face confessions.

An official at the council charged with answering questions about canon law said the option of a face-to-face confession still exists, but the priest and the penitent each have the right to refuse that option.

In the wake of the growing number of accusations worldwide about sexual misconduct on the part of priests, some priests have decided that it is not wise to be alone in a room with anyone, particularly a child or a woman. For that reason, they prefer hearing confessions in a traditional-style confessional rather than in a reconciliation room.

The council official, who preferred not to give his name, said such concerns were among a variety of reasons cited in the requests for a ruling.

"Confessing behind a grill is an ancient practice which preserves the dignity of the sacrament and responds to the need for prudence," he said. "It is a protection against human weakness both on the part of the priest as well as on the part of the penitent.

"The sacrament of confession cannot be an occasion of sin for either the priest or the penitent," he said.

The council's decree "reaffirms the responsibility of the minister to protect the dignity of the sacrament," the official said.

By "excluding cases of necessity," the decree maintains the obligation of a priest to hear confessions face-to-face in hospitals or homes when the penitent is sick or dying and in other circumstances when a confessional grill is unavailable.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Parish Plans "Blast"

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church plans its fifth annual "Blast" for Sept. 20. The event will include food, fun, games for all ages, and a raffle for a four-day cruise to the Bahamas. One-thousand chances will be sold at $5 each. For more information, call (828) 684-6098.

Basilica Tours

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence provide tours of the historic church following each weekend Mass. The Mass schedule is Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. (Spanish Mass). For more information, call the parish office at (828) 252-6042.

Catholic Home-School Support

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a Catholic home-school support group, meets for biweekly "park days" and monthly "moms' meetings" during the summer. Call Sheryl Oligny, (828) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (828) 645-6990, for more information.

Mass of Welcome

CHARLOTTE — The third annual Mass of welcome for Catholic gays and lesbians, their families and friends is hosted at St. Peter Church, 507 N. Tryon St., on July 31 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will follow.

Parish Anniversary

CHARLOTTE — The 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Assumption Church is commemorated Aug. 14 at a 7 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin; Jesuit Father Francis Gillespie, pastor; and former pastors. A dessert reception follows the Mass. Anyone with photographs related to the parish over the past half-century are invited to submit them for a special display by calling Mary Kay Crotty, (704) 536-5452.

Belmont Abbey Exhibit

CHARLOTTE — An exhibit on Belmont Abbey College and Monastery is at Museum of the New South, 324 N. College St., through Jan. 2, 1999. The compilation of archival images and artifacts captures the essence of the abbey and provides a glimpse of the people and events that have shaped its unique spirit and rich history. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is $5 for families, $2 for adults, and $1 for students, seniors and teachers. Admission is free each second Saturday. For more information, call (704) 333-1887.

Widowed Support

CHARLOTTE — Healing Hearts meets at St. Gabriel Church on the first Tuesday and first Thursday of each month (your option) from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in Room C of the ministry center.

Healing Hearts meets at St. Matthew Church on the second Monday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in Room 102 of the parish center.

The Young Widowed Group meets at St. Matthew Church on the second Tuesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. in Room 102 of the parish center.

For more information on these groups, call Mercy Sister Therese Galligan, (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

Lady Hibernians Welcome Members

CHARLOTTE — The first North Carolina ladies division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians welcomes new members. Members must be practicing Catholics and Irish by birth, descent or adoption or the wife or mother of a Hibernian. To join, call Helen Gassen at (704) 542-9406. Meetings are every third Monday in the St. Gabriel Church parish center.

Catholic Television Programs

GREENSBORO — Dominican Father Michael Burke presents a series of half-hour programs on the Catholic faith and spirituality on GCTV, Greensboro Community Television, each Sunday at 6 p.m. Episodes are repeated each Thursday at 7 p.m. The programs are produced by the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C. If you have comments, call the producer, Mark Hite, at (919) 821-9734.

Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Asheville recently announced the recipients of the 1998 Steve Hamel Service Award. Named for the late Steve Hamel, a founding member of Caring Hearts and a long-time volunteer with the terminally ill, the award seeks to recognize those offering distinguished service to those living with HIV/AIDS. Pictured from left are award recipients Muriel Grable and Father C. Morris Boyd, presenter Fran Hamel, and recipient Carolyn Shotwell.

Single-Again Catholics

GREENSBORO — The Single Again Catholics group meets in the Greensboro area for social and spiritual gatherings. Call Mike Bohen, (336) 373-7358, or Patrick Tracey (336) 545-6939, for details.

"White Elephant" Sale

HAYESVILLE — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Women's Club hosts its annual White Elephant Sale Aug. 8 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the church commons, located on Highway 64 one mile west of the Hayesville traffic light. Among the items available will be furniture, small appliances, tools, household goods and books. Refreshments will also be available. For more information, call Leda Fide, (828) 389-8494.

Prison/Jail Ministry Seminar

HICKORY — Bill Matevie, chaplain at Mecklenburg County Jail North and diocesan coordinator of prison ministry, facilitates a prison/jail ministry seminar Aug. 15 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center. The seminar features sharing from prison ministry volunteers, former inmates, clergy and family members of inmates. A continental breakfast is provided, and lunch is available. Admission is free, though reservations are suggested. For reservations, call Matevie at (704) 336-8235. For directions to the conference center, call (704) 327-7441.

Engaged Encounter

HICKORY — Engaged Encounter, a weekend of spiritual counseling for engaged couples, is sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte at the Catholic Conference Center Sept. 4-6 and Nov. 13-15. Call (800) 849-2620 for registration information and availability.

Vacation Bible School

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church presents vacation Bible school Aug. 10-14 from 6:30-8 p.m. each day. Call (336) 884-0244 to register.

House of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — "Joyful Spirit '98" is an Aug. 21-23 retreat for women who are Alcoholics Anonymous members. Early registration for the available nine spaces is required. "The Servant Leadership of Jesus" is a Sept. 18-20 retreat for men. "God's Spirit in Nature" is a Sept. 28-Oct. 4 retreat including daily prayers and reflection that connect with a variety of recreational activities. All retreats are at the Jesuit House of Prayer. To register or receive more information, call (828) 622-7366.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Praying the Psalms with the Voice of Christ" is an Aug. 2-8 retreat focusing on the recitation of the Psalter in the Liturgy of the Hours as an experience of the praying church as the body of Christ. "Jubilee Spirituality" is an Aug. 9-15 retreat focusing on the three years of preparation for the year 2000 as called for by Pope John Paul II. "Canticle of the Creatures" is an Aug. 17-23 nature retreat focusing on contemplative confirmation of the Spirit. The cost of each retreat is $260. To register, get more information or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (704) 926-3833, or send a fax to (704) 926-1997.

Scriptural Rosary

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited in the convent chapel at St. Leo the Great Church each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m.

Around The State

Ultreya

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets at St. Elizabeth Church each first Saturday after the 5:15 p.m. Mass. For details, call the parish office, (828) 284-8338.

CHARLOTTE — Ultreya Christian communities meet monthly in Charlotte to share experiences, prayer and ideas for apostolic action in the St. Gabriel Church fellowship hall on second Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and on fourth Sundays at St. Matthew Church at 1 p.m. Call Don or Cheryl Bohlen, (704) 542-1741, for more information.

Diocesan Lay Ministry Training Program

The Charlotte Diocese's two-year lay ministry program begins in the fall in Arden, Charlotte and Greensboro for persons wishing to be affirmed in their present ministry, upgrade their catechist or religion teacher certification, or fulfill the prerequisite for the permanent diaconate. The academic program is designed to help participants appreciate and more fully understand the call to ministry by virtue of their baptism. For details, send name, address and phone number to Office of Lay Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, or call (704) 370-3213.

Carmelite Retreat

DURHAM — "Jesus said, 'Come and see,' 'Follow me,' 'You lack no spiritual gift'" is the theme of a Secular (Third) Order Discalced Carmelites-sponsored silent retreat Nov. 20-22/23 at the Avila Retreat Center. Cost is $105 for three days, or $150 if you option to stay until Nov. 23. To register, send a check for $15 payable to OCDS to Kathy Smith, 3619 Courtland Dr., Durham, NC 27707. For more information, call (919) 493-2712.

World And National News Briefs

Global Court Likely To Recognize Confidentiality Of Confession

NEW YORK (CNS) — Recognition of confidentiality in the priest-penitent relationship, a principle of major importance to Catholics, is being written into the rules for the proposed new international criminal court, a Brooklyn priest involved in the negotiations said. Msgr. Vincent R. LaRocca said in an interview July 6 in New York that he proposed the addition as a member of the Vatican delegation to the U.N. conference in Rome drawing up plans for the court. He reported that the working group on procedure accepted his proposal by consensus June 24, and the working group's draft was subsequently approved by the committee to which it reported.

Study Finds Immigrants' Contributions Outweigh Costs

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new study of the effects of immigrants on the U.S. economy finds that overall they contribute more than they use in services and last year paid at least $133 billion in taxes. The "Fiscal Portrait of New Americans" released July 7 by the National Immigration Forum and the Cato Institute said immigrants who become U.S. citizens typically pay more in taxes over a lifetime than do native-born citizens. It also evaluated other research and concluded that immigrants pay about $80,000 more in taxes than they receive in government benefits over a lifetime.

Jersalem Patriarchate Prepares Year 2000 Calendar

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Jerusalem's Latin-rite Patriarchate hopes to complete its calendar of events for the year 2000 by early fall, said Jerusalem Auxiliary Bishop Kamal Hanna Bathish. The bishop, president of the Committee for the Great Jubilee, told Catholic News Service the patriarchate is also planning to publish a pilgrim's manual that will help direct pilgrims to the holy sites, as well as guiding them through the religious and spiritual aspects of pilgrimage. The manual is scheduled to be ready at about the same time as the calendar.

Sudan Famine Requires Sustained Aid Efforts, Says Analyst

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sustained emergency aid efforts will be needed in southern Sudan, probably until September 1999, to help the population survive famine, said a U.S. Committee for Refugees analyst. Jeff Drumtra, Africa policy analyst for the nonprofit humanitarian organization, said at a briefing in Washington that between July and October, 38,000 tons of food will need to be airlifted into the region. Operation Lifeline Sudan of the U.N. World Food Program has airlifted 32,000 tons into the region within the last three years. "This famine requires a massive response, but a sustained response. ... This is not just a four-month heroic effort; this is unfortunately going to be a 15-month undertaking at least," he said.

Outline For General Synod Of Bishops Stresses Bishops' Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The bishop must be a holy teacher, a courageous defender of faith, a leader in charity and evangelization and a sign of the unity of the church, said the outline for the next general Synod of Bishops. "The Bishop: Servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the Hope of the World" is the theme chosen by Pope John Paul II for the synod scheduled for the year 2000. The 86-paged outline, or "lineamenta," offering reflections on the theme, was sent to bishops' conferences in late June.

Pope is
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CNS photo from Reuters

Catholic nuns join Indonesian Muslim women in protest outside Jakarta's Defense Ministry building July 17. The women were denouncing rape and sexual assault in the country. A coalition of human rights groups representing victims of assault from the May riots in Indonesia filed suit seeking damages from the government.

Christ Must Wear An Asian Face, Taiwan Cardinal Says

NEW YORK (CNS) — Bishops attending the Asian Synod of Bishops in Rome this spring agreed that to evangelize the continent where less than 3 percent are Catholic, Christ must be presented within the cultural context of Asia, said a Taiwan cardinal. "We must put an authentic Asian face to Jesus," said Cardinal Paul Shan Kuo-hsi of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, during a briefing on the Asian synod that he offered for leaders of New York's Chinese community July 5. The briefing followed Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in which the cardinal was principal celebrant.

'Good Will Hunting,' 'Nothing Sacred' Win Humanitas Prizes

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (CNS) — The Academy Award-winning film "Good Will Hunting" and the canceled ABC drama "Nothing Sacred" were among the winners at the 24th annual Humanitas Prize ceremonies July 9. The awards were given at a luncheon sponsored by the Human Family Educational and Cultural Institute, founded in 1974 by Paulist Father Ellwood Kieser. The prize is given to writers of film and television scripts that "most fully communicate human values to their audience."

New Seminary Library Called Mecca For Bible Scholarship

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The library at St. Mary's Seminary and University in the Baltimore Archdiocese will undergo a $7 million expansion to house archives from the earliest days of the U.S. Catholic Church as well as the most recent scholarship on the Gospel of John and additional interfaith materials. The expanded library, which will include the archives of the archdiocese, will be one of the most important resources for Catholic historical studies in the country, according to Sulpician Father Robert Leavitt, St. Mary's president and rector. He said $3.6 million has already been pledged for the project.

House Passes Child Custody Protection Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Defeating an effort to send it back to committee, the House voted 276-150 July 15 in favor of legislation that would make it a federal crime to take minors over state lines to obtain an abortion to circumvent parental consent or notification laws. Shortly before the vote, Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus, said passage of the Child Custody Protection Act "should be a no-brainer." "To lure teen-agers over state lines and to encourage strangers to purposely avoid state laws is indefensible," Smith said.

World Seminary Rectors Express Optimism About Future Of Priesthood

ROME (CNS) — Seminary rectors "are the most realistic and the most optimistic" members of the church when it comes to the future of the Catholic priesthood, said the rector of a U.S. seminary. Msgr. Timothy M. Dolan, rector of the North American College in Rome, hosted 32 English-speaking seminary rectors from 10 countries during a June 26-July 18 course for rectors. "We stand in awe of the sincerity and goodness of today's seminarians," Msgr. Dolan said.

Vatican, Italian Recording Company Dispute Use Of Pope's Voice

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and an Italian recording company are involved in a legal scrap over the use of the pope's voice on a music compact disc. In late May the company, BMG, produced a compact disc featuring Pope John Paul II singing a Gregorian chant during a January 1997 Mass. His voice was mixed with a modern instrumental arrangement combining rock and other music. Although the producers had obtained permission to record the pontiff from Vatican Radio, the legal owner of the recording and broadcast rights to his voice, Vatican officials told them to halt the project shortly before the disc was to hit the market. It went on sale anyway, prompting a lawsuit by Vatican Radio.

Jury Sets $30 Million Settlement In Priest Sex Abuse Case

STOCKTON, Calif. (CNS) — The Stockton Diocese was ordered July 16 to pay $30 million to two men who, as children, were sexually abused by a priest. The jury verdict came just a week after the Dallas Diocese agreed to pay $30.9 million to 12 former altar boys who were sexually assaulted. Joh Howard, 19, and his brother, John, 23, sued the Stockton Diocese for negligence because they said the diocese failed to stop Father Oliver O'Grady from molesting them when they were small children. Father O'Grady admitted in a 1993 criminal trial that he molested the boys. He is serving a 14-year prison term.

German Churches Warn Of Risks In Animal-To-Human Transplants

BONN, Germany (CNS) — A working group appointed by Germany's main Catholic and Protestant churches has highlighted health risks and ethical conflicts in connection with the transplant of genetically altered animal organs into humans. In a report released in mid-July, the group of eight theologians and medical experts stated that despite the prospect of securing organs from animals that could save human lives, due consideration should be given to risks of bodily rejection of the foreign organ and to broader ethical concerns. The task force, set up by the Catholic bishops' conference and the Protestant Church of Germany, known by its German initials EKD, noted that up to 6,000 domestic pigs or other animals would be needed to meet the demand of organ transplants in Germany.

Hospital Budget Cuts Lead To Fear Of Reduced Services

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Budget cuts to state-aided hospitals have led to fears that South Africa's largest Catholic hospital will have to drastically reduce its services. St. Mary's Hospital in Mariannhill, which serves more than 700,000 people in one of the country's poorest provinces, has halved the number of its hospital beds — from 300 to 150 — and stopped some of its more routine services after its budget was cut by 34 percent. Archbishop Wilfrid Napier of Durban urged government authorities to "rectify the unjust situation" of the cuts to church health facilities in KwaZulu-Natal province or face being held responsible by the community for the closure of "some of the most efficient health facilities in the province."

Baby Spared Partial-Birth Abortion In Arizona

By MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The birth of a baby in Arizona during what was supposed to have been a partial-birth abortion has set the stage for a planned July 23 attempt by the House to override President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

The baby, a girl, was born June 30 when the doctor who had begun to perform a partial-birth abortion stopped the procedure after seeing that the child was much further developed in the womb than an ultrasound test had indicated.

As of July 10, the infant's condition had been upgraded to good, according to Det. Mike McCullough, a spokesman for the Phoenix police, who were investigating the matter. The child suffered a broken skull and two deep facial lacerations, possibly from instruments used in performing partial-birth abortions, but suffered no brain damage.

Arizona law forbids abortions after the 24th week of gestation without some proof of physical necessity for the abortion, according to Dr. Carolyn Gerster, chairwoman for Arizona Right to Life. The law has not been challenged.

The mother, age 17, walked into the A-Z Women's Center June 29 to seek an abortion. The ultrasound test given that day indicated the child in her womb was 23 weeks and 6 days old. Gerster said A-Z advertises itself in the Phoenix Yellow Pages as the only abortion clinic in the city that performs abortions on a walk-in basis up through 24 weeks of pregnancy.

When the doctor at the clinic, John Biskind, began the abortion, he realized the child was much further developed, halted the abortion and delivered the girl.

"I don't know what went through his mind," Gerster, an internist, said of Biskind.

"It's difficult to give anybody any extra-credit points" when the original intent was to perform an abortion, she said, adding that "it was the same little girl at 23 weeks as at 36 weeks," the infant's estimated gestation.

The mother reportedly used a home-pregnancy test to determine she was pregnant. Gerster said irregular menstrual cycles could help account for her not knowing her pregnancy had lasted longer than she suspected.

Gerster added it was not known whether the mother is an emancipated minor. She noted that Arizona has passed a parental notification bill five times and that each time the courts have enjoined the measure, which would require a minor to notify her parents that she wants an abortion.

Biskind, who has been licensed to practice medicine in Arizona since 1981, was censured by the state's medical board in 1996 for "gross neglect" in the case of a 26-year-old woman who bled to death following an abortion.

"Miraculously, in this instance, a little girl who was sentenced to die is alive today," said a July 9 statement from Rep. Charles T. Canady, R-Fla., sponsor of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

"The moment she took her first breath, this baby was immediately given the full protection of the law," he added. "Unfortunately, many babies never get this protection because their lives are brutally snatched away just inches from being fully born."

National Right to Life Committee legislative director Douglas Johnson said in a statement that a baby delivered prematurely between 23-24 weeks would have a one-in-three chance of surviving in a neonatal unit if delivered normally.

CNS photo from Vatican

The Pontiff's Retreat

Pope John Paul II, wearing a ski vest over his cassock, contemplates the rocky peaks of the Dolomite mountains, during a walk July 15 near his retreat house in northern Italy. The 78-year-old pontiff seems to have been reinvigorated by the rest and exercise in the mountain region.

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OLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 42 • August 7, 1998

CNS photo by Eduardo Flores, Arlington Catholic Herald

Irish children play the human-knot game as part of the Belfast Children's Summer Program in Clifton, Va., in late July. The children — of Protestant and Catholic backgrounds — are spending the summer away from violence in their homeland.

Bishop Curlin Fights Suggestion Of Support For Abortion Clinic Bomber

From staff and wire reports

MURPHY — Nonviolence is the only way to fight abortion, Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte said after news reports quoted one of his priests in a way that suggested support for a fugitive sought for an abortion clinic bombing.

The priest, Father Conrad L. Kimbrough, later said he had been misquoted by a reporter who questioned him about the massive federal manhunt in North Carolina for Eric Rudolph.

Authorities suspect Rudolph, 31, of an abortion clinic bombing that killed a security guard and severely wounded a nurse last January in Birmingham, Ala. He is also wanted for questioning in three Atlanta bombings, including the 1996 explosion during the Olympics that left one dead and scores injured.

"The Catholic Church is committed to nonviolent and only nonviolent actions to promote the respect and dignity of all human life," Bishop Curlin said. "Those who see terrorist bombing and other violent acts as justifiable in the pro-life movement are contradicting the Gospel message.

"In as much as Catholics abhor the violence of abortion," he added, "we must also condemn the use of violence against abortion clinics and workers. ... The problem is violence. It can never be part of the solution."

Bishop Curlin distributed his statement to diocesan staff July 22, published part of it two days later in his diocesan newspaper, The Catholic News & Herald, and sent it as a letter to major dailies in the Charlotte Diocese.

He sent copies to Father Kimbrough with instructions to distribute them at all weekend Masses July 25-26 at the Catholic parish in Murphy and its mission in Hayesville, where the 71-year-old priest is serving this summer as a temporary fill-in. The towns are small Appalachian communities in the southwest corner of the state, in the heart of the manhunt area.

Local news reports that provoked Bishop Curlin's statement began with an Associated Press story in which Father Kimbrough, a pro-life activist, was quoted expressing understanding or support for those who might try to help Rudolph escape from authorities.

If their intention was to prevent him from being killed, he was quoted as saying, "they may be right. I doubt he will be found to be an unprincipled killer."

He was also quoted as saying that Emily Lyons, the nurse who lost an eye and suffered other severe injuries in the Birmingham bombing — who has asked the public to help federal agents apprehend Rudolph — did not deserve support because "she has been instrumental in killing babies."

In a follow-up report AP said Bishop Curlin called on Catholics to cooperate with agents searching for Rudolph. It quoted him saying: "I don't know if he's guilty or not. But anybody who commits murder and mutilates and half-blinds people is no hero and should be subject to the law."

Father Kimbrough, a North Carolina

See **Curlin**, page 3

Black Clergy And Religious Conference Celebrates Ministry

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Are collaboration, harmony and prayer keys to a truly universal church?

"Very often as a black priest, you can feel out there by yourself," said Father Wilbur Thomas, "and it's good to know that there are other people around the country that are connected with some of the experiences that you have as a priest, as a religious."

Father Thomas, one of two black priests currently serving in the Diocese of Charlotte, offers a quarter-century of firsthand accounts. He is among some 200 clergy, religious, permanent deacons and seminarians who shared experiences and concerns at the joint conference of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, the National Black Sisters' Conference, the National Association of African American Catholic Deacons and the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association July 26-31 in Charlotte.

Like Father Thomas, two national black Catholic leaders said affirmation and unity are important in understanding the prevalent issues black Catholics face.

"We need to continue to be prophetic witnesses where we minister, live and work," said Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Patricia Chappell, president of the sisters' conference. "We don't want to be an afterthought. We are not invisible. We have been here and we will continue to be here."

Franciscan Father James E. Goode, president of the clergy caucus, agreed. "We are challenging the institutional church to live the message that they are teaching and proclaiming," he said. That message includes "that sense of membership and family ... and of letting people know that they are a part of this church."

Father Goode and Sister Patricia's goals reflect 30 years of collaboration between their two organizations. Both founded in 1968, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and the National Black Sisters' Conference have met yearly for a joint conference.

The National Association of African American Catholic Deacons and the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association are peer groups who have since joined in the annual meeting.

The organizations address various spiritual, evangelical and societal needs of black Catholics in the United States. Emphasis is placed on education, enrichment, advancing African-Americans in the Catholic Church and promoting the church in the black community.

Sister Patricia Chappell said the joint conference was an opportunity to "strategize on ways in which we can serve not only the black communities of which we are a part, but also the larger church as well."

She sees the conference and the attending organizations as vehicles that celebrate the contributions of black

See **Joint Conference**, page 3

Choir Founder Remembered, Scholarship Awarded At Concert

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Dustyn Baker addresses a benefit concert audience at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte after being recognized as this year's recipient of the June Chavis Davenport Memorial Scholarship.

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Dustyn Clayton Baker was recognized as the 1998 recipient of the June Chavis Davenport Memorial Scholarship during a benefit concert June 28 at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

The $1,000 scholarship will be applied to Baker's education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where Baker will begin studies in medicine this fall.

The scholarship honors the memory of June Chavis Davenport, who founded the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir at the Charlotte parish in 1979. An educator who taught and counseled at four schools in North Carolina, she was also active in a variety of music ministries and civic organizations throughout the state.

Davenport died in January 1994 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Baker is the fifth recipient of the scholarship. Recipients must be parishioners of Our Lady of Consolation Church and meet the approval of the scholarship committee.

The scholarship is renewable each year if the recipient maintains a minimum 2.3 grade-point average.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd, diocesan vice chancellor and the parish's permanent deacon, remembered June Davenport as a regal person who carried herself knowing that "singing God's praises is serious business."

The benefit concert, which raised funds to perpetuate the scholarships of the five recipients, featured the parish's men's choir and the Beta Nu Lambda chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Ensemble. The theme of the performance was "Moving On."

The men were joined for one song by parishioner and dancer Nicole Muse and the Rho Psi Omega and Alpha Lambda Omega chapters of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Ensembles.

In her scholarship application essay, Baker wrote of the need to pursue an education for the benefit of many. "It is my opinion that there is no purpose to acquired education if it is not allocated to others," she said.

U.S. Catholics Can Celebrate Assumption Without Obligation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The feast celebrating Mary's assumption into heaven will be a holy day for U.S. Latin-rite Catholics this year, but not a holy day of obligation.

That's because this year Aug. 15 falls on a Saturday.

In 1991 the Latin-rite bishops of the country voted to lift the obligation of attending Mass in the United States on three specific holy days of obligation whenever those feasts occur on a Saturday or a Monday.

The three are:

— The feast of Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1.

— The feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15.

— The feast of All Saints, Nov. 1.

When those days fall on a Saturday or Monday, their liturgical celebration remains the same: They are among those major feasts in the liturgical calendar that are called solemnities.

The only difference is that the obligation to attend Mass is lifted. Catholics are still invited and encouraged to celebrate those feasts by attending Mass.

In Eastern Catholic churches the feast of the Assumption is called the Dormition of the Holy Mary Mother of God. By general church law it is a holy day of obligation in the Eastern churches, but each church in its own right can, with Vatican approval, suppress the obligation of participating in the divine liturgy on that day.

Scripture

Readings for the week of
August 9 - 15, 1998

Sunday
Wisdom 18:6-9
Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19
Luke 12:32-48

Monday
2 Corinthians 9:6-10
John 12:24-26

Tuesday
Ezekiel 2:8—3:4
Matthew 18:1-5,10,12-14

Wednesday
Ezekiel 9:1-7;10:18-22
Matthew 18:15-20

Thursday
Ezekiel 12:1-2
Matthew 18:21—19:1

Friday
Ezekiel 16:59-63
Matthew 19:3-12

Saturday
Revelation 11:19;12:1-6,10
1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Luke 1:39-56

Readings for the week of
August 16 - 22, 1998

Sunday
Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

Monday
Ezekiel 24:15-24
Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday
Ezekiel 28:1-10
Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday
Ezekiel 34:1-11
Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday
Ezekiel 36:23-28
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday
Ezekiel 43:1-7
Matthew 23:1-12

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Photo by Mike Krokos

A gospel choir performs at the Jubilarian Mass held during the joint conference July 26-31. Some 200 African-American clergy, religious, permanent deacons and seminarians attended the annual event.

Joint Conference, from page 1

Catholics while assessing ways to ensure participation in all facets of church life and broader society.

The Catholic Church now boasts more than 61 million members in the United States; some 3 million are of African descent. Of the more than 156,000 American clergy, religious, permanent deacons and seminarians currently serving, retired or in formation in this country, only a tiny percentage are African-American.

With black Catholics composing such a small part of the U.S. Catholic population, issues must be strongly addressed both within the African-American community and in greater society, Father Goode and Sister Patricia said.

In dealing with such topics as marginalization, institutional racism and promotion of vocations, Father Goode said black Catholic leaders — including clergy, religious, deacons and seminarians — must examine an important question: "How can we empower our people to have the dignity and respect that they rightfully deserve?"

Despite the struggles black Catholics continue to face, the presidents voiced optimism when discussing the collaboration that is taking place. "We see our organizations as creating a new model," said Sister Patricia. "That is, men and women religious walking side by side, together, being involved in shared decision making. We work very hard at trying to work together."

"And we are doing it," Father Goode said. "That's very, very critical for us because we need each other's support and we need each other's care. That, to me, is celebrating our dignity."

Father Thomas, an 18-year joint conference veteran, likened the gathering to a family reunion. "This particularly has affirmed me since I've become a priest," he said. "I became part of this community (the joint conference) in 1980, and right away knew this was where I was supposed to be. It is a sense of family, being a part of it."

Contributing to this story was Mike Krokos, editor of The Catholic News & Herald.

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Leaders Say Inclusion, Vocations Among Key Issues For Black Catholics

Franciscan Father James E. Goode and Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Patricia Chappell shared thoughts July 30 on prevalent issues black Catholics face in today's church. Father Goode serves as president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. Sister Patricia is president of the National Black Sisters' Conference. They were in Charlotte July 26-31 to attend the annual joint conference of their organizations, the National Association of African American Catholic Deacons and the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association.

- On leadership and inclusion in the church: "Having us at that table when decisions are made concerning (not only) the life of our people, but also the life of our church" is an issue that is especially important, said Father Goode. "Our understanding of church is that there is a seat for us. Christ made it possible for us to have a seat. ... We are beginning to take more and more of the leadership that is necessary for us to guide our people."
- On vocations and ministry: "We recognize that vocations that will be forthcoming from the African-American community are only going to come as we black religious men and women make that invitation," said Sister Patricia. "We need ... to say to these black men and women, 'Yes, we are truly, historically a part of the church, and our gifts and our talents must also continue to be taken into consideration.'"
- On marginalization and institutional racism: "The struggle of social justice is very much a part of our agenda," said Father Goode. "There are many public policies and governmental policies that are affecting directly the lives of our people. ... Paul VI talked about the gift of our blackness coming to the church. But we're trying to live that, and that is an ongoing challenge."

Bishop Curlin, from page 1

native, was an Episcopal priest for 25 years before he became a Catholic and entered the Catholic priesthood in 1978. He retired from full-time ministry in June 1997.

In 1991, when Operation Rescue was sponsoring nationwide abortion clinic protests, Father Kimbrough, then pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Greensboro, was among 19 people arrested for blocking an entrance to the Carolina Women's Clinic in Charlotte.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

"Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself,
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your Christian neighbor, he is holy in
almost the same way, for in him also
Christ... the glorified, Glory Himself,
is truly hidden."

— C.S. Lewis

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

August 7 — 7:15 a.m.
First Friday Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

August 14 — 7 p.m.
50th Anniversary Mass and Celebration, Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte

August 15 — 4:30 p.m.
Mass, St. Bernadette Church, Linville

August 16 — 9 a.m.
Mass, St. Lucien Church, Spruce Pine

11:15 a.m. — Mass
St. Bernadette Church, Linville

August 20
10 a.m.-2 p.m. — Board Meeting
Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Charlotte

August 22 — 1 p.m.
"One In The Spirit," Catholic Evangelization Commission Ecumenical Rally, Marshall Park, Charlotte

4 p.m.
Dedication of New Classroom Building
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

The Holy Spirit As Source Of All Communion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience July 29.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today our catechesis deals with the Holy Spirit as the source of all communion, in heaven and on earth. The Father gives the fullness of love to the Son, who receives this love and returns it to the Father; and the love binding the Father and the Son in perfect communion is the Holy Spirit.

In the world, the love of the Trinity shines forth as the communion of the church, as in the first Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles. Within the church, the action of the Spirit is sometimes direct and sometimes mediated; and between these two — the charismatic and the institutional — there is no conflict of any kind.

As we move toward the third millennium of the Christian era, it is the Holy Spirit who stirs in our hearts the desire for full communion among all Christians. Within the Catholic Church, too, the Spirit urges us to build ever stronger bonds of communion, recognizing that we need each other and that we can enrich one another with the different gifts which the Holy Spirit gives for the good of all.

I welcome the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially the members of the Hong Kong Catholic Pastoral Association for the Deaf, and the students and teachers from St. Paul High School in Tokyo. I also welcome those who have come from Scotland, Nigeria and the United States of America. Upon all of you I cordially invoke God's blessings of joy and peace.

Pope Draws Attention To Sundays, Those House-Bound In Summer

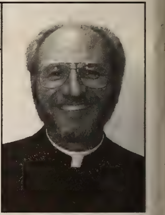
CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II drew special attention to the sacredness of Sundays and to the needs of those who are house-bound during the summer. In his first public appearance for Sunday noon prayer since returning from a vacation in the mountains of northern Italy, the pope underlined some of the points he made in his letter "Dies Domini" ("The Day of the Lord"). "It is not difficult to note that this 'holy day' is extraordinarily rich in significance," the pope said. "Its religious sense certainly does not conflict with human values, which make Sunday a time of rest, of enjoyment of nature and of more relaxed social relations. These are values which, sadly, risk being conceded to a hedonistic and frenetic way of living."

Pope Names Successor To Pakistani Bishop Who Committed Suicide

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II named a successor to the late Bishop John Joseph of Faisalabad, Pakistan, who took his life in May to protest the country's strict Islamic blasphemy laws. Bishop Joseph Coutts of Hyderabad, Pakistan, was appointed to head the Faisalabad Diocese, the Vatican announced July 21. Born in Amritsar, Pakistan, in 1945, he became coadjutor bishop of Hyderabad in 1988 and became head of the diocese in 1990. Bishop Coutts was one of the three Pakistani delegates to the Synod of Bishops for Asia earlier this year at the Vatican.

Guest Column

Father John S. Rausch



A Near Ghost Town Finds a New Spirit

St. Charles, Va., refused to die. A one industry town located in the Appalachian coal fields, St. Charles shrunk from a bustling commercial center of 12,000 in the 1940s to a slim 2,000 population by the early 1970s as the mines closed and production shifted to the western U.S. Vanderbilt University Medical School, looking for a depressed community to conduct a health fair and medical screening, chose St. Charles in 1973. The event that summer sparked the imagination of the town about the possibility of having its own medical facility. Soon the employed folks of the area were contributing a dollar or two each payday to build a clinic. The St. Charles Health Clinic opened in 1975 thanks to broad-based support from contributions and volunteer labor.

More than that, the success of the clinic resurrected a can-do spirit in the town. Volunteers renovated an abandoned building as a community center where people could meet and eat, plan and dream about ways to serve the area. Over coffee and potlucks came the inspiration for the fire department, a housing authority and a sewing factory. With a program to rehab homes the town looks better, and with a town council the community has a political structure to move forward.

All over America, whether inner cities or rural areas, local communities reflect the self-help spirit of St. Charles. By organizing non-profits and community corporations people are building the structures that will sustain their communities by focusing on expanding services, respecting the environment and creating jobs.

The movement stands in contrast to the commonly perceived practices to maximize profits of corporate America. Corporations cut employment to boost their stock prices. They comply only reluctantly with environmental standards. And, they operate with no long-term commitment to any community. The result breeds an insecurity for families and communities, destroys loyalty to an area and diminishes the value of creation and the local environment.

Community-rooted structures, on the other hand, create a sense of place and common ownership. By meeting community needs—such as health care, adult education, home rehabing, etc.—these structures generate local employment. The St. Charles Health Clinic currently employs the equivalent of 29 full-time workers and pumps over $554,000 in wages and benefits into the area.

Community structures also become the training ground for people to succeed. Several local women received their GEDs with a program established at the St. Charles Community Center, then went to work at the clinic. Another woman on a welfare-to-work program asked for clerical duties rather than the maintenance job assigned her at the clinic.

Finally, community organizations act as mediating structures to empower local people and guarantee democracy. Citizens of Lee Environmental Action Network (CLEAN) offers residents around St. Charles some recourse to the irresponsible mining practices that despoil wells and drinking water. CLEAN leverages newspaper coverage for homeowner damage and alerts regulatory agencies to acid run-off into area streams.

When giant mergers eliminate jobs and cut services and global competition devastates communities by plant closures, non-profits and community rooted corporations represent one direction for securing the common good and building a stable future.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches at the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky. He has a master's degree in economics and has worked in community ministries for more than 20 years.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

The Woman Known as Mary

Throughout the year, throughout the world, churches celebrate the life of Mary of Nazareth, mother of Jesus. Each holy day has a different focus. An Aug. 15, Catholics solemnize the feast of the Assumption — the belief that Mary, at the end of her days, was assumed body and soul into heaven. Lutherans honor Mary, Mother of our Lord, and Episcopalians honor St. Mary the Virgin. Eastern Orthodox churches have long observed the feast of the Dormition (falling asleep) of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Bible, scholarship and tradition combine to tell us what little we know about the young Jewish woman who bore the Son of God. Her name was a common one with a long Hebrew heritage. She was relatively poor, probably illiterate, yet trained in the prayers and rituals of her Jewish people. Her marriage to Joseph the carpenter would have been planned to take place around the age of 13.

Yet Mary's life, rooted in the generations of her Jewish ancestors before her, led to one universe-shaking moment: She was told that God wanted her to be the mother of the Messiah. And she said yes.

Then she did a very kind and very human thing. Hearing that her older cousin was expecting a child, Mary went to see her. Mary's first words to Elizabeth make up the longest speech we ever hear from her. They reflect the ancient prayer of Hannah at the miraculous birth of her son who would become the prophet Samuel. And they express Mary's intense feelings and her sense of place in God's plan.

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." (Luke 1:47-55)

These are memorable lines, phrased as only a person of perfect faith in God and absolute love for his people could speak. Strangely enough, Mary's essential character is a problem for some people. Over the centuries, many would see her exclusively as a humble servant of God, a model of obedience, gentleness and chastity. For others, she could only be a committed woman of compassion, a courageous voice of justice for all who are poor, exploited, marginalized. Should we be surprised at contradiction and controversy where the Divine plan and the human mind converge?

I don't believe a single follower of Jesus would deny Mary's virtues. It's just that we all have different ideas of which virtues are most important. There is no real difference. Mary had a God-given mission, just as we all do. She fulfilled it. She was expected to follow the commandments to "love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37,39). She did that, too.

Perhaps the essence of the feast of the Assumption is that the way we live life matters. And eternity belongs to each of us, as it does to Mary, our mother, our sister, and our loving friend.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Animals in the Next Life?

***Q.** Recently our long-time family pet dog passed away. It caused a lot of grief for all of us, especially the children.*

It raised the question, What is the church's teaching on animals in the next life?

It's hard to believe that God would have a place here for animals without having a place for them in the hereafter.

A. During the past 3,000 years or so, a great number of Christian and non-Christian philosophers and theologians, as well as plain ordinary folks, have asked the same question.

The answers are varied, but by far the majority answer in the same vein you suggest. Not only humans, but all material creation, will share in the transformed universe of the "new creation" spoken of in Scripture. And that includes animals.

St. Thomas Aquinas is the most well-known Catholic teacher who perhaps thought otherwise. In spite of his respect for the sacredness of all creation, including material beings, he wrote at one point that only human beings, the "elements" (earth, air, fire and water) and heavenly bodies will continue in the coming age. Animals, plants and other corruptible bodies will not (Compendium, Ch. 170).

No one matches St. Augustine, however, in the assumption that all the beautiful and enjoyable things of nature, plants, animals, food, the skies, all the delights that image God and lead us to him in this life will do so even more perfectly in the next.

He admits that all will be changed and made incorruptible in the new creation, but he counsels that when you question yourself about what will be there, "you can take away corruption, and then add whatever you want" (Sermon 242).

Underlying these convictions most of all are the numerous biblical texts pointing to very earthly, and earthy, realities as foretastes of what God has planned for our future life.

Isaiah speaks of the time when death is destroyed forever, when the Lord will provide choice wines and rich foods, and tears are wiped from every face.

Other prophets, the Psalms, the Song of Songs, the New Testament, expand on this image of the coming new creation. As the letter of Peter puts it, "What we await are new heavens and a new earth," which God has promised (2 Peter 3:13).

These questions about what eternal life with the Lord will be like are treated brilliantly and with remarkable scholarship in the book "Land of the Living," by Father James O'Connor (1992 Catholic Book Publishing Co.).

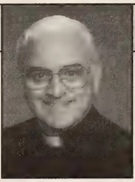
"If, indeed," he writes, "all things were made 'through him,' and if he is the same, yesterday, today and forever, then should it be out of the question that all things will somehow endure?"

While the church has no explicit teaching on your question, that in a nutshell reflects the way most Christians have answered it through the centuries.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Spirituality For Today

Father John Catoir



What Is Spiritual Direction?

Since more and more lay people are giving guidance and spiritual direction these days, it might be helpful to know how spiritual direction differs from counseling.

True spiritual direction involves the subtle gift of discernment, which enables the director to recognize the stirrings of the Holy Spirit. Discernment requires prayer; it is a gift from God.

One does not become a spiritual director by getting an academic degree, though it helps to study the spiritual masters. Grace builds on nature, so study is important, but more important is the spirit of humility before God.

Discernment starts the moment the dialogue begins. Consequently the director needs to clarify the person's level of faith, hope and charity. The process for doing that is similar to psychological counseling, but different.

Counseling or guidance is a process aimed at stabilizing the person's mental and emotional well-being. It is a good and necessary service, but it is not the same as spiritual direction.

Spiritual direction involves an interpersonal relationship in which the director listens in order to help the other person to grow in the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual direction rarely involves direction. It is not primarily advisory or informative, though the director might impart advice or knowledge from time to time. Nor is the goal primarily therapeutic, though emotional relief is often a valued byproduct of the service.

Spiritual direction is an adult-adult relationship, not a parent-child relationship. The director never speaks for God or presumes to know God's will for the person, but always gives that person the space and freedom necessary to discover the voice of God arising from within.

The first task is to examine the person's level of faith by asking questions:

—When do you pray, how often, in what way?

—What do you experience during prayer?

—What are you doing for God and neighbor as a result of prayer?

This clarification process continues with questions pertaining to the virtue of hope.

—How strong is your trust?

—Are you anxious about many things?

—How well do you see the relationship between a strong faith and a high level of trust in God's mercy and goodness?

Then we move on to questions about one's charity.

—Are you a generous person?

—Do you forgive those who hurt you?

—Do you have real compassion or is it a strained sense of obligation?

It is good to remember that joy is the infallible sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit. However, the director never says, "Be more joyful." Rather, a better question might be, "Does the thought of doing this or that bring joy to your soul?"

The Holy Spirit always leads us in a direction we would not have chosen for ourselves, because the Spirit moves us to love, and love always involves the cross in some way.

As Mother Teresa put it, faith leads to love, and love leads to service.

Father John Catoir is a CNS columnist.

Photo by Mike Krokos

Candidacy Of Seminarians

Seminarians Frank Seabo, Matthew Kauth, Christopher Gober and Joseph Long Dinh made their formal commitment to be priests for the Diocese of Charlotte July 26 at St. Patrick Cathedral. During the candidacy of seminarians, Bishop William G. Curlin encouraged the men to make the Eucharist the heart and soul of their priesthood. "This must be your daily prayer," the bishop said. Bishop Curlin asked parishioners throughout the diocese to support and encourage all seminarians. "These men will walk with you in times of joy and sorrow," he said. "Pray that they be holy priests." Seabo, Kauth and Gober are seminarians at The Catholic University of America Theological College in Washington, D.C., while Dinh is studying at St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore. The four are scheduled to be ordained to the transitional diaconate next spring; they will be ordained priests for the Diocese of Charlotte in the year 2000. There are 23 seminarians studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Pope Says Catholics Should Continue Study of Paul VI

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Paul VI's love for the church and his attitude of dialogue with the world are lessons today's Catholics should continue to study and put into practice, Pope John Paul II said.

The pope used his Aug. 2 Angelus address to hundreds of visitors gathered in the courtyard of the papal summer residence to mark the 20th anniversary of Pope Paul's death Aug. 6, 1978.

Pope John Paul said his predecessor's 1964 encyclical "Ecclesiam Suam" on the ways the church carries out its mission in the world was "a synthesis of his whole personality as a pastor and teacher and as one who understood the human person and history."

The encyclical, issued when Pope Paul had been pontiff slightly more than a year, was "an act of love for the church," Pope John Paul said.

In the document, Pope Paul wrote that its purpose was to show the world the importance of the church for salvation, but also to show the church's strong desire to enter into dialogue with the modern world, its peoples, problems and cultures.

Dialogue, he said, would make the church's love for all more evident and would, in turn, increase people's love for the church.

Pope John Paul said the encyclical's heart and its most important message for today are found in the section devoted to dialogue.

Pope Paul wrote, "Even before converting the world, nay, in order to convert it, we must meet the world and talk to it.

"An attitude of preservation of the faith is insufficient," he said. Likewise, simply condemning the evil in the world does not fulfill the church's mission to bring the Good News to all people.

"The church should enter into dialogue with the world in which it exists and labors," Pope Paul said. "The church has something to say; the church has a message to deliver."

Pope John Paul said the encyclical's message about dialogue "still retains its full relevance today."

"In our day, moving toward the third millennium, it should be reflected upon in a more attentive and deeper way in order to gather its full prophetic value," the pope said.

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Entertainment

Lindsay Lohan stars in the dual role of identical twins Annie James (left) and Hallie Parker in "The Parent Trap." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

CNS photo from Walt Disney Pictures

"Ever After" Is Fairy Tale Romance For The '90s

By HENRY HERX

NEW YORK (CNS) — A fairy tale romance especially tailored for the '90s is what's offered in "Ever After" (Twentieth Century Fox).

It's the Cinderella story of Danielle (Drew Barrymore), a young Frenchwoman raised by her wicked stepmother, Rodmilla (Anjelica Huston), as little more than a servant.

Though Rodmilla has done her best, she has never been able to break Danielle's independent spirit or cure her tomboy tendencies.

Most of all, Danielle cherishes the memory of her widowed father who had taught her to read and think for herself.

Danielle's character is that of a modern woman set in a 16th-century world where her wit, beauty and intelligence capture the heart of Henry (Dougray Scott), the crown prince of France.

Henry is not too swift and is easily deceived by Danielle's pretense at being an aristocrat, then spurns her when his pride is hurt after learning she is only a commoner.

Soon regretting his rash stupidity, Henry sets out to win her back for the traditional happy ending.

Directed by Andy Tennant, the picture makes lush use of medieval castles and colorful period costumes, with the key sequence being set at a masked ball which is visually a sheer delight.

The story's fairy tale resonances are introduced in the opening sequence in which the Brothers Grimm are told the "true" Cinderella story by an aged aristocrat (Jeanne Moreau).

The narrative is well-paced with the often comic adventures of Danielle and the befuddled prince, the king's attempts to force his son to marry a Spanish princess and Rodmilla's various intrigues.

The tale's real magic, however, is in the romance and this depends entirely upon seeing Danielle through the prince's eyes. Though Barrymore's performance is quite agreeable, it may not measure up to the expectations of some viewers.

In any event, the story is told with gusto and a sense of fun that treats romance as something more than sex.

That alone makes it unusual among the current crop of movies and because of its rich visual quality, one worth seeing in a theater rather than on video.

Because of some stylized violence, menace and crude language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Blues Brothers 2000" (1998)

Feel-good musical in which Blues Brother Dan Aykroyd re-unites his band after 18 years and takes it on the road, pursued by cops who think he kidnapped an orphan. Director John Landis' sequel is crippled by its feeble storyline, but enlivened by top musicians and the comical moves of the black-suited Blues Brothers, including new member John Goodman. Suggestive dancing with brief rear nudity, some comic violence, occasional crude expressions and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Gingerbread Man" (1998)

Murky thriller from John Grisham's novel about a Savannah lawyer (Kenneth Branagh) whose attraction to a vulnerable client (Embeth Davidtz) who's being stalked by her unstable father ensnares him in a murderous plot that threatens the safety of his two young children. Directed by Robert Altman, the sinister proceedings are wrapped in a thick Southern Gothic atmosphere that fails to compensate for a less-than-credible script. Brief violence, an implied affair, fleeting nudity, occasional rough language and some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Little Men" (1940)

Lackluster adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's novel about the reformation of a young scoundrel (Jimmy Lydon) left by a pair of con men (George Bancroft and Jack Oakie) in a boarding school (run by Kay Francis). Directed by Norman Z. McLeod, the result is old-fashioned entertainment with some amusing moments, though the effort is dated by its sentimental treatment. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Little Men" (1998)

Uneven tale of an 1871 Boston street urchin (Michael Caloz) who makes great progress in a rural boarding school until his scrappy city pal (Ben Cook) turns up and causes severe problems for the dedicated couple (Mariel Hemingway and Chris Sarandon) who run the school. Directed by Rodney Gibbons from Louisa May Alcott's novel, the dramatization does well in re-creating the look and feel of the period but fails to bring any fresh insights to the sentimental story and its sentimentalized characters. A bloody fistfight, a dangerous game with a knife and a few curse words. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The Little Prince" (1974)

Musical version of Antoine de Saint Exupery's classic fable about a planet-hopping child prince (Steven Warner) who relates his adventures to a pilot (Richard Kiley) who's crash-landed in the Sahara. Directed by Stanley Donen, the result is warm and upbeat, with engaging acting, pleasant Lerner and Loewe songs and some clever dancing, but the story ends with a gentle let-down that may bring a wee tear to the eyes of the very young. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Meet the Deedles" (1998)

Sophomoric comedy in which dopey twin brothers (Paul Walker and Steve Van Wormer) save Yellowstone National Park from being undermined by prairie-dog tunnels. Directed by Steve Boyum, the vacuous enterprise offers a disjointed series of skits alternating between dumb-and-dumber routines, toilet gags and life-threatening stunts. Mindless comic violence, sexual innuendo, crude language and gross humor. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Peck's Bad Boy" (1934)

Sentimental tale directed by Edward F. Cline in which a "regular" young lad (Jackie Cooper) runs away from home after his nasty aunt (Dorothy Peterson) comes for an extended visit and her mean son reveals the boy was adopted as a baby by his beloved widower dad (Thomas Meighan). Dated treatment but still of interest for young viewers. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Wedding Singer" (1998)

Sappy romantic comedy set in the suburbs of 1985 New York where a jilted fiance (Adam Sandler) falls for a sweet waitress (Drew Barrymore), then discovers she is about to marry a crass playboy. Directed by Frank Coraci, the contrived comedy pokes heavy-handed fun at 1980s fads and fashions, but the bland proceedings remain largely lifeless. Implied affairs, fleeting violence, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Saints of the past who influence me now

By Father John W. Crossin, OSFS
Catholic News Service

Who influenced my life? My parents to be sure. I am still discovering ways that I resemble them. I like to be "always busy" like my mother; I enjoy sports like my father. I love the Mass like both my parents.

Our parents and other relatives — a special aunt or uncle for example — may be a continuing influence in our lives.

Other past influences on us are a little less obvious. A special teacher, friend or coach may have pointed us in the right direction for our future life and work. A small gesture, such as a friend's encouragement to go on a retreat, may have been all that was necessary to set us on a new course.

The more we think about it, the further back in history we can go in detecting the influences on our lives.

> "We stand on the shoulders of giants. Whether through saints, artists, friends, relatives or parents, the past becomes our present through others."

The bishops at the Council of Baltimore in the last century had a profound influence on me even though I never met them. They gave the impetus to the writing of the catechism that is still called the Baltimore Catechism. I will always know the answer to the question: Why did God make you?

The catechism answers that I learned at St. Matthew's parish school have stayed with me both consciously and unconsciously. I learned that I am on earth to know, love and serve God. My two decades of studying and teaching Catholic theology have amplified but not modified this answer.

A more subtle influence from the past comes through the shape of the buildings in which we worship:

—Gothic cathedrals with their high ceilings pull us up to heaven and remind us of God's transcendence — that God is truly above us.

—Contemporary churches "in the round" make us look at one another and encourage us to pray together. They are the churches of the "people of God" emphasized at Vatican Council II. They remind us that God truly is with us in our community.

THE WHITE HOUSE ORIGINAL DWELLING OF THE SISTER
THE ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK CITY MARCH 31st 1889
SISTERS OF LORETTO AT THE FOOT OF
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CNS photo by Richard C. Finke

The play of light penetrating the stained glass windows of these churches is fascinating to see. The images of apostles and saints connect us with our spiritual history. They remind us of our distant forebears who passed faith on to us.

Some of these men and women were so illustrious as to be canonized saints; others were of the more ordinary, All Saints day variety.

These works of art also connect us with the builders of the medieval cathedrals who made such a difference in their times. These nameless artists continue to influence the building and shape of our present churches.

We marvel at the faith that led to such magnificent creativity.

▪ ▪ ▪

Such creativity also is evident in the great thinkers in our tradition. They so well synthesized Catholic theology with the questions of their time that they continue to influence us today.

St. Augustine of Hippo (d. 430) is one such person. Augustine could be a man living in our time rather than in the last days of the Roman Empire. His faults are ours. He is well known for his early lapse from the Catholic faith.

Augustine's *Confessions* tell of his soul's long and difficult journey to God. His early life could be a modern romantic novel. And his mother, Monica, like many contemporary parents, attained her sanctity in praying relentlessly for him during his decades of dissolution.

After his conversion, Augustine became one of the most brilliant of the early theologians. His thought, whether on the just war or the relationship of the *City of God* to the earthly city, is still influential. Augustine's reflections on the virtue of love continue to offer profound insights for us.

Another of our predecessors, St. Jane de Chantal (d. 1641), was a wife, mother, widow, foundress, innovator and mystic. With St. Francis de Sales, she founded the order of the Visitation Sisters.

The original intent was that the sisters not only visit the sick but also accept the physically handicapped as members. Neither of these things was done in her day but she set an example for changes we now take for granted.

We stand on the shoulders of giants. Whether through saints, artists, friends, relatives or parents, the past becomes our present through others. A great spiritual and cultural heritage comes to us through them.

Who influenced our lives? The more we think about it, the more we see that the question is profound.

A rich flow of church history shapes our present. Our lives reflect the varied hues of this holy wisdom.

(Oblate Father Crossin is a visiting fellow of the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University. He is the author of "Friendship: The Key to Spiritual Growth," Paulist Press.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There is more than one way to "hear" the story of a compelling figure in church history.

The story might inspire us to be more "like" that person. Or it might motivate us to "become ourselves" by striving to advance in our own vocation in life.

I think of the late Trappist Father Thomas Merton of Gethsemane Abbey in Kentucky. I find his 20th-century life story compelling.

Would I like, however, to be just like Father Merton? Well, not exactly. In his spiritual quest, he frequently longed to live as a hermit, for example — a lifestyle I cannot envision for myself.

But his commitment to a spiritual quest that never ends: That I find inspiring.

At the end of his life Father Merton journeyed to Asia to discover more about meditation in Eastern religions. But did he hope to become a Buddhist, for example? I take it, rather, that he hoped Buddhists could offer insights to inspire him as a contemplative monk in the church.

That's Father Merton's role for me precisely: to inspire me by his "insight" that the spiritual quest for followers of Jesus is a continuing journey and by his commitment to it.

25

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

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FAITH alive!

Meeting up with giants of our past

By Father Lawrence E. Mick
Catholic News Service

"We stand on the shoulders of giants," scholars tell us.

—Modern aircraft designers "stand on the shoulders" of the Wright brothers, who taught the world to fly.

—Modern geneticists "stand on the shoulders" of Gregor Mendel, the monk whose pioneering efforts uncovered basic workings of the genetic code.

In every field we see things more clearly in our times because we inherit the fruits of our ancestors' labors.

Similarly, Christians inherit the results of efforts by countless generations of earlier believers. We inherit the liturgy as a gift from our ancestors in faith who helped to shape our worship.

Most who shaped our liturgy are not known to us by name. Most elements of our worship are so ancient that we have no way to know who first introduced a particular ritual or prayer. Another reason is simply that liturgy develops over time as a community effort; bishops, priests, musicians and lay worshipers shaped liturgy in many different communities over many centuries.

We don't know, for example, who first introduced the sign peace into Christian worship, but we know it appears in many ancient liturgies.

CNS photo by Karen Callaway

Our knowledge of ancient liturgies depends on other giants, those who wrote about the way Christians worshiped and whose writings survived. One such document commonly is known as the "Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus." Though much scholarly dispute occurs over the identity of its author or the exact time and place of its composition, this document offers a treasure of information about Christian worship in the third century.

One section of the document describes the process adults followed to prepare for baptism through what is known as the "catechumenate." The description found there helped those who prepared the texts for the restored catechumenate reintroduced into Catholic life after Vatican Council II.

> "We don't know ... who first introduced the sign of peace into Christian worship, but we know it appears in many ancient liturgies."

Another part of the "Apostolic Tradition" contains an outline of a Eucharistic Prayer that formed the basis of the Second Eucharistic Prayer in the current Roman Missal.

The preaching of several fourth-century bishops also was helpful in restoring the catechumenate. The homilies St. Cyril of Jerusalem addressed to the newly baptized, known as his "Mystagogical Catecheses," give us rich insights into how the sacraments of initiation were celebrated and understood in his time in Jerusalem.

Homilies by St. Ambrose in Milan, Theodore of Mopsuestia and St. John Chrysostom in Antioch give additional information, reflecting both what was common in different communities and some differences in how they celebrated initiation into the church.

We owe all of these figures from our past a great debt of gratitude — both those we can name and the anonymous giants on whose shoulders we stand.

(Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a free-lance writer.)

FAITH alive!

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The faith of Bishop Glorieux

By Father W. Thomas Faucher
Catholic News Service

One rainy morning in December 1867, a thin, newly ordained priest arrived in Portland, Ore., about a two-month journey from his native Belgium. Father Alphonse Glorieux, trained at the University of Louvain, wanted to be a missionary in the rugged Northwest region of the United States.

Fifty years later, Aug. 25, 1917, this same man, who had spent his last 32 years as the Catholic bishop in Idaho, died. The regard for him was so great that the mayor of Boise asked all businesses — in a city and state that was less than 5 percent Catholic — to close for his funeral.

When we think of the heroes of the church, the saints who influenced our lives and the faith we have received, we often tend to think back to Europe, to the larger-than-life figures of the Middle Ages. This is certainly our heritage.

But shouldn't we also think of the incredible men and women who brought the Catholic faith to our own regions?

I grew up listening to stories of people who knew Bishop Glorieux. They spoke of a man who not only knew the future but could build it.

He came to the Idaho Territory as vicar apostolic (the title for a bishop before a place is a diocese) in 1885. He found two diocesan priests and five religious-order priests scattered over 83,000 square miles of almost roadless mountains and deserts.

Father Glorieux was named bishop of Boise when the diocese was created in 1893. When he died there were 35 diocesan priests and 18 religious-order priests in the diocese; the 11 parishes and missions of 1885 had grown to 93 by 1917.

There are dozens of fascinating Bishop Glorieux stories, but my favorite is about building the beautiful Cathedral of St. John in Boise.

In 1902 there were fewer than 500 Catholics in Boise; fewer than 250 went to church. One Friday morning the bishop held a "congregational meeting" with as many people as could come, and he shared his dream of building a cathedral to seat 1,000.

The bishop's vision was sure, his faith deep. Still, I will never understand how he convinced the 250 active Catholic people of Boise, most of whom were poor, to commit themselves to building such a church, but he did, and he raised the money to bring his dream into reality.

Bishop Glorieux was deeply involved in designing the finished structure, but lived to see only the outside walls and a crypt chapel. It wasn't finished until 1921. But, as in all the churches he designed, it reflected his liturgical training at Louvain. It had wide broad lines of sight, no pillars and ample room for the participation of the faithful.

This wonderful, intriguing man left a legacy that influenced my life. He founded a local church that was healthy, participatory, doctrinally sound and filled with faith.

When he had few visible resources and little to give him hope, he never lacked faith.

Bishop Glorieux took faith from his people as surely as he gave faith to them. He believed that we are a community of faith and that in sharing faith all the members become strong.

In places everywhere, there are stories of men and women like Bishop Glorieux, people of vision and faith. We need to know about those who had enough faith to ask 250 people to build a cathedral to hold 1,000.

(Father Faucher is a priest of the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, on assignment in the Diocese of Baker, Ore.)

In a Nutshell

- ***We are strongly influenced by great figures in church history. A spiritual and cultural heritage comes to us through them.***
- ***We've learned from those whose writings have survived to tell us, for example, what the church's worship was like in their times.***
- ***A rich flow of church history shapes our present lives as church members.***

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What are two biographies of figures from church history that you would recommend to readers?

"*Saints and Sinners* (Yale University Press, 1997) by Eamon Duffy, a history of the papacy which reads like a novel; and *Lives of the Popes* (Harper-San Francisco, 1997), by Father Richard McBrien. A self-explanatory title; each pope is handled separately." — Father James Hennesey, SJ, Syracuse, N.Y.

"*This Harsh and Dreadful Love*, by William Miller, a biography of American Dorothy Day, a convert to the church, social activist and founder of the Catholic Worker; and Thomas Merton's *Seven Story Mountain*, the journey of a soul, a person who struggles with the question of how to actualize the presence of Christ in society." — Sister Dolores Liptak, RSM, Silver Spring, Md.

"*Paul VI: The First Modern Pope* (Paulist Press, 1993), by Peter Hebblethwaite, important because much of what the church struggles with today arose during Pope Paul's time. And James O'Toole's *Militant and Triumphant: William Henry O'Connell and the Catholic Church in Boston, 1859-1944*, the story of a dominant figure in the American church." — Father Thomas Tifft, Wickliffe, Ohio

An upcoming edition asks: Is there one New Testament book or passage that you turn to frequently? What is the reason? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write:

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People In The News

Nun Appeals Against Fund-Raising To Mark Mother Teresa's Death

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mother Teresa's successor has issued an appeal against using the nun's name or that of the order she founded, the Missionaries of Charity, in fund-raising campaigns to mark the first anniversary of her death. In a July 22 statement, Sister Nirmala Joshi, head of the Missionaries of Charity, said that "a number of organizations and individuals intend to commemorate the anniversary of Mother's death, Sept. 5, by soliciting donations for the Missionaries of Charity or for other charitable causes" through events, sale of commemorative materials or direct solicitations. "While we accept the good intentions of those who might do such things, we want to make clear that we do not authorize anyone to solicit funds or goods for us or for any cause, in the name of Mother or the Missionaries of Charity."

Archbishop Urges Adherence To 'Most Misunderstood' Encyclical

DENVER (CNS) — Calling the encyclical "Humanae Vitae" "the most misunderstood papal intervention of this century," Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver urged priests to endorse and Catholic couples to practice its teachings on contraception. "The issue of contraception is not peripheral, but central and serious in a Catholic's walk with God," the archbishop said in a pastoral letter marking the 30th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical which said Catholics must not practice any artificial form of birth control.

Nun Says Salvador Lets 'Evidence Walk' By Releasing Guardsmen

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — Salvadoran authorities are "letting evidence walk out the door" by freeing three of five former national guardsmen convicted of the 1980 rape and murder of four U.S. churchwomen, said a Maryknoll Sisters spokeswoman. Maryknoll Sister Therese Howard, communications official for the order, said she believed one of the freed former guardsmen, Luis Colindres Aleman, had evidence of involvement by higher officials, but the evidence did not come out at the trial. "As long as he's silent, the higher-ups might be protecting him," she said the day after Colindres was released from prison. "Otherwise, he might disappear."

CRS Worker Tells Of Malnourished Children Facing Famine In Sudan

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic Relief Services worker who visited Sudan in July spoke of children with swollen bellies, swollen feet and matchstick arms and legs. Tom Price, communications associate with the Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services, said that in the Diocese of Rumbek, Sudan, 76 percent of the children at diocesan feeding centers were found to be malnourished. Aid workers in such centers use a rapid nutritional survey of measuring the biceps of children under 5: Less than five inches around indicates malnourishment. After 15 years of civil war and drought, the area faces "serious famine" and a situation that is "bad, really bad," Price said after returning from his trip in late July.

Pentecostal Lawyer Helps Russian Catholic Church Handle New Law

MOSCOW (CNS) — An institution renowned for its canon lawyers — the Roman Catholic Church — is relying on a devout Pentecostal jurist to negotiate a new legal landscape. Vladimir Ryakhovsky, a 41-year-old Muscovite, worked closely with Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, apostolic administrator of European Russia, to craft a charter for the Latin-rite Catholic Church in European Russia that would pass muster with the Russian Ministry of Justice in accordance with a new law on religion. "We have canon lawyers but we don't have anyone with his knowledge of the civil laws," said Archbishop Kondrusiewicz. "He helped us a lot with the preparation of the charter." Ryakhovsky is also drafting charters to be used in the re-registration of scores of parishes and Catholic charitable organizations throughout the vast Russian Federation. He is one of the co-founders of a nonprofit enterprise called the Christian Legal Center, specializing in religious freedom issues.

Irish Priest Helps Save American From Drowning In Dublin

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — A 62-year-old priest proved a hero when he dived into the River Liffey in Dublin to save a young American from drowning. Society of African Missions Father Eddie Feeney of Rathmullen, Ireland, was driving along Sir John Rogerson Quay in Ireland's capital. Suddenly, a young man ran across the road in front of the priest's car and jumped from the dockside. The priest immediately stopped his car, called on others to telephone emergency services, grabbed a nearby life belt and jumped in after the man. The young man, whose identity was not released, was unconscious and beneath the water. But with the help of onlookers, Father Feeney was able to locate him, get the life belt around him and pull him to safety. Police said the young man had attempted to commit suicide and would not release his name. The priest, who said in a radio interview that the man was an American, had just returned from serving in the missions in South Africa, and was driving from the airport to report to his order's headquarters.

Bishop Cancels Council Of Churches Communion Service

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A last-minute cancellation of an ecumenical Communion service at Johannesburg's Catholic cathedral has sparked renewed efforts to clarify occasions when inter-Communion is permissible in South African Catholic churches. The official opening service for the South African Council of Churches' July conference in Johannesburg was arranged to be held in Christ the King Cathedral, but when Bishop Reginald J. Orsmond of Johannesburg found it was to be a eucharistic service, he called the council's offices on the day of the event to cancel the plans.

Bishop Urges Third-Country Resettlement For Languishing Refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Following a visit to a refugee camp in Africa, Bishop John W. Yanta of Amarillo, Texas, has urged the international community to find lasting solutions, including third-country resettlement, to aid refugees. A member of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, Bishop Yanta earlier in July visited a camp in Kakuma, Kenya, where he encountered 60,000 people who have been refugees for many years. "The international community cannot allow itself to fall prey to 'compassion fatigue' in the face of such dire need," he said in a statement released July 21 in Washington. Bishop Yanta appealed to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and the U.S. Department of State to pursue resettlement of refugees in a third country, giving special attention to the needs of unaccompanied minors.

Five Sentenced For Protests Against School Of Americas

ATLANTA (CNS) — Five people received sentences ranging from eight to 12 months in federal prison July 23 for a demonstration at the gates of Fort Benning last September against the School of the Americas. U.S. District Judge J. Robert Elliott, 90, in Columbus also ordered four of the five, including a Jesuit priest and a Franciscan nun, to serve their terms consecutively with a six-month sentence previously imposed for a protest at the base in January. The five are Jesuit Father William Bichsel, 70, of Tacoma, Wash., sentenced to 12 months; Franciscan Sister Marge Eilerman, 60, of Booneville, Ky., eight months; Ed Kinane, 53, of Syracuse, N.Y., 10 months; Kathleen Rumpf, 47, of Syracuse, 12 months; and Mary Trotochaud, 47, of Atlanta, eight months. All except Rumpf have an additional six months to serve based on their earlier conviction in the same court.

Parish Music Minister Dies At Age 37

CHARLOTTE — Smith Turner IV, minister of music at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, died in his home July 23, 1998. He was 37.

A memorial Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Consolation Church July 26. The funeral service took place July 28 at Grace A.M.E. Zion Church in Charlotte, where Turner was a member.

Born Dec. 15, 1960, in Mooresville, Turner became a member of Grace A.M.E. Zion Church at an early age. He graduated from West Charlotte High School in 1978, and earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1983.

Turner furthered his education at North Carolina A & T University in Greensboro, where he earned a master's degree in adult education in 1994. He also took additional courses at Winston-Salem State University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

In his childhood years, Turner learned to play the piano and flute. He later studied choral music, which led him to ministering through song.

Turner was active in many community and fraternal activities. He was a local fund-raising coordinator for the United Negro College Fund, chairman of the June Chavis Davenport Scholarship Committee, an executive board member of Beta Nu Lambda graduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a member of the NAACP, founder and music director of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Ensemble, and a mentor for the Rites of Passage program at Our Lady of Consolation Church and the AMIGOS program at North Rowan Middle School.

Smith Turner IV

Turner was employed at Livingstone College in Salisbury as an academic support counselor. He also served as Our Lady of Consolation Church's music director for almost 12 years.

Turner was recognized in 1992 as the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Man of the Year. In 1993, he received the Dedicated Service Award from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg branch of the NAACP. He was also listed among the Outstanding Young Men of America.

Among his survivors are his parents, the Rev. Dr. Smith Turner III and Lucille Caldwell Turner of Charlotte; one brother, Lawrence (Stacy) Turner of Charlotte; four aunts, Betty C. Gill of Mooresville, Margaret C. (Roy) Carr of Cleveland, N.C., Pauline C. Knox of Bridgeport, Conn., and Lillie Lee Rogers of Brundidge, Ala; two uncles, Prince Turner of Rochester, N.Y., and Frank Caldwell of Bridgeport, Conn.; and one nephew, David Lawrence Turner of Charlotte.

Memorials may be made to the Empowering Scholars Program, Livingstone College, 701 West Monroe St., Salisbury, N.C. 28144.

Employment Opportunities

Coordinator of Children's Religious Education:
Full-time position in 1600-family parish immediately available. Coordinate all aspects of lectionary-based religious education for grades pre-K through 5. Responsibilities include sacramental preparation (Penance and Communion). Degree in religious education or related field is preferred. However, experience in the field will also be considered. A strong desire and willingness to learn, serve and collaborate are essential. Excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience and education. Contact: Don Bray (910) 323-2410, x106. Send resume and references to CRE Search Committee, Saint Patrick's Church, 2840 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304-3813.

Coordinator of Total Youth Ministry:
Full-time position in 1600-family parish immediately available. Coordination of all youth (grades 6-12) activities including preparation for confirmation. Programs are lectionary-based. Degree in religious education or related field preferred, however experience in the field will be considered. A strong desire and willingness to learn, serve and collaborate are a must. Excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience and education. Contact: Don Bray (910) 323-2410, x106. Send resume and references to TYM Search Committee, Saint Patrick's Church, 2840 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304-3813.

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Fourth Grade Teacher:
Immaculate Heart of Mary School is seeking a teacher for a self-contained 4th Grade class for the 1998-99 school year. Teacher will also be responsible for teaching Religion. Please send resume to principal, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262-4154, or fax to (336) 884-1849.

Freelance Writer:
The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Director of Faith Formation:
Holy Family Catholic Church is seeking a team-oriented Catholic visionary to plan and implement a catechetical program for pre-school through fifth grade for a student population of 500 and administer adult education programs in this 1,200+ growing parish in Clemmons, west of Winston-Salem, NC. MA in religious education and/or theology preferred, experience in parish administration beneficial. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume to: DFF Search Committee, Holy Family Catholic Church, P.O. Box 130, Clemmons, NC 27012-0130.

Full-Time Director of Liturgy and Music:
Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Liturgy and Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 800 households who are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. The Director of Liturgy and Music will be responsible for overseeing the total music ministry program and the liturgical ministry of the parish. The position requires a minimum of a Bachelors' Degree in a relevant field although a Masters' Degree is preferred. Other requirements include a solid background in liturgical theology, keyboarding skills, and careful attention to detail. A professional salary will be offered to the candidate who sends with their resume three references *and* salary history to: Search Committee, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470. *References and salary history are required to be considered for this position.*

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In Brief

Sister of Providence Celebrates Golden Jubilee

SAINT-MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. — Sister of Providence Regis McNulty, who ministered in the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrated her golden jubilee June 27 during a eucharistic liturgy in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Sister Regis taught at Charlotte Catholic High School from 1972-73 and served as principal of the former St. Joan of Arc School in Asheville from 1973-74. She now ministers as director of spiritual care and as senior clinician at Beech Hill Hospital in Dublin, N.H. She also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Antioch New England School and Keene State College, both in Keene, N.H.

Vocation Discernment Retreat

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Two Cistercian monasteries near Dubuque host a free vocation discernment retreat Sept. 4-7 to provide single persons with information about the monastic life. Monks and nuns will lead presentations and discussions, and there will be opportunities for personal prayer and reflection. The retreat is free of charge. For more information or to register, women should contact Sister Kate Mehlmann at (319) 582-2595 by phone or misisip@mwci.net by e-mail. Men should call Father Brendan Freeman at (319) 588-2319 by phone or Melleray@mwci.net by e-mail.

Parochial School Begins Alumni Association, Plans Reunion

WOODHAVEN, N.Y. — Plans are underway at St. Thomas the Apostle School to start an alumni association and directory for all former students. A reunion has been scheduled for October 1999 as well. All former students of the parochial school are requested to contact Le at (718) 846-1907 or the school at (718) 847-1353.

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Religious Leaders Praise House Override Of Partial-Birth Veto

CNS photo by Leslie Kossoff

Helen Alvare of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-life Activities addresses the press July 23 following a House vote to override the president's veto of the partial birth abortion ban. Supporters of the ban gathered with House Speaker Newt Gingrich to express praise for vote. From left is Sandi Merle, Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz, Alvare, Presbyterian Rev. Robert Norris and Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C.

By NANCY HARTNAGEL

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities commended members of the House July 23 for their 296-132 vote to override President Clinton's veto of a federal ban on partial-birth abortions.

Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, committee chairman, said in a statement released in Washington, "No nation and no legislator can, in good conscience, permit the killing of partly-born infants."

He said, "Soon, the Senate will have the same opportunity — to stop the brutal killing of infants by partial-birth abortion. We pray that the Senate will make the right choice."

The House vote, which was 11 more than the two-thirds necessary to override, sends the measure to the Senate, where no action was expected until September at the earliest. The ban originally passed the Senate by a vote of 64-36, three votes short of the majority needed for an override.

At a press conference with religious leaders, held in the Capitol just minutes before the House vote, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., thanked the leaders present for proving "that when it comes to the matter of protecting children, we can rise far beyond our denominations and, as people of faith, we can gather together on behalf of the community and the children."

In the House action, he said, "We are saying that America is not a country that tolerates infanticide.... And I would hope that the Senate would decide to join us."

Several Catholic, Jewish and Protestant leaders addressed the press conference.

Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, read a statement from Auxiliary Bishop William E. Lori of Washington, who was unable to attend because of illness.

The bishop expressed the gratitude of the Catholic Church for the House effort and congratulated legislators for their bipartisan support.

"In ending the tragedy of partial-birth abortion," he said in the statement, "I urge the U.S. Senate to follow suit. I call upon each Senator to have the courage and the wisdom to override the president's tragic veto."

In his statement, the bishop asked for prayers nationwide so that all elected leaders "will guide our great nation into a new millennium where all human life is protected."

The press conference was co-sponsored by Concerned Women for America, the Institute for Religious Values, the National Right to Life Committee, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities and the Catholic Campaign for America.

After the vote, Douglas Johnson, NRLC legislative director, said in a statement, "It's long past time for 36 senators to stop defending the indefensible, brutal practice of partial-birth abortion. It is appalling that any senator would vote to allow thousands of living babies to be mostly delivered and then stabbed through the head."

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York said in a statement that he was personally gratified by the House vote, "an act so very widely supported by the American people."

He also praised religious leaders who gathered for the press conference before the vote. "I express my special appreciation to the more than 100 Jewish rabbis who in recent weeks have spoken with the voice of the prophets," he said.

In Philadelphia, Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua said he was "heartened by the representatives' willingness to uphold the rights of innocent, beautiful children, and by their continued opposition to the horrid procedure known as partial-birth abortion."

He thanked local Pennsylvania House members who voted to override, and asked "all people of good will to pray that the U.S. Senate will also vote to override the president's veto."

Rep. Charles T. Canady, R-Fla., sponsor of the bill, said in a statement after the vote, "We are now one step closer to the goal of eliminating thousands of brutal deaths every year."

A statement from Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus said that "even included many self-described 'pro-choice'" lawmakers joined the effort to override Clinton's veto.

He said that Planned Parenthood "and the rest of the abortion lobby" would have liked the House to sustain Clinton's "misguided veto so as to permit and empower abortionists to continue murdering children as they are being born."

"To legally sanction execution begs the question," he added. "Is there nothing the Congress or president won't embrace under the banner of choice?"

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CHA Calls TV Report On Catholic Hospitals 'Distorted'

By **LOU PANARALE**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a letter to the head of ABC News, the Catholic Health Association of the United States called an ABC report on the ethical policies of Catholic hospitals "biased and distorted."

"Frankly, I expected a more balanced and objective report from ABC News," said Father Michael D. Place, CHA's president and CEO, in a letter to David Westin, president of ABC News, in New York.

The priest's comments were about a July 21 broadcast of "A Closer Look," a segment of ABC's "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings."

"It appears that there was a predetermined story line predicated on the biased premise that communities in this country are ill served because Catholic hospitals remain faithful to the ethical and religious directives of the Catholic Church," wrote Father Place.

A copy of the priest's letter was sent to Catholic News Service by the Washington office of the CHA, which is based in St. Louis.

A spokeswoman for the network told CNS that the ABC News department was holding meetings to discuss Father Place's criticism and would respond at a later time.

"We take these criticisms seriously and are doing a thorough review of our story," Eileen Murphy, ABC News' director of public relations, said July 27. "And at the conclusion we will have something further to say about it."

ABC News anchor Jennings opened the July 21 report by asking, "What happens when a Catholic hospital is the only one around?"

Titled "A Hospital's Choice," the report then switched to Manchester, N.H., where ABC reporter Michelle Norris noted that the only two hospitals in town are operated under Catholic auspices — the Catholic Medical Center and Elliot Hospital.

"Because of the Catholic Church's rules about birth control and abortion, there have been severe consequences for patients," Norris said in her opening remarks.

The segment then cut to an unidentified woman who said she had to travel 80 miles by cab to find a hospital that would perform an abortion on her that her doctors told her was critically needed. She said she had been turned down for the abortion by Elliot Hospital.

The segment also included an appearance by Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, who said, "Medical decisions are increasingly being made by bishops, not doctors."

"We need to understand that Catholic hospitals are ultimately owned by the Vatican. They are the property of the Roman Catholic Church, and they need to follow Catholic rules," continued Kissling.

Kissling's organization, which supports legal abortion, was denounced in 1993 by the U.S. bishops' 50-member Administrative Committee. It said the group "merits no recognition or support as a Catholic organization" and is funded mostly by non-Catholic sources.

In his letter, Father Place did not mention Kissling by name but described several remarks made in the report as "outright inaccuracies," including the reference to Vatican ownership of Catholic hospitals.

He also described as inaccurate the reporter's remark that the "Catholic Church now runs the nation's fastest growing hospital network" and labeled as distorted her assertion that "in many cases the mergers leave the Catholic hospital with a virtual monopoly on hospital care."

He also objected to the fact that many visuals used to illustrate the Catholic nature of the story were "religious symbols associated with worship and prayer," rather than shots of the delivery of health care in a Catholic-run facility.

According to a CHA spokesman in Washington, Father Place participated in a lengthy interview for the ABC report, but only about 12 seconds of that interview was aired.

In his letter to Westin, the priest said he "gladly agreed" to be interviewed for the piece because he believes "an informed public discussion about complex health care issues should be the hallmark of television journalism."

However, he wrote, "I am quite distressed to find that my comments responding specifically to some assertions and allegations made in the report were left on the cutting room floor."

The priest said he offered comments on how community health care leaders make decisions at the local level to seek affiliations that best serve the community and "on the totality of benefits a community derives from Catholic hospitals, including burn and neonatal care units, clinics serving women and infants and other specialty services."

"ABC News appears to have totally ignored the fact that Catholic hospitals are considered valued civic partners, employers, and providers of high quality," said Father Place.

He also said that ABC did a disservice "both to the religious women and men who have been for centuries the backbone of the catholic health care ministry in the Unites States and to lay women and men who collaborate in carrying on that mission today."

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For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

Diocesan News Briefs

Parish Plans "Blast"

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church plans its fifth annual "Blast" for Sept. 20. The event will include food, fun, games for all ages, and a raffle for a four-day cruise to the Bahamas. One-thousand chances will be sold at $5 each. For more information, call (828) 684-6098.

Natural Family Planning

ASHEVILLE — A free introductory session on natural family planning is Sept. 1 from 7:30-9 p.m. at Catholic Social Services, 35 Orange St. Call Ann Mines, (828) 258-8807, for reservations or more information.

College Debuts Web Site

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College has introduced its new Internet site, www.belmontabbeycollege.edu, to serve as an interactive tool for alumni, prospective students and their parents, and others interested in the Abbey and on-campus activities. The site includes a virtual tour of campus, sections devoted to student life, athletics and academics, and a link to information on Belmont Abbey Monastery.

The college's former site, www.BAC.edu, still exists, although it will be utilized in the future for on-campus use. Electronic mail sent to the old address will continue to be delivered, and in some cases will be forwarded to the addressee at the new site.

Charities Benefit from Pre-Game Fund-Raiser

CHARLOTTE — Located two blocks east of Ericsson Stadium, St. Peter Catholic Church at 507 S. Tryon St. will again sponsor and host "Garden of Eaten" on the parish grounds before all home pre-season and regular season Carolina Panthers football games. Pregame food will go on sale at the church 2 1/2 hours before game time, and all profits are distributed to two local children's charities. Visitors are welcome to tour the 103-year-old church and view its famous fresco by Ben Long. A Child's Place and Kid's Cafe each received $600 from last year's proceeds.

Ecumenical Concert Event

CHARLOTTE — "One in the Spirit," an all-ages, ecumenical concert event featuring seven local Christian music groups, is Aug. 22 from 1-6 p.m. at Marshall Park in uptown Charlotte. Bishop William G. Curlin will welcome concert-goers at 1 p.m., and families are encouraged to bring picnic lunches to the park. Among the performers are Centro Católico Hispano choir, scheduled for 2 p.m.; St. Matthew Catholic Church's Alive in the Spirit choir, scheduled for 4 p.m.; and Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church's gospel choir, scheduled for 5:20 p.m. Admission is free, and donations will be accepted. The rain date is Aug. 29.

Silver & Golden Anniversary Celebration

CHARLOTTE — The 19th annual diocesan celebration honoring couples married 25 and 50 years is Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. in St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. Bishop William G. Curlin will preside over the Mass, and a reception will follow. All couples celebrating silver and golden anniversaries in 1998 are invited to register by calling their parish office.

50+ Club

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church gathers at the church on Aug. 12 at 11 a.m. for a meeting and barbecue lunch. Coffee and dessert will follow. The second payment for the Florida trip is due at this time. For more information, call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745.

Parish Anniversary

CHARLOTTE — "50 Years with Mary At Our Side," the 50th anniversary celebration of Our Lady of Assumption Church, is commemorated Aug. 14 at a 7 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin; Jesuit Father Francis Gillespie, pastor; and former pastors. A dessert reception follows the Mass. Anyone with photographs related to the parish over the past half-century are invited to submit them for a special display by calling Mary Kay Crotty, (704) 536-5452. Reservations and more information are also available by calling Crotty.

Ecumenical Healing Mission

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church is among 17 area congregations sponsoring a healing retreat at First Lutheran Church, 3600 W. Friendly Ave., Sept. 25-26. Dr. S. Dianne Ricks, a counseling psychologist, is the featured guest. For more information, call Bob or Jackie Phillips at (336) 282-8185.

Catholic Television Programs

GREENSBORO — Dominican Father Michael Burke presents a series of half-hour programs on the Catholic faith and spirituality on GCTV, Greensboro Community Television, each Sunday at 6 p.m. Episodes are repeated each Thursday at 7 p.m. The programs are produced by the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C. If you have comments, call the producer, Mark Hite, at (919) 821-9734.

Life in the Spirit Seminar

GREENSBORO — A "Life in the Spirit" seminar is Aug. 28 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. and Aug. 29 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The Aug. 29 schedule includes Mass and dinner. For more information, call Freda Mandarano, (336) 454-8831.

Prison/Jail Ministry Seminar

HICKORY — Bill Matevie, chaplain at Mecklenburg County Jail North and diocesan coordinator of prison ministry, facilitates a prison/jail ministry seminar Aug. 15 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center. The seminar features sharing from prison ministry volunteers, former inmates, clergy and family members of inmates. A variety of volunteer opportunities will also be discussed. A continental breakfast is provided, and lunch is available for $6. Admission to the seminar is free, although reservations are suggested. For reservations, call Matevie at (704) 336-8235. For directions to the conference center, call (704) 327-7441.

House of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — "Joyful Spirit '98" is an Aug. 21-23 retreat for women who are Alcoholics Anonymous members. Early registration for the available nine spaces is required. "The Servant Leadership of Jesus" is a Sept. 18-20 retreat for men. "God's Spirit in Nature" is a Sept. 28-Oct. 4 retreat including daily prayers and reflection that connect with a variety of recreational activities. All retreats are at the Jesuit House of Prayer. To register or receive more information, call (828) 622-7366.

Photo by Patrick Henry

Knights of Columbus Council 6700 in Gastonia recently presented Father Dean Cesa and Father Peter Pham with gifts upon their ordination to the priesthood. Shown are Grand Knight Frank Pileci and Knight Joseph Nelli. As part of the Knights' Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), the Gastonia council provided the men with financial assistance and moral support during their years of priestly formation. Father Cesa is parochial vicar at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem. Father Pham is parochial vicar at St. Michael Church in Gastonia.

Rummage Sale

LENOIR — The Caldwell County Rummage Sale is Aug. 15 from 8 a.m.-noon at St. Francis of Assisi Church in the school building. To donate items, call Ken or Lu Russell, (704) 754-5677.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Canticle of the Creatures" is an Aug. 17-23 nature retreat focusing on contemplative confirmation of the Spirit. Cost is $260. "Eat, Drink & Be Merry — A Spirituality of Sabbath Eucharist" is a Sept. 4-6 retreat focusing on work, rest and renewal in the context of celebration and true Sabbath. Cost is $95. To register, get more information or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (828) 926-3833, or send a fax to (828) 926-1997.

Grief Support

SYLVA — A support group for those who are widowed, separated, divorced or with new or unresolved grief meets each third Friday in the fellowship hall of St. Mary Church in Sylva at 7 p.m. Call the parish office, (828) 586-9496, for more information.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish, school, agency and organization news briefs and releases for publication in the Diocesan News Briefs page. Please limit submissions to 200 words. The deadline for the News Briefs page is 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated Aug. 9 in St. Patrick Cathedral at 4 p.m. Prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows the Mass in the school cafeteria. Call Josie at (704) 527-4676 for more information.

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated Aug. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd.

Diocesan Lay Ministry Training Program

The Charlotte Diocese's two-year lay ministry program begins in the fall in Arden, Charlotte and Greensboro for persons wishing to be affirmed in their present ministry, upgrade their catechist or religion teacher certification, or fulfill the prerequisite for the permanent diaconate. The academic program is designed to help participants appreciate and more fully understand the call to ministry by virtue of their baptism. For details, send name, address and phone number to Office of Lay Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, or call (704) 370-3213.

World And National News Briefs

Tragic Murders Prove To Be Catalyst For Good, Says Irish Primate

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, said the shocking murders of three young brothers in his country in a strange way have been a catalyst for good. "It brought people to their senses," he said. "They came to see the direction their madness was leading them. They pulled back from the edge of the abyss. Numbed into silence by the shock of this brutal atrocity, people began to listen to the voices of sanity." Archbishop Brady, primate of all Ireland, spoke in Pittsburgh to a national convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish-American benevolent society.

Catholic Leaders Decry Veto On Education Savings Bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic officials said they were extremely disappointed with President Clinton's July 21 veto of an education savings bill. The bill would have expanded tax-free education savings accounts to allow parents to cover public, private or home school education expenses for kindergarten to college. It would have included expenses for tutors, home computers, supplies and transportation. Other provisions would have allowed grandparents, other relatives, employers, friends and corporations to set money aside for any child's educational use without paying taxes on the interest. Msgr. Thomas McDade, education secretary for the U.S. Catholic Conference, said the veto "seems to be a kick in the face to any efforts for nonpublic education."

South African Bishops Decry Murder Of German Nun

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — South Africa's bishops have decried "the scourge of murder and death" in the country after a 57-year-old nun was found shot to death. German-born Sister Theodelind Schreck was a member of the Servant of the Holy Child Jesus congregation of the Franciscan order and principal of Holy Childhood convent school in the Eshowe Diocese. She had been missing for four days when her body was found July 26 in a wooded area about 25 miles from the town of Eshowe. Police said she had been shot. The funeral Mass was to be held in Eshowe Aug. 1. South African Broadcasting Corp. radio news reported July 28 that two suspects in Sister Schreck's murder were arrested early that morning. In a statement, the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference expressed its "profound shock and dismay at the senseless murder" of the nun.

More Than 20,000 Climb Mountain In Ireland To Pray For Peace

CROAGH PATRICK, Ireland (CNS) — More than 20,000 pilgrims, many of them barefoot, climbed the rocky slopes of a remote mountain in western Ireland to pray for peace. Usually, 35,000 people climb to the 2,510-foot summit of Croagh Patrick in County Mayo, but organizers said they were amazed at the turnout July 26 considering that the climb was more treacherous than usual. Three months of higher-than-average rainfall have made the mountain more prone to rock falls. Masses on the summit were celebrated every half hour, with each Mass offered for peace in Northern Ireland. It was the second year that Northern Ireland was the pilgrimage's main intention.

CNS photo by Tom Price, Catholic Relief Service

Sudanese Children

A boy and girl hold onto one another at a diocesan sponsored food distribution center in Rumbek, Sudan, in mid-July. The boy's mother left several days earlier in search of food and had not yet returned.

Divine Word Forms Papua New Guinea Relief Fund

TECHNY, Ill. (CNS) — The U.S. Mission Center of the Divine Word Missionaries in Techny has set up a relief fund for victims of the three tsunamis that devastated coastal villages in Papua New Guinea. All donations received will go directly to the Catholic Diocese of Aitape to assist in its relief work among local people of all faiths. An offshore earthquake July 17 generated successive walls of water up to 30 feet high that obliterated several fishing villages along a 20-mile stretch of Papua New Guinea's northwestern coast near Aitape. Ten days later the official death toll was over 2,000 and expected to rise to about 3,000 as other bodies were found. About 10,000 survivors are homeless. Donations should be made out to the Papua New Guinea Relief Fund and sent to: Divine Word Missionaries, P.O. Box 6099, Techny, IL 60082-6099.

Three Missionaries Of Charity Gunned Down In Yemen

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican media reported that a lone gunman killed three Missionaries of Charity in Yemen. The three nuns from the order, founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta, were leaving their residence in Hodieda, Yemen, the morning of July 27 when they were gunned down, the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano said. Police immediately arrested a suspect who had been detained by local residents, but they did not officially release any details about him. Other news media quoted an unnamed government authority as saying he was a suspected Islamic extremist. The three nuns — two Italian and one from the Philippines — were on their way to work at a social services center run by the order.

Papal Letter Underlines Limited Authority Of Bishops' Conferences

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Bishops' conferences may issue statements on moral and other doctrinal matters only if they pass with a unanimous vote or receive the prior approval of the Vatican, Pope John Paul II said. In an apostolic letter on "The Theological and Juridical Nature of Episcopal Conferences," released July 23 at the Vatican, the pope said any authority national bishops' conferences have is delegated to them or flows from their unity with the pope and the universal College of Bishops. Pope John Paul praised bishops' conferences as expressions of the unity of the church and as effective means for the bishops of a nation or region to promote and defend the faith.

Study Finds U.S. Diocesan Pastoral Councils Doing Well

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Last year 49 percent of U.S. Catholic dioceses had diocesan pastoral councils and 14 percent planned to start them soon, according to a nationwide study released July 28. It found that bishops who have pastoral councils value them most for consultation on pastoral issues and for developing a sense of diocesan mission and vision for the future. "PCs (pastoral councils) accomplish what they are intended to do," said the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, which conducted the study for two committees of the U.S. bishops. "Those who work with PCs describe them as bodies that study pastoral issues, make recommendations on pastoral issues and serve as a consultative body" to the local bishop. Bishops, senior diocesan staff and pastoral council members placed the topics of evangelization, Catholic education and formation, lay ministry development and parish restructuring highest on a list of pastoral issues which councils study "very much." Ranked lowest as a council issue was the allocation of financial and personnel resources in the diocese.

Efforts Under Way To Sell Jesus Miniseries To U.S. TV Network

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — CBS is negotiating to buy the U.S. rights to a four-hour miniseries on the life of Jesus for possible airing in late 1999, according to a report by Daily Variety, a show-business journal. CBS would pay about $10 million in rights fees to air the $17 million miniseries. Filming and casting has not yet started on the project, but a February 1999 start date in Morocco is expected, according to Daily Variety. CBS executive Sunta Izzicupo, who is in charge of made-for-TV movies, confirmed that the network is negotiating for the U.S. rights but said the deal was not yet made. Izzicupo said the miniseries is meant to cover Jesus' entire life, not just his public ministry.

Jesuit Slain In Congo Is Fifth Victim Of Recent Fatal Attacks

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Violence against Catholic missionaries in Africa claimed a fifth life within a week in late July when a Jesuit priest was shot to death at his home in the Republic of Congo. At 2 a.m. July 28, Jesuit Father Michel Halbecq was surprised by a man with a gun outside his bedroom window at his residence in the capital of Congo, Brazzaville. The intruder apparently fired through the window, striking Father Halbecq in the head. Police believe the gunman fled without taking anything. No motive for the shooting was immediately known, but authorities were investigating a possible link with the recent theft of a car from the Jesuit community in Brazzaville.

Philippines Parish Hosts 300 Koreans Awaiting Church Construction

MAKATI, Philippines (CNS) — A Franciscan parish southeast of Manila is hosting Masses and other ministries for some 300 Manila-based Korean Catholic families as the Koreans struggle to build their own parish church. St. Andrew Kim Parish, established in 1989, has been hosted by St. Anthony parish of Forbes Park, Makati, for two years, but the Korean parish might remain churchless until the region's financial crisis eases. "I broke ground on land bought with Korean donations, but the Asian currency crisis started and donations from people here and from Korea stopped" early this year, said the pastor, Father Lee Myong-jae Benedict of Chonju, South Korea.

Widow Says Outpouring Of Sympathy 'Overwhelming'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The widow of slain U.S. Capitol Police Det. John M. Gibson said she and her three children "have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of sympathy and compassion" from friends, neighbors and "people around the globe."

Evelyn Gibson made the comments in a statement released in the days following the fatal shooting of her husband, age 42, and his colleague, Officer Jacob J. Chestnut, 58. The two were gunned down July 24 while on duty in the U.S. Capitol.

"With the loss of John we suffered the loss of a man who was the very center of our lives," said Gibson, who belongs to a Catholic parish in Virginia. "John was a loving husband and a dedicated father. His life ended only hours before we were to start our vacation together."

She added, "John's courage was no surprise to us. He has always been our hero. We have witnessed his bravery and knew his dedication to duty and his regard for the safety of others."

Gibson also remembered the family of Chestnut in her remarks, saying, "We share the pain shared by the members of Officer Chestnut's family and we pray for him as well."

Russell Eugene Weston Jr. of Rimini, Mont., described as a friendless loner with a history of mental illness, was charged with shooting Chestnut in the head at a security checkpoint upon entering the building and then killing Gibson in the shootout that followed outside the offices of House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

Gibson seriously wounded Weston, who as of July 29 remained hospitalized in stable condition.

A funeral Mass was scheduled July 30 at the Gibsons' parish church, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in the Washington suburb of Lake Ridge, Va., in the Diocese of Arlington. In addition to his wife, Gibson leaves behind three teen-age children, Kristen, Jack and Danny.

A funeral service for Chestnut, who is survived by his wife, Wendy, five children and several grandchildren, was scheduled for July 31 at Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, Md.

Both officers were to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

By an act of Congress the bodies of the two slain officers lay in state July 28 in the Rotunda — an honor rarely accorded to anyone except presidents. Their coffins were draped with flags that had flown over the Capitol, and the public was allowed to pay its respects.

Thousands of people — from T-shirt clad tourists, to police chiefs, officers and cadets from around the country, to congressional pages, staff members and members of Congress — filed by their coffins silently and somberly. At times the procession stretched the equivalent of four city blocks.

In an official tribute paid to Gibson and Chestnut, attended by their family members and dignitaries, President Clinton said the slain Capitol officers, and others killed in the line of duty, "have given their lives to ensure our domestic tranquillity. We honor them today."

"We thank their families for enduring the pain and extra burden of joining us here today," Clinton said. "For they remind us that what makes our democracy strong is not only what Congress may enact or a president may achieve."

The tribute included remarks by Vice President Al Gore, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and U.S. Capitol Police Chief Gary L. Albrecht.

Immediately after the shooting, Washington-area Catholic leaders expressed shock and disbelief as they prayed for the two dead police officers.

"The shooting itself was totally shocking — unbelievable," said Father Michael O'Sullivan, pastor of St. Peter Parish, one of two parishes on Capitol Hill.

Mulling over the apparent numbness of American society to violence, he said, "I do think maybe we have as a community failed to identify the difference between freedom and license. It goes back to the moral principle — nobody is free to do wrong."

Father Salvatore A. Criscuolo, chaplain for police in Washington, said that death on the job always looms as a possibility for police officers in the United States, where one officer is killed in the line of duty every 52 hours.

"They know every day can be their last day," the priest told the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese.

Karen Granger, administrative manager at St. Joseph's, the other Capitol Hill parish, said parishioners were shocked.

"Our reaction was just like everywhere else in the country," she said. "It was unsettling to know it was just down the street."

Contributing to this story were Lynnea Pruzinsky Mumola, Clare Macdonnell and Michael Flach.

CNS photo from Reuters

A woman places flowers on the steps of the U.S. Capitol July 26 in honor of two policemen killed inside the building two days earlier. Shooting suspect Russell Eugene Weston Jr. allegedly charged through a security point, shot and killed the officers and wounded a tourist.

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Photo by Joann Keane

A Church's Golden Anniversary

Parishioner Agnes Rogers shares a laugh with Father Joseph Kelleher at Our Lady of the Assumption Church's 50th anniversary celebration held Aug. 14. Rogers is a founding member of the parish. Father Kelleher served as Our Lady of the Assumption pastor from 1977-1986. The parish consisted of 40 people in 1948 and now boasts 2,300 members. See related story, page 2.

Pope, Irish Church Leaders Condemn Northern Ireland Bombing

By CHRISTENA COCLOUGH

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Irish church leaders and Pope John Paul II condemned the bloodiest terrorist bombing in Northern Ireland's history, urging people to reject violence and continue to seek peace.

Priests who visited the scene of the Aug. 15 bombing, which hit a busy shopping district in Omagh, 50 miles west of Belfast, spoke of confusion, numbness and grief. At least 28 people were killed and more than 200 people were injured by the 500-pound car bomb, which came on the 29th anniversary of the first deployment of British troops to Northern Ireland.

Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh, visibly shaken from the atrocity, said churchgoers must unite in prayer and not lose hope that the peace process will triumph.

"Words are not very useful. We must support people by (our) presence and assure these people that these evil ones who carried out this will not succeed," Archbishop Brady said.

"People had begun to dare to hope that scenes like this had disappeared. It will open up old wounds. We can only hope that people will turn away from violence," he said.

Police said the car bomb was believed to be the work of Irish Republican Army dissidents who oppose the peace process.

At the papal summer home in Castel Gandolfo Aug. 16, Pope John Paul said, "Once again, blind violence is attempting to impede the difficult path of peace and productive harmony which most discerning people are convinced is possible.

"My earnest hope for that beloved country is that Irish people of good will not succumb to violence and that they will persevere with determination in building that peaceful coexistence on which the whole future depends," he said.

The pope prayed for those killed "in such a tragic and senseless way," and asked blessings on the injured, the families in mourning and "all who continue to put their trust in dialogue and agreement."

In the late afternoon Aug. 16, Archbishop Brady, primate of all Ireland, traveled to Beragh, near Omagh, to visit a family that lost several family members in the bombing.

Mary Grimes, 65, was shopping in Omagh at the time of the blast with her 30-year-old daughter Avirl Monahan, who was pregnant with twins, and Avirl's 18-month-old daughter, Maura. All of them were killed.

Archbishop Brady said: "The family are just totally devastated. They are just so shocked."

Monahan is survived by her husband, Michael, two daughters and a son. Her eldest child is 6.

The bomb victims were herded into the path of the bomb after an inaccurate warning was given. Acting on a telephone tip, police evacuated the shoppers to the end of the street, where the bomb eventually exploded.

Police, ambulance crews and firefighters worked for hours to move those injured by the blast to local hospi-

See **Bombing,** page 3

Northern Ireland Teens Learn — and Teach — Lesson of Hope

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Matthew Dilworth laughs into the phone receiver in response to his trans-Atlantic caller; he's checking up on things back home in the United Kingdom.

At the kitchen table, Gary McGowan waits for Dilworth to finish his call. After six weeks in Charlotte, the teens will go home in a couple of days. The 16-year-olds will return with souvenirs, a bit of a sunburn, and cherished memories of summertime fun. But this trip has been no ordinary sojourn.

Dilworth is Protestant, McGowan a Catholic. Their home is Northern Ireland, where warring sectarian groups have caused a cycle of fear and violence for decades. It is a place where the words *Protestant* and *Catholic* carry as much political, social, and ideological connotation as religious.

Their hometowns in County Fermanagh, some 75 miles southwest of Belfast, are remote from much of the recent bloodshed. Yet the teens — like so many others in their native land — are steadfast in their conviction that friendship is the way to peace.

McGowan and Dilworth have come to the United States as part of Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland, Inc. The non-profit organization promotes peace in Northern Ireland by pairing Catholic and Protestant teen-agers in American homes. Organizers hope the neutral atmosphere allows the teens to focus on their similarities and establish lasting friendships — building blocks for a future of harmony.

"Basically, (with) the Catholics and the Protestants, there's no difference," says McGowan. "There shouldn't be any divide lines."

"People need to stop the killing and ... look forward to the future," adds Dilworth.

Katy Volponi is a regional coordinator for the project. She and her husband, Phil, are also former hosts. "When you understand who and what a human being is on an individual level," she says, "then you dispel some prejudgement about them. It's a matter of education and broadening horizons."

More than 120 teens aged 15-18 have been hosted in 14 states this summer. In western North Carolina, three pairs of young men and women are spending their time in Charlotte; a Blowing Rock family is hosting another pair.

Host families agree to pay for airfare for the teens, provide their room and board, and include them as family members. Itineraries are up to individual families, and organizers advise them on fund-raising opportunities. The project is open to host families of all faiths.

Dilworth and McGowan say their belief in interaction rather than segregation has been reinforced. At home, each has Catholic and Protestant friends. They share a love for sports, technology, art

See **Northern Ireland,** page 3

50 Years With Mary By Our Side

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Celebrates Golden Anniversary

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Agnes Rogers is a pioneer.

"I've been here (at Our Lady of the Assumption Church) since day one," Rogers said while showing off old pictures of the parish which celebrated its 50th birthday Aug. 15. Bishop William G. Curlin presided at an anniversary Mass on the vigil of the Feast of the Assumption with Jesuit Father Francis Gillespie, pastor, former pastors and priests of the parish. Nearly 500 parishioners attended the celebration.

Trailblazers run in Rogers' family. Her cousin, the late Jesuit Father Andrew Graves, was an ecumenical and civic leader in western North Carolina who pioneered missionary efforts in Madison and Yancey counties from 1937 until 1985. While Father Graves was making a name for himself for his tireless generosity and Christian witness to unite the Catholic population in the western region, Rogers was busy helping build a parish in the Piedmont region of the state.

From an initial congregation of 40, Rogers has seen the parish move several times and grow to the 2,300-member church that exists today. The 80-year-old remembers Missionary Servant of the Blessed Trinity Father Michael Giblin, the church's founding pastor, and the first Mass celebrated Oct. 3, 1948, in the old church at 521 Central Avenue. She also has fond memories of former pastor Father John Hanic and current pastor, Father Gillespie.

"If I had two sons, one of them would be Father John, and the other would be Father Fran," she said. "I love them both."

Fellow parishioner Suzanne Anthony said Our Lady of the Assumption has not only grown in size, but in ethnic diversity over the years as well. "Many cultures are represented in our church family. We have Indian, Hispanic, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Phillipino, African-American and so many others," she said. "They bear many fruits."

Both Rogers and Anthony agreed the building of the current church on Shamrock Drive was a landmark in the parish history. "They (the diocese) had purchased the property back in the early 1960s, and the parish had been trying to build a new church for years," Anthony said. (Then) Bishop John F. Donoghue and parishioners broke ground on March 19, 1989, and the first Mass at the new church was celebrated in February 1990.

For Father Hanic, pastor from 1986-1992, memories of a loving church family come to mind when reminiscing about his years at Our Lady of the Assumption. "They were wonderful, caring people that were greatly diverse in their lifestyles," he said. "The happiest years of my priesthood were in this parish."

Father Joseph Kelleher, OLA pastor from 1977-1986, agreed. "When Bishop Donoghue reassigned me to another parish in the summer of 1986, it broke my heart," he said. "I loved the people here and my years in this parish."

In his homily, Father Gillespie tied in the parish's anniversary theme, "Celebrating 50 Years with Mary by Our Side."

"Our Lady of the Assumption is the Madonna that unites all the ethnic diversity of this parish," he said. "Just as Mary was at the side of Jesus, and just as Mary has been at our side for the last 50 years of joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries of people's lives (in this parish), it is incumbent upon us to model ourselves on Mary and be at the side of those in need."

Photo by Joann Keane

Parishioner Desiree Coutinho presents the gifts at Our Lady of the Assumption's 50th anniversary Mass. Also show is Jesuit Father Francis Gillespie, pastor.

Bishop Curlin said the Our Lady of Assumption church family is indeed blessed. "The hallmark of this parish (is) it is very, very evident that you do love one another, and that you do witness Christ in the way you love one another," he added.

Scripture

Readings for the week of August 23 — 29, 1998

Sunday
Isaiah 66:18-21
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Luke 13:22-30

Monday
Revelation 21:9-14
John 1:45-51

Tuesday
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday
1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Mark 6:17-29

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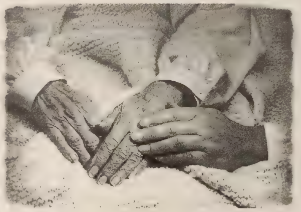

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Bombing, from page 1

CNS photo from Reuters

Catholics at St. Joseph's Church in Omagh pray Aug. 16 for the victims of a car bomb which exploded the day before in Northern Ireland. Pope John Paul II and Irish church leaders condemned the bombing which killed at least 28 people.

tals. Forensic experts scoured the rubble and debris to find missing limbs.

One eyewitness said: "I picked up a little boy. His legs had been blown off, but he did not even realize."

Father Kevin Mullan of Christ the King Church in Omagh was among the local religious leaders who comforted victims' families as they awaited news at a temporary hospital set up in the town's community center.

"There is a terrible sense of grief waiting to explode. God be with them," he said. "I am just going to cry with them. It will take another day to find words."

Father Eddie Deney, who works in South Africa but was on his way home for a vacation, was traveling though Omagh when the blast occurred.

He and other priests administered last rites to the victims, but he said it was nearly impossible to tell the dead from the injured because there was so much blood.

"I felt completely numb," Father Deney said. "The only way to cope with what I saw was to switch off my emotions."

The Church of Ireland primate, Archbishop Robin Eames, comforted the injured at Dungannon hospital.

"We have had year after year of this," he said. "This is mass murder. We need to be shown that this peace process is something that can survive."

Queen Elizabeth II joined political and religious leaders in condemning the attack. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who traveled to Northern Ireland to meet with politicians the day after the bombing, called it "an appalling act of savagery and evil by people determined to wreck the peace process."

In Washington, the lobby group Irish National Caucus issued an Aug. 17 statement from its president, Father Sean McManus, who was visiting Northern Ireland.

"Irish-Americans totally condemn this monstrous act of savagery," he said, calling the bombing "a brutally violent and viciously evil act. No words are adequate to condemn it."

Northern Ireland, from page 1

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Gary McGowan, left, and Matthew Dilworth mug for the camera with their new friend Jake.

and meeting people. They appreciate respect for various faith traditions. During their visit, they palled around at an amusement park, rode four-wheel motorbikes and talked with one another about the troubles and misunderstandings affecting their homeland.

"In the six weeks, they definitely have become closer to each other," says Tina Patton. "They act like brothers, just picking at each other and carrying on. They truly have built a really good friendship." Patton and her husband, John, opened their south Charlotte home to the teens.

The time has long since come, McGowan says, for all of Northern Ireland "to forget about the past and move on" in peace. Dilworth nods in agreement.

The teens clarify that the violence is perpetuated by an angry few despite the overwhelming support for peace in their homeland. "It's hard to explain to someone who doesn't live in the country. We don't know if they actually understand what's going on," McGowan says. "Ninety percent of the people want peace. It's only ... the thugs keeping this thing going."

Even following the May 22 all-Ireland "yes" vote to a recently brokered peace agreement, some dissenters still turn to deadly violence. "People just fight for the sake of fighting," Dilworth says. "They forget what they're fighting for."

The project has been a lesson in ecumenism as well for the teens, who have interacted with people of various denominations during their time in North Carolina. In parts of Northern Ireland and elsewhere in the world, hatred exists because "one religion thinks it's better than another, and that religion thinks *it's* better," says McGowan.

"When you're over here," Dilworth adds, "it doesn't matter what religion you are."

The teens say they'll bring much home with them, especially an eagerness to remain friends and introduce one another to their neighborhood chums.

That grassroots effect, Volponi says, is the true purpose of the project. "They're at an age where they're standing on the brink of adulthood, trying to decide what role they're going to play," she adds.

The day after The Catholic News & Herald interviews with McGowan and Dilworth, 28 people were killed and 220 injured after a car bomb exploded on a crowded street in Omagh, some 55 miles west of Belfast. The teens' families were not directly affected. The car bomb explosion was the deadliest single attack of terrorism in 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland. See page 1 for story.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Pro-Life Corner

The deepest element of God's commandment to protect human life is the *requirement to show reverence and love* for every person and the life of every person.

— John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

August 22
1 p.m.
"One In The Spirit"
Catholic Evangelization Commission
Ecumenical Rally
Marshall Park
Charlotte

4 p.m.
Dedication of New Classroom Building
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School
Charlotte

August 23
1 p.m.
Open House Honoring Franciscan Sisters of Tiffin
Roberta McKinnon and Virginia Gase
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
Cherokee

August 30
11 a.m.
Mass and Picnic
Our Lady of the Americas Church
Biscoe

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

The Spirit In Creation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Aug. 12.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we reflect today on the fact that, while the Holy Spirit works in a unique and full manner within the church, he also acts outside her visible frontiers.

The Spirit is present in creation and active at every moment of the history of salvation. He directs all things to the definitive event of the Incarnation of the Word. Through Christ, this same Spirit is communicated by the Father to the church and to all of humanity. Wherever people sincerely look for the revelation of God and wait in hope of salvation, it is possible to discern the hidden but efficacious work of the Spirit.

The history of salvation is not separate from human history but points to and brings about the redemption achieved in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The church is at the service of the Spirit's work and sees herself as sent to bring the fullness of life in the Spirit to all peoples.

I cordially welcome all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from Taiwan, Japan and the United States of America. I gladly invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ upon you and your families.

With Vatican's Blessing, Music Video Features Images Of Pope

ROME (CNS) — A music video scheduled for release in September will feature images of Pope John Paul II. The three-and-a-half minute video, featuring a song about the pope by an Italian pop musician, has the blessings of the Vatican and is to be seen in Italy on Telepace, a church-based, nationwide broadcaster, as part of a tribute to Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The papal video will be set to the tune of "A Man Come From Afar" by Amedeo Minghi, who performed the song for Pope John Paul in 1996 while a few video clips of the pope were projected on a screen.

Pope Establishes New Diocese In India, Names Bishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has established a new diocese in northeastern India, bordering Nepal, and has named a 44-year-old priest to be its first bishop. The new Diocese of Bettiah, made up of territory previously belonging to the Diocese of Muzaffarpur, covers an area of almost 7,500 square miles with a population of more than 11.5 million people. The pope named as the first bishop of Bettiah Father Victor Henry Thakur, who was born in Chakhni, a town within the borders of the new diocese.

The Bottom Line

Antoinette Bosco

Journalist Investigates Saint Of The Last Resort

The Catholic Digest Book Club called its July editor's choice "the first book of its kind!"

The title is simply "Jude," but a footnote in large letters gives a hint why this book is unusual. "An acclaimed journalist takes a spellbinding voyage in search of the 20th century's most beloved yet mysterious saint," the patron saint of last resort, lost causes and the impossible.

I immediately recognized the author's name — Liz Trotta. She is an Emmy Award-winning journalist for her reporting on the Vietnam War. I saw her from the '60s to the '80s on NBC and then CBS television. I had tremendous respect for her achievements as a woman in a male-dominated industry. A few years back she wrote "Fighting for Air, In the Trenches With Television News," a fascinating book about her work and "getting kicked out after 20 years."

When I got her book on Jude, I wanted to meet this fascinating woman. We agreed to get together for breakfast in New York.

Reading her book I learned more about St. Jude, but did not get a much clearer picture of who he is. Even the author acknowledges that after all her research, which took her to Rome, Turkey and many churches in America, no clear picture of this revered apostle emerges.

Jude remains "the saint of shadows, a holy helper, who hears the weakest, most desolate cries."

Mysteriously, that may be why you can't put this book down. You read the stories of the people so touched by this saint, and you feel a magnetic draw to speak to him yourself. He has been the obscure apostle of history, too often confused with the traitor Judas. Yet, he is the one people through the ages have called upon when they are desperate, most in need of hope. Why?

That's the question Trotta wanted to answer. She embarked upon an extraordinarily detailed search. She used her skills as an investigative reporter to get the real story of this elusive saint, who surfaces everywhere — in a hundred newspapers a day where people thank Jude for favors received, in uncountable shrines and in innumerable testimonies, many from the well known, like the late Danny Thomas, who built a children's hospital in St. Jude's name in gratitude for answered prayers.

When I met Trotta, who is now New York bureau chief for the Washington Times, I learned you get fast, straight answers from this classy woman. She was definitely not happy that someone who interviewed her referred to her, incorrectly, as a "lapsed Catholic."

In fact, when I asked her if writing this book had been something of a faith journey for her, she countered immediately that the answer was no. She knows who she is and what her faith is, she responded with confidence. That faith is rooted in a good heritage, from a decent, hard-working Italian family that believed in education, specifically Catholic education.

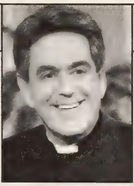
I then asked her about a line in her book where she says, "I suspect that Jude himself drew me here from the beginning, that the journey is more summons than privilege." Her comment? He wanted a good reporter, and that's who she is. "I had an assignment and I carried it out. Why would he pick a bad reporter?" You have to like Liz Trotta!

What she observed in researching St. Jude's life and impact on the world was that many people have "an extraordinary, spectacular faith." And, she comments, "I wasn't surprised to find it."

Antoinette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



A Growing Epidemic: Teen Suicide

On a September day in 1993, 15-year-old Ana Martinez called her mother at work. "I just called to tell you I love you, Mami. I love you so much," Ana said. "I love you too, honey. I'm a little busy now. Can I call you right back?" her mother asked. "No, you don't have to," Ana answered. "I'm going to lie down and sleep." When her father got home, he found his daughter hanging from a pole inside the family's backyard shed. Ana had killed herself.

Across the United States, an epidemic of teen-age suicide is claiming the lives of more and more young people. From 1980 to 1995, the suicide rate among children aged 10 to 14 has jumped 120 percent. While suicide rates are generally highest in white males, they are increasing among young ethnic females.

Experts don't have all the answers to what is happening to our teens. Still, they know that many young people feel worthless and helpless. Some rebel, even violently, to hide their feelings. There are warning signs, though not everyone shows them: changes in personal appearance or behavior, giving away treasured possessions, depression, a history of suicide attempts, talking about committing suicide.

So what do you do if a young person — or a person of any age — seems to be threatening suicide?

At the outset, when you are dealing with a suicidal person, remember you are dealing with an individual who has lost the ability to cope. Whatever the cause, the suicidal person needs to talk to someone *about* their self-destructive thoughts and actions. That presents a problem for most of us, because we do not react well to someone who talks about depression, anger or sense of loss. We usually feel obliged to cheer that person up or talk him or her out of it. You can't. Easy reassurances like "it's only a phase," or "you'll feel better tomorrow after a good rest" accomplish nothing.

On the other hand, some of us may be so overwhelmed by the *sin* of suicide, that we might react with horror: "But you'll go to hell if you commit suicide!" This is no time to debate issues of right or wrong. That just puts the burden of talking them out of it on you. Simply tell the person straight away that you do not know all the answers. You are not a therapist nor a counselor, but you can listen.

The fact is, people who talk about killing themselves are *relieved* to find someone who is not scared to discuss their suicidal inclinations. Talking openly about suicide does not influence a person to go ahead with it. It has just the opposite effect. Giving someone permission to air their feelings in a frank and caring conversation helps ease their burden and takes away some of the topic's taboo. Be non-judgmental. Offer hope that alternatives are available. Show your support, but avoid promises of secrecy.

Then encourage the potentially suicidal person, young or old, to get professional assistance from a mental health agency or crisis center, family doctor, therapist, or school counselor. If they refuse, get in contact yourself and ask for advice in how to handle the situation.

People matter. Not some people some of the time, but all people all of the time. Even if we don't think so, God does. Our merciful Father wants each of us, his children, to cherish ourselves as he does: "Because you are precious in My sight, and honored, and I love you." (Isaiah 43:4)

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Never Alone

Dear Readers,

Several weeks ago I responded to a woman who had been baptized and made her first Communion, but had not been raised Catholic. Her parents were bitter against the church, for reasons she never knew.

She was promiscuous. She had an abortion in her 20s. Through a 12-step program, she rediscovered God and her faith, but feared going to church where she would be alone in pews full of whole families. When she tried to go, she turned back home, ashamed.

"With all my sins," she said, "what should be my first step?"

I answered that God wants her back, that whatever she has done is past, and she is repentant, and many more people than she could imagine in their 20s and 30s and 40s have the same story she has.

The response to that column, from baby boomers and post-boomers, was astounding. Clearly, there are many more people than I imagined who have the same story and who want help coming home.

I want to share one of these letters with you, this one from the East Coast. It was meant for me to send to the original writer, but Linda approved my use of it in this column. I'm grateful for her letter and hope it will help some of you or someone you know.

Dear "Post-boomer" from Ohio:

Your letter to Father Dietzen was amazing; it was like someone described my life in my early 20s! Same sins, similar agonies and emptiness, aloneness and longing.

I'll never forget going to Mass, sitting in back and then getting quickly out after Mass started. I felt so unworthy to be there.

I finally went to confession years later. I was married and pregnant, and wanted to be "cleansed" before the birth of our child. It was a first step and the smartest.

God, of course, already had forgiven me. I'm still working on forgiving myself, but I'm getting there.

I wanted to write to you because Father Dietzen was right: The church does want you back. And the Lord desperately wants you back.

Now that I have children I have an ever clearer grasp on the smallest bit of God's great love for us. My child could do the worst thing imaginable, and I would still love him and want him back. So much more does God want us.

You are not alone. Those church pews are filled with people like us. You don't notice them maybe because just like you are/were feeling, they don't necessarily want to be noticed. Know that I am in those pews. You are not alone.

I have advice even beyond Father Dietzen's: Get involved in the church as well. Join a Bible study or faith formation group, volunteer for the homeless shelter or whatever your parish offers.

It's time to go out on your own. You won't be alone. God is with you, your guardian angel is with you, and I am with you too!

My prayers and my love, Linda.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Family Togetherness

We believe in family togetherness. We exert great effort in having activities as a whole family. As we journey deeper into adolescence with our two children, finding such time can be a real challenge. We take advantage of these chance moments, recognizing that there are times when we need to separate to deepen our family bonds with our children and with each other. Over the years there have been Daddy/Daughter and Mother/Son dances, and various other opportunities to make personal connections through memorable moments.

When Andrew's job demanded he be away on either of the kid's birthdays, he would take them out to breakfast before his trip and celebrate with them. Shopping is a regular way Terri spends one-on-one time with the kids. Our shared ministry offers us time to ourselves as a couple. Sometimes asking a family member to accompany us on a personal errand can become an opportunity for bonding. Sports events, movies, powerwalks, fishing trips, speaking engagements, community service activities, and other occasions are opportunities for one-on-one family connections. It gives us time to experience the uniqueness of those individual relationships within our family and to better appreciate them.

Though family day trips to Six Flags amusement park have become an annual tradition in recent years, we found that the experience was less amusing for Terri and Andréa than for Andrew and Marty. So this year, instead of us all going together, the guys went roller coaster hopping while the girls went to nearby Gurnee Mills for a day of shopping.

Free of the usual male/female tensions of family outings, Marty and Andrew scurried all day from one roller coaster ride to the next, while Andréa and Terri enjoyed an unhurried day of shopping. Those usual tensions at family outings aren't necessarily negative because they teach us how to be with each other harmoniously. However, there are times when we need full doses of male bonding and female bonding that somehow feed our family connections. And there are times also when mother and son need separate bonding time, and so with father and daughter.

Having stronger relationships between members, we gain a stronger family unit, and a deeper appreciation of the family. For the love between parent and child, brother and sister, and husband and wife have God as their source. They are different aspects of God's love. God is not less present in the relationship between two family members than in the family as a whole. God is fully present in all family relationships. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Mat 18:20)

As our children get older, finding time together as a family gets more difficult. However, there are still many opportunities to make one-on-one connections with each family member. Though family meals are less frequent and times when the family is fully present are becoming scarce, we trust that the connections we make one-on-one strengthen our family bonds, and that nonetheless, God is fully present in those connections.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are CNS columnists.

Newspaper Advisory Board Shares Insight With News & Herald Staff

Photo by Joann Keane

Members of The Catholic News & Herald advisory board include, front row, from left: Tim Reid, Mercy Sister Pauline Clifford, Hilda Gurdian, and Chip Wilson. Back row: Michael Scotto, Rev. Mr. Vince Shaw, John Drescher, and Mary Carol Campbell. Not pictured: Father Michael Buttner and Spiritan Father Ed Vilkauskas.

HICKORY — Four times a year, Mary Carol Campbell drives four to six hours from her mountain home so she can spend a Saturday morning talking about this newspaper.

Campbell is one of 10 advisory board members for The Catholic News & Herald. And she's been covering the miles and giving up some of her weekends because she wants to make it a better newspaper.

"I do think we've accomplished a lot and brought things to the attention of the staff," said Campbell, communications director for the Good Shepherd Home Health Agency in Hayesville. "They seem to appreciate it and use our suggestions."

Campbell brings a unique perspective to the board, which meets in Hickory and Charlotte. She is a diocesan employee who also lives in the sometimes-isolated far western edge of the state. The committee's other members, who hail from varied parts of the diocese and varied professions, have been meeting quarterly since early last year. Other members are:

- Father Michael Buttner, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir.
- Spiritan Father Ed Vilkauskas, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe and diocesan director of evangelization.
- Mercy Sister Pauline Clifford, vice president of the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont.
- John Drescher, page one editor of The Charlotte Observer.
- Hilda Gurdian, publisher of La Noticia, a Hispanic newspaper in Charlotte.
- Tim Reid, business writer for The Asheville Citizen-Times.
- Michael Scotto, a marketing expert from St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro.
- Rev. Mr. Vince Shaw, a permanent deacon from St. Mary Church in Greensboro.
- Chip Wilson, a staff writer for The Charlotte Observer.

The board's ex officio members are the Very Rev. Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor, and Bishop William G. Curlin, publisher of the newspaper.

"We're diverse people from different backgrounds," said Reid, the board's chairman. "We bring different skills and can add to the mix."

Already, the committee has been hard at work hammering out a revised mission statement for the newspaper, exploring ways it can reach out to Hispanics and casting about for ways to improve its design.

"The Catholic News and Herald staff is doing a great job, but they're always under the pressure of a deadline," Reid said.

"We have the luxury of meeting periodically and looking at the big picture."

Reid said the advisory board is particularly interested in what readers have to say.

"I think we've got a good product," Reid said. "We hope we can package it better and keep it more finely tuned to what affects peoples' lives and what they want to read about."

Pope Says Faithful Should Do Good Works On Sunday

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — On Sunday in particular, the faithful should do good works to alleviate other people's suffering, Pope John Paul II said.

Addressing pilgrims gathered for a Sunday noon blessing at his summer residence outside of Rome, the pope noted that Sunday was "the day on which a stronger communion with one's neighbor is felt."

Pope John Paul has discussed various aspects of his letter "Dies Domini" ("The Day of the Lord") on successive Sundays since it was issued July 7.

In his Aug. 17 address, he said that in addition to being a "day of joy," Sunday is a "day of sharing."

"To invite a person who is alone to lunch, to offer what is necessary to a needy family, to visit one who is sick or imprisoned, to dedicate a bit of time to someone enduring a difficult moment, these are some of the many possible concrete gestures to make Sunday a day of fraternal solidarity," Pope John Paul said.

In so doing, he added, the faithful can ensure that the Lord's Day is also "a 'day of man,' because it helps our humanity to grow."

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Entertainment

Moral Decision At The Heart Of "Return To Paradise"

By GERRI PARE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Two Americans are put to the test when they can save the life of a friend — provided they each give up three years of their lives in "Return to Paradise" (Polygram).

Two years earlier in Malaysia three young American guys met and hung out together, enjoying the beautiful women and cheap hash. Then it was back to New York and work for architect Tony (David Conrad) and limo driver Sheriff (Vince Vaughn).

Gentle Lewis (Joaquin Phoenix), however, decided to stay and help save endangered orangutans in Borneo. Unbeknownst to Tony and Lewis, he never got there as the next day, Malaysian police found the guys' leftover stash of hash — enough to get Lewis quickly convicted of drug dealing and imprisoned on death row.

Enter lawyer Beth (Anne Heche), who tracks down Lewis' two pals in the Big Apple and gives them the shocking news that Lewis will be hanged in eight days unless they return within the week, admit their share of responsibility for the crime, and serve three years hard time. If only one is willing to go, the term in the Malaysian prison will be six years to spare Lewis' life.

Tony would appear to have the most to lose, with his career just taking off and a fiancee to leave behind, but he cannot accept that Lewis will die if he doesn't return.

Sheriff seemingly has no real emotional connections to anyone and deflects Beth's pleas even when she seems to be offering him the equivalent of three years' salary — and possibly herself — if he would agree to do the time.

However, once Tony agrees to go, Sheriff feels off the hook and is content to let Tony face the double sentence.

With the days ticking off and each fellow showing some ambivalence about their decisions, Beth goes into overdrive to persuade them both. She succeeds, but once in Malaysia, Lewis' deteriorated mental condition and a new revelation occasions renewed soul-searching as time runs out.

The moral decision at the heart of the story provides a promising premise for a serious story of sacrifice, betrayal or both.

Unfortunately, in director Joseph Ruben's hands, the film gradually descends into the territory of overwrought melodrama. Added to that, the twists the plot takes are not-so-subtly telegraphed to the audience from the start, reducing suspense and making the movie seem drawn-out in reaching its inevitable conclusion.

A sudden passionate romance between the intense Beth and chilly Sheriff is one more unconvincing contrivance that tests audience patience.

Based on the 1989 movie "Force Majeure" and bound to remind audiences of 1978's "Midnight Express," "Return to Paradise" further features a choppy subplot in which aggressive reporter Jada Pinkett Smith gets wind of the story and won't let go. Her resulting coverage catapults it into a last-minute international cause celebre with severe consequences.

The cast gives adequate performances, considering the script's limitations, and visually the movie's dark tones in the New York segments and exotic settings in Asia are pluses.

All in all, however, this flawed cautionary tale reduces a complex moral problem to a mostly predictable course of events with little to ponder over once the credits begin to roll.

Due to brief violence and recreational drug abuse, implied affairs, recurring profanity and much rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

CNS photo from Paramount

Gary Sinese and Nicholas Cage star in the action thriller "Snake Eyes." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"An Alan Smithee Film: Burn Hollywood Burn" (1998)

Satirical movie-within-a-movie in which an enraged director (Eric Idle) steals the master negative of his movie after the producer (Ryan O'Neal) re-cuts his film. Directed by Alan Smithee from a script by Joe Eszterhas, the movie's inside jokes are self-serving in lionizing creative types who refuse to compromise their artistic vision. Brief stylized violence, sexual situations, constant rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Apostle" (1997)

When a Texas Pentecostal preacher (Robert Duvall) becomes distraught over losing his congregation and wife (Farrah Fawcett) to a younger minister, he bashes his rival's head with a baseball bat, then flees to a rural Louisiana community where he revitalizes an old church and starts a radio ministry whose growing popularity leads to his arrest. Also written and directed by Duvall, this portrait of an evangelical preacher explores his religious zeal and personal failings as seen within the human context of a Southern community. A strong scene of violence, menacing situations and marital infidelity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 —parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Black Cauldron" (1985)

Disney animated adventure about the brave attempts of a peasant boy to prevent the evil Horned King from gaining possession of a black cauldron capable of producing an army of supernatural warriors. The result is a delightful fantasy saga during which the boy learns about love, loyalty, courage and the importance of friendship over power. Some creepy moments. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

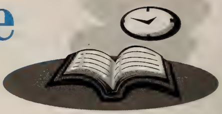
"The Borrowers" (1998)

Whimsical fantasy in which a villainous banker (John Goodman) sets out to drive a family of three from their home only to discover he is up against a resourceful family of miniature people also living on the premises. Directed by Peter Hewitt from the children's stories of Mary Norton, the movie doesn't lack for charm or gentle humor as the two families join forces to outwit big bully Goodman. Some menace and comic violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Deceiver" (1998)

Talky psychological thriller in which a rich murder suspect (Tim Roth) undergoes a series of lie detector tests administered by two detectives (Chris Penn and Michael Rooker), with occasional flashbacks to the crime as well as pivotal events in the lives of the three men. Criminal violence, intense menace, sexual situations, recurring rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Why would you spend time with the Bible?



By Mary Miller Pedersen
Catholic News Service

It's midnight. Do you know where your Bible is?

Is it in the den on a shelf next to the dictionary and other reference books or back in your bedroom in a pile of "things to read when I have a minute"? Maybe your Bible has been put out in the garage with other "how to" manuals. Or could it be in a drawer in the spare bedroom providing some insomniac guest a nonprescription sleep-aid?

I know one woman who keeps the Bible within reach on a shelf in the kitchen right next to the vitamin bottle! Every day when she pops her vitamin she reaches for the Bible to read a psalm or verse.

Many families end their day by gathering around the bedside of the children for a "story" from a children's Bible or a comforting passage from Isaiah.

> **"Taking the Bible off the shelf and spending more time with it can reap great rewards.... Like a family that takes out its scrapbook to reminisce ..., we take out our Bible to recall how the faithful Yahweh — God — has been here for us."**

Several couples who attend a monthly Bible study class at their church make a regular habit of taking turns reading part of their assigned Scripture to each other as they get ready for bed at night.

The Bible is a book written for us ordinary people. It is about parents and children, wars among peoples, the rich and the poor. It is about how to treat your family, your neighbor and your enemy. It is about refugees and powerful government officials.

But mostly, it's a book about God's steadfast love and faithfulness to the human family as it moves through time. Those who read this book can be comforted in every conceivable human situation.

■ ■ ■

Though the Bible is the most widely and frequently published book in the history of the printing process, no two people approach it exactly the same way.

—Some use the Bible as a reference book or problem solver.

—Others see it as a recipe book for life.

—For many it is a book to study from and theologize about.

—Others take the Bible along wherever they go simply for good company.

Just as there are an infinite variety of ways for our human family to approach God, there are a variety of ways to approach the Bible, which is the word of God in human words. We can be pretty certain that the holy word was not given to us to be put on a shelf.

The Bible is intended, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, to be "strength for our faith, food for the soul and a ... font of spiritual life" (No. 104). Scripture is meant to nourish us and light our way when things around us seem dark and difficult. God's word, the psalmist says, "is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119:105).

Taking the Bible off the shelf and spending more time with it can reap great rewards for individuals as well as communities. Like a family that takes out its scrapbooks to reminisce and share a common bond of experience, we take out our Bible to recall how the faithful Yahweh — God — has been here for us over the years, guiding, healing, calling and sustaining us into new life.

CNS photo, left, from Cleo Freelance Photo, right, by Karen Callaway

The Bible is God's communication with us. So those who read the Bible encounter God whenever they open the book. "In the sacred book, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children and talks with them" (Catechism No. 104).

There are some days when family problems and/or challenges at work make us feel isolated and out on a limb without direction. At those times, it is good to recall that the Bible is our companion for the journey on this planet. Like a map that guides us through unknown territory, the Bible helps us see where we are going and often assists us in avoiding pitfalls.

Next to Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, who is God's Word made flesh, there is no better word for us to encounter on a daily basis.

For Catholics who read the Bible, it is important to recognize that God's revelation comes not only in the written texts but also through tradition. When seeking to know God, "both Scripture and tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence" (Vatican Council II, "Constitution on Divine Revelation," 9).

For those who find Bible reading dry and irrelevant, it might be good to start with reading "about" the Bible. It is literature. It is a collection of books written in many different literary forms. To understand the meaning of each book, it helps to understand the various kinds of writing used by the authors such as parables, poems and songs, letters, etc.

If you do not understand the difference between an editorial, a comic strip and a news story, you will surely misinterpret the newspaper. The same is true for the Bible. The more we understand how and why the inspired word of God developed over time, the greater our rewards in reading and praying.

(Pedersen is coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I was lucky when I was a young adult to have professors who found the Bible sufficiently interesting to spend their entire lives studying it. Little by little, they made the Bible interesting to me too. Up to then, however, I definitely hadn't thought of myself as one who might enjoy the Bible!

That the Bible makes interesting reading is a pretty mundane reason for recommending it. What I can add is that this interest factor gradually drew me into an encounter with the great Scriptural themes, which, I soon discovered, remain key themes of life in the space age.

These are themes such as "exodus" (the dying and rising that punctuate everyone's existence); "pilgrimage" (the long journey of discovery, undertaken in trust, that leads individuals, families or communities forward in life); or "covenant" (the bond to God and all God has created that shapes and changes us).

At that point I had started to find my way "inside" the Bible. Now it could begin to "work" for me — not solving all life's problems, perhaps, but enabling me to envision existence differently and begin to grasp how life can be lived in the light of hope.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

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Finding your own story in Scripture stories

By Dan Luby
Catholic News Service

Sitting alone that night in a motel room in a strange city, I felt depressed and fearful. For many months I had found myself susceptible to sudden, unpredictable waves of anxiety. I had talked and prayed and sought guidance, but nothing seemed to help.

The really scary thing was wondering if this paralyzing sense of vulnerability ever would go away. I would feel fine for awhile, gaining confidence, when, without warning, the fear would engulf me again.

CNS photo by Karen Callaway

Sitting in the motel room, I prayed — as I usually did during these dark periods — with the fervor of desperation. I opened my Bible, hoping for comfort.

I can't remember why I wound up reading the 10th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Perhaps there had been a bookmark there or I might just have opened the book at random.

Whatever the immediate cause, I am convinced that the Spirit of God was behind it, prompting me to read this: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will.... Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Mt 10: 29,31).

Though I had heard and read this passage many times, I suddenly recognized myself in those fretful sparrows, powerless to change their circumstances. More to the point, I heard Jesus' words as words addressed to me: "Fear not."

Suddenly, and blessedly, I saw that every time I had fallen into a hole, I had been lifted out. For every day I had felt frightened and lost, there had been many others of peace and confidence.

Those words from Scripture illuminated my own life like a signal flare over a dark ocean. I saw that God was with me, not only in the up times but the down times too. I was overcome with a sense of peace that, more than 20 years later, still brings a smile to my face. It was the beginning of a long slow journey to the light.

It wasn't the first time I'd been shocked to discover my own story as I read or heard the Bible, and it certainly wasn't the last.

"We can discover ourselves in the pages of Scripture."

Over the years — like a dutiful child looking through a family album, who is surprised to catch glimpses of his life in the faces of relatives long dead — I have been surprised and encouraged by the frequency with which my life story is connected to the stories of the Bible.

—There was the time when, teaching at a boarding school in Rome, my students and I recognized in the lament of the Israelites in exile our own sadness and longing for home.

—There was the funeral at which the life of a favorite aunt seemed perfectly mirrored in the story of the Last Supper.

—There was the time I understood in a new way the horror of the slaughter of the innocents by King Herod because I had just heard of death squads in El Salvador killing pregnant women.

The stories, images and themes of Scripture tell us of particular people — people who lived at particular moments in history and in particular places. But these are also the stories, images and themes of our own lives.

The themes of the Bible — captivity and liberation; covenant and pilgrimage; death and resurrection — echo in our lives today. We can discover ourselves in the pages of Scripture.

(Luby is the director of the Division of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Have you ever found in reading the Bible that you and your life situation were being addressed? How?

"Getting along with your neighbor, your family, living the way of love is the basic teaching of the Bible, and everywhere you look in the Bible you're encouraged to consider the other person and his or her point of view." — Janis Sventeckis, Indianapolis, Ind.

"I sometimes 'play' what people call 'Bible roulette,' thumbing through the Bible at random. When I do that I have to spend quiet time and reflective prayer, and give myself a chance to let the reading fully speak to me." — Jamie Kovarik, Southern Pines, N.C.

"I've had some circumstances where I've felt the Lord was leading me through difficult times, and the 23rd Psalm was a particular comfort." — Judi Fischer, La Crosse, Wis.

"What I do is meditate and pray before reading the Bible, and the Spirit just leads me to what I need, to the right passage. Sometimes when I just need the comfort of the Father's love, I can turn to Scripture and be comforted." — Sally Lawson, Irvine, Calif.

An upcoming edition asks: What blocks communication between people? What enhances communication? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

The biblical way to view life

By Father Herb Weber
Catholic News Service

Shortly after I had become pastor, I discovered some of the petty politics that take place in almost any parish. I was discouraged that we as a church were not rising above such matters. That evening I sat down for some Scripture reading.

A passage of the day was in St. Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians. In the New American Bible translation, Chapter 3:11 reads, "We hear that some of you are unruly, not keeping busy but acting like busybodies."

I started to laugh, realizing that the problems I was encountering in the late 20th century are similar to problems Paul encountered long ago.

A basic balance and equilibrium — reflected in that biblical sentence — comes from the Bible. Although the Bible provides insights and direction, it is not really an "answer book." Instead, we do well to look for themes and ongoing currents of understanding.

I recall being involved in a public forum just before the Persian Gulf War. After a political scientist and a historian traced the events between Iraq and Kuwait that led to crisis, I was supposed to sketch the Christian view of war, especially the just-war criteria.

When I finished, someone asked from the floor whether this war would be the Armageddon the Bible speaks of, since Iraq represented the ancient Babylon. I wasn't expecting such a question because I do not read the Bible as a forecast of doom or series of predictions. Unfortunately, many folks do.

Do we want to use the Bible merely to look for simple answers to complicated current problems? In Scripture there is nothing per se about artificial insemination, genetic testing, cloning, the hole in the ozone layer or a U.N.-sanctioned war.

What one finds in the Bible includes a way of viewing life with a sense of purpose and commitment.

The early church often used the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew's Gospel as a type of catechesis, especially for new members. To grasp the Beatitudes, for example, one must go beyond the words "blessed are the sorrowing" or "blessed are the single-hearted" to get a sense of what Jesus means.

Jesus is calling for a new attitude and a different outlook on life. If we read Scripture in a literalistic or legalistic way, we may miss Jesus' point altogether.

Reading Scripture regularly with an eye to the flavor and texture of Jesus' own life leads to a genuine sense of the Bible. It doesn't take long until the words come to life in one's heart. Then Scripture is a well of strength to draw from.

That strength leads to incredible peace of mind.

(Father Weber is the pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Mansfield, Ohio, and a free-lance writer.)

In a Nutshell

- ***No two people approach the Bible exactly the same way.***
- ***Many are surprised that Bible stories connect to their own life story — to life on the eve of the third millennium.***
- ***Scripture says nothing per se about genetic testing, cloning, the ozone layer's hole. One will find a way to view life with a sense of purpose and commitment.***

People In The News

CNS photo from Reuters

Blessing at LaVang

Father Emanuel Nguyen Vinh Giang blesses an image of Mary for a pilgrim at the Marian shrine at La Vang in central Vietnam Aug. 14. Some 150,000 people were expected for services at the shrine on the 200th anniversary of an apparition of the Virgin Mary.

Nashville's Spence To Vanderbilt; Musacchio Is Successor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Anthony J. Spence has resigned as editor in chief of the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Nashville, to become director of alumni publications at Vanderbilt University. Spence, a former president of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada, will oversee the university's flagship publication, Vanderbilt Magazine, and 12 other publications, effective Sept. 1. Bishop Edward U. Kmiec of Nashville has named Rick Musacchio, 35, as his successor.

Film Helps Outsiders Understand War Is Hell, Priest Says

CHICAGO (CNS) — When Father Edwin Bohula went to see the new film "Saving Private Ryan," he was transported back to his years as a military chaplain. "It's not pretty. It's not glamorous. It's hell," said Father Bohula, pastor of St. James at Sag Bridge, in Lemont. A veteran of three tours of duty in Vietnam and 27 years of service in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, Father Bohula has not only seen the world, but said he has been to hell and back. "War is a terrible, destructive, awful thing," he told The New World, Chicago archdiocesan newspaper, after viewing the movie. "But the role of the chaplain is to be there to perform the last rites and pray with the soldiers. It doesn't matter which war you were in. The chaplain has his job to do and he has to do it. He has to be strong."

Archbishop McDonough, Longest-serving U.S. Bishop, Dead At 86

DARBY, Pa. (CNS) — Retired Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough of Louisville, Ky., a bishop for more than 50 years, died Aug. 4 at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital in Darby. At the time of his death, the 86-year-old Philadelphia native had been a bishop longer than any other living U.S. bishop. That distinction now goes to retired Bishop Leo A. Pursley of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., who was ordained a bishop in 1950.

Prince Andrew Visits Catholic School, Presents 40 Computers

BOSTON (CNS) — Students from Gate of Heaven School in South Boston will be able to explore the world through the Internet this fall, thanks in part to British Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, who visited the school in late July. The prince met with students at Gate of Heaven and presented them with a gift of 40 computers. The students demonstrated how the new system worked and surfed the World Wide Web as the prince visited each computer station and talked to the students.

Pope To Pronounce Formal 'Mea Culpa' In Year 2000

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II is expected to pronounce a formal "mea culpa" in the year 2000 for the past faults of Christians, but will carefully avoid accusations against individuals or groups, a Vatican official said. The pope's statement, planned for Ash Wednesday in the jubilee year, will be based in part on two Vatican-sponsored symposiums to investigate Christian responsibility for practices of anti-Judaism and for the excesses of the Inquisition, Father Georges Cottier told Vatican Radio Aug. 10. In these and other areas, "the awareness and reflection of the church allows us to recognize today that such actions should not be committed and should not have been committed," said Father Cottier, a papal theologian and a leading member of the year-2000 planning committee.

Pope Prays For Millions Of Flood Victims In Asia

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II prayed for the victims of massive flooding in China, counting them among the millions of people who suffer in various parts of the world. Speaking at a Sunday blessing Aug. 10, the pope turned his thoughts to the "millions of families on mainland China who have remained victims of devastating floods, as well as those in Bangladesh and South Korea." The flooding has left at least 2,500 Chinese dead and has indirectly affected 240 million people, one-fourth of the Chinese population.

Liturgist Says Official Church Worship Needs Approved Texts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Church law is clear that only Scripture texts approved for liturgical use can be used in official church worship, said Father James P. Moroney, secretary for liturgy of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Liturgy is defined as anything which is the public prayer of the church, contained in the official (liturgical) books of the church," he said. He said texts and prayers that are not approved for liturgical use may be of value to people in their private prayer. Father Moroney was interviewed about the status of Scripture translations not approved for liturgical use after the U.S. bishops' imprimatur, or ecclesiastical permission to publish, was withdrawn from an English translation of the Psalms by the International Commission for English in the Liturgy.

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Vatican Says Youth Document Valuable, Falls Short On Morality

By LYNNE WEIL

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An international conference on youth produced a valuable document, but it fell short in areas concerning sexual morality, Vatican authorities said.

Government ministers on youth policy and other authorities met Aug. 8-12 at a U.N.-sponsored gathering in Lisbon, Portugal. Delegations from 146 countries voted on the final document.

In its final statement, the delegation from the Holy See said it had some reservations about the "Lisbon Declaration," even though the document was "of great importance in providing guidelines in favor of young people."

The statement was made available at the Vatican Aug. 17.

Among the delegation's main points were that education about sexuality and reproductive health should be considered "primarily and fundamentally the right, duty and responsibility of parents."

It also stated for the record that the terms "gender" and "gender-based" refer only to male and female biological characteristics, and not sexual orientation.

It underlined church teaching on artificial birth control and abortion, emphasizing that the Vatican does not consider access to abortion "as a dimension of" reproductive health care.

The Holy See's delegation raised objections early in the U.N. gathering by issuing a statement urging the conference to consider the roles and responsibilities of parents in guiding young people's lives.

In a speech to the meeting, Bishop Stanislaw Rylko, secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, said "the poverty and marginalization of entire populations are increasing, and on the spiritual level the crisis of essential values becomes deeper."

Bishop Rylko said many young people worldwide "are experiencing the frustration of false freedom, the lack of meaning in life and of reference points."

Employment Opportunities

Coordinator of Children's Religious Education:
Full-time position in 1600-family parish immediately available. Coordinate all aspects of lectionary-based religious education for grades pre-K through 5. Responsibilities include sacramental preparation (Penance and Communion). Degree in religious education or related field is preferred. However, experience in the field will also be considered. A strong desire and willingness to learn, serve and collaborate are essential. Excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience and education. Contact: Don Bray (910) 323-2410, x106. Send resume and references to CRE Search Committee, Saint Patrick's Church, 2840 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304-3813.

Coordinator of Total Youth Ministry:
Full-time position in 1600-family parish immediately available. Coordination of all youth (grades 6-12) activities including preparation for confirmation. Programs are lectionary-based. Degree in religious education or related field preferred, however experience in the field will be considered. A strong desire and willingness to learn, serve and collaborate are a must. Excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience and education. Contact: Don Bray (910) 323-2410, x106. Send resume and references to TYM Search Committee, Saint Patrick's Church, 2840 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304-3813.

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Fourth Grade Teacher:
Immaculate Heart of Mary School is seeking a teacher for a self-contained 4th Grade class for the 1998-99 school year. Teacher will also be responsible for teaching Religion. Please send resume to principal, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262-4154, or fax to (336) 884-1849.

Freelance Writer:
The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Director of Faith Formation:
Holy Family Catholic Church is seeking a team-oriented Catholic visionary to plan and implement a catechetical program for pre-school through fifth grade for a student population of 500 and administer adult education programs in this 1,200+ growing parish in Clemmons, west of Winston-Salem, NC. MA in religious education and/or theology preferred, experience in parish administration beneficial. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume to: DFF Search Committee, Holy Family Catholic Church, P.O. Box 130, Clemmons, NC 27012-0130.

Full-Time Director of Liturgy and Music:
Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Liturgy and Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 800 households who are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. The Director of Liturgy and Music will be responsible for overseeing the total music ministry program and the liturgical ministry of the parish. The position requires a minimum of a Bachelors' Degree in a relevant field although a Masters' Degree is preferred. Other requirements include a solid background in liturgical theology, keyboarding skills, and careful attention to detail. A professional salary will be offered to the candidate who sends with their resume three references *and* salary history to: Search Committee, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470. *References and salary history are required to be considered for this position.*

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Social Worker: 4-year degree required in SW or related field, with 2 years experience in developmental disabilities

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and Part-time, all shifts, prefer experience in developmental disabilities

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Assistant Director of Development: 3-5 years nonprofit development experience (annual fund, special events, donor recognition, grant writing); BA required; computer knowledge and Donor II preferred

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Religious Involvement Can Aid Blood Pressure, Study Shows

DURHAM, N.C. (CNS) — Regular involvement in religious worship and prayer can help the elderly maintain lower blood pressure, according to a new study by researchers at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham.

The study involving 4,000 North Carolinians aged 65 or older was made public Aug. 10 and published in the August issue of the International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine.

Researchers found that those who attended religious services and prayed weekly or studied the Bible at least once a week were 40 percent less likely to have high diastolic pressure or diastolic hypertension, the type of high blood pressure associated with heart attacks and strokes, than those who did not participate regularly in either activity.

In addition, the study showed that religious participants had smaller increases in blood pressure over the years than their nonreligious counterparts did.

The blood pressure study, funded by the National Institute on Aging, was the latest in a series of studies conducted at Duke on religious involvement and health. Earlier research showed that religious activities can, among other things, improve immune function and speed recovery from depression.

Harold Koenig, an associate professor of psychiatry at Duke and co-author of the study, said the findings hold up "even after you take age, sex, race, smoking history, and a number of chronic illnesses into account."

"The likelihood of this finding happening randomly is less than one in 10,000," he said.

"Our studies have repeatedly shown that the emotional effects of religious activities have physical consequences throughout the body," Koenig added. "In this case, the effect we found was on blood pressure. If you cope with stress better, your blood pressure isn't going to be as high."

The benefits of religious participation were especially marked among African-Americans and those between 65 and 75, Koenig said. "In these subgroups, you could predict ahead of time what their blood pressure would be during the next wave of the study, based on their religious activity," he said.

The study was conducted in three waves in 1986, 1989 and 1992 and included a monitoring of the participants' blood pressure as well as their health status and levels of chronic disability.

"When we analyzed the data, we controlled for health status and chronic disabilities that might prevent people from going to church," Koenig said. "In this way, we were able to rule out the possibility that high blood pressure affected religious participation rather than the other way around."

The researchers also looked into whether religious people might have lower blood pressure simply because they were more like to follow their doctors' orders on treatment. But although religious participants were found to be more likely to comply with doctors' instructions, Koenig said that was not sufficient to explain the lower blood pressures.

Linda George, a Duke sociology professor who co-wrote the study, said the research seemed to show that religious people "have better support systems which keep them healthier."

"The sense of meaning and kind of comfort that religious beliefs provide make them more resistant to stresses both physical and social," she added.

But George said the study could shed no light on "the causal mechanism that underlies this phenomenon."

Arizona Abortionist Agrees To End Medical Practice There

PHOENIX (CNS) — The Arizona doctor who delivered a nearly full-term baby in June while attempting an abortion has agreed to give up his medical license.

Arizona authorities said Dr. John Biskind agreed to stop practicing in the state after admitting his role in the June abortion attempt and in the April death of another patient from internal bleeding after an abortion.

The June case drew national attention when Biskind diagnosed a pregnancy as being in the 23rd week, began an abortion and ultimately delivered a live baby in her 37th week of gestation.

The Arizona Medical Board on July 20 suspended Biskind's license pending a hearing into the two incidents. Arizona newspapers reported that Biskind's agreement to admit to allegations made by the medical board in his licensing case will not affect a criminal investigation into the incidents.

Biskind, 72, also practices medicine in Ohio, where he lives part of the year. According to the Arizona Republic daily newspaper, Ohio health authorities said Biskind's license in that state might be in jeopardy if Arizona revoked his license. The Arizona Board of Medical Examiners was to meet the week of Aug. 24 to consider revoking his license.

Following public outcry over the June abortion attempt and revelations about the April death and several other incidents for which Biskind was investigated, the owner of the A-Z Women's Center in Phoenix, where he practiced, closed the clinic.

The clinic owner, Dr. Moshe Hachamovitch, who is based in New York, also closed two other clinics in Phoenix and nearby Scottsdale.

In the June case, Biskind diagnosed a 17-year-old patient as being in her 23rd week of pregnancy and attempted to perform an abortion. Once he began the procedure, he realized the baby was much farther along and delivered her alive. Arizona law prohibits abortions after the 24th week except in cases of demonstrated medical necessity.

The 6-pound, 2-ounce baby was determined to be in her 37th week of gestation. Suffering from lacerations, the baby is reportedly being adopted by a Texas couple.

In the April case, LouAnne Herron, 33, bled to death from a punctured uterus after Biskind performed an abortion. According to state investigators, Biskind left the clinic and Herron did not receive medical care for more than three hours.

Biskind also was investigated and reprimanded for previous cases involving inappropriate prescriptions and the bleeding death of another patient.

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Sisters Of Mercy Foundation Announces 20 Grants

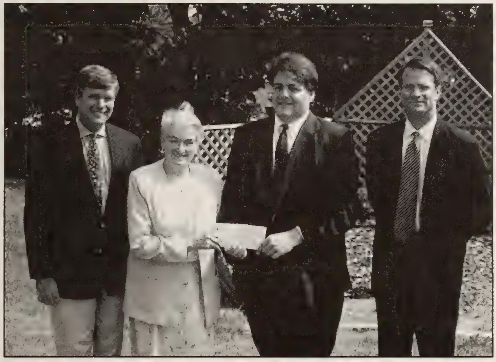
CHARLOTTE — The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation recently announced grant awards exceeding $1.05 million to 20 nonprofit organizations in Mecklenburg, Buncombe, Union, Cherokee, Burke, Wake, Iredell and Wilkes counties in North Carolina, and York County in South Carolina.

Support programs include crisis assistance, education, health care services, legal assistance for disadvantaged populations and social services.

The Sisters of Mercy Foundation was established in 1995 and operates in part from a mission to support non-profit health care, educational and social service organizations in the Charlotte metropolitan area and in North and South Carolina. Its program focus is on services benefiting women, children, the elderly and the economically poor. The Foundation is particularly interested in promoting systemic change and the quality of life for unserved and underserved populations.

The organizations who have been designated for funding are as follows.

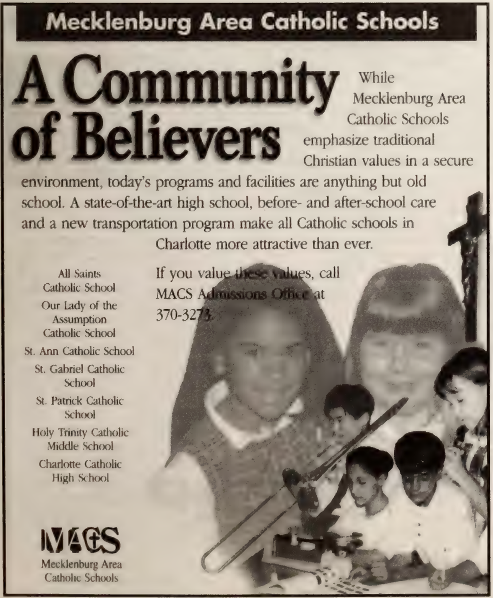
- Burke United Ministries, Inc. in Morganton will receive $17,500 to expand its Clothing Closet Program by renovating space to provide low or no-cost clothing to Work First participants who are seeking employment.
- Catholic Social Ministries of the Diocese of Raleigh will receive $25,000 to employ a family support coordinator for a family center in Washington, N.C.
- Community Health Services in Charlotte has been awarded a $17,000 two-year grant to provide free health care services to low-income clients.
- Exchange/SCAN of Iredell County in Statesville will receive a $10,000 grant to help fund a clinical supervisor position to work with volunteers and families in the area of child abuse prevention in Alexander and Iredell counties.



Room At The Inn representatives receive their grant from the Sisters of Mercy Foundation. Shown, from left: Ed Schlicksup, executive director of the Mercy Foundation; Mercy Sister Mary Jerome Spradley, Foundation president; Albert Hodges, executive director of Room At The Inn; and Steve Yurko, chairman of Room At The Inn's Charlotte advisory board.

- The Girls' Home in Rock Hill, S.C., will receive $28,500 to purchase a 15-passenger van for the Mothers and Babies Program.
- Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte has been awarded $21,250 to fund the construction of a Youth TECH (Teens Educated in the Construction of Homes) Habitat House which will be built by a team of eight disadvantaged youth who are learning the construction trade.
- Hope Haven, Inc. of Charlotte will receive $100,000 to assist in renovating a building allowing its Family Program to provide services to 22 families.
- International House Metrolina, Inc. in Charlotte will receive $20,000 to help support the International House Citizenship Services Program which includes citizenship classes and immigration and naturalization counseling.
- Lakewood Preschool Corporation in Charlotte has been awarded $45,000 over three years to help meet operating expenses of its preschool program.
- Legal Services of Southern Piedmont in Charlotte has been given a $107,000 matching grant over a three-year period. The organization provides legal services for economically disadvantaged persons.
- Pisgah Legal Service in Asheville has been awarded a two-year grant totaling $70,000. The service provides legal help for economically disadvantaged persons in a six-county area of western North Carolina.
- Right Moves for Youth in Charlotte has been given a $30,000 grant to fund a stipend for teachers and cover educational materials for the "Saturday School" program.
- Room At The Inn in Charlotte will receive a three-year grant of $89,000 for general operating expenses. The organization provides housing and support services to homeless single pregnant women.
- Selwyn Life Center at Mercy in Charlotte has been awarded a three-year grant totaling $300,000 for general operating expenses. The center provides high-quality, affordable adult day health services.
- Spring Hill School in Raleigh will receive $20,000 to acquire computers, educational software and library books.
- St. Mark's Incorporated in Charlotte will receive $40,000 for a registered nurse's salary for one year. St. Mark's provides educational, employment and enrichment opportunities for children and adults who are developmentally disabled.
- Tri County 2000 Community Health Project in Murphy has been awarded $40,000 over two years.
- Union County Habitat for Humanity will receive $38,000 to fund the construction of a Habitat house for a family of six.
- Volunteers for Wilkes Literacy in North Wilkesboro will receive $9,600 for operating expenses for a family literacy program.
- York Place-Episcopal Home for Children in York, S.C., has been awarded $24,770 to purchase and install a computer network with recordkeeping/reporting software on the York Place campus.

For more information concerning the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation, please call (704) 366-0087.



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Diocesan News Briefs

Parish Plans “Blast”

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church plans its fifth annual “Blast” for Sept. 20. The event will include food, fun, games for all ages, and a raffle for a four-day cruise to the Bahamas. One-thousand chances will be sold at $5 each. For more information, call (828) 684-6098.

Natural Family Planning

ASHEVILLE — A free introductory session on natural family planning is Sept. 1 from 7:30-9 p.m. at Catholic Social Services, 35 Orange St. Call Ann Mines, (828) 258-8807, for reservations or more information.

Home School Support Group

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a Catholic home school support group, hosts a “mom’s evening” Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. For details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

Company Endows Scholarship At Belmont Abbey College

BELMONT — Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc., has made a gift of $25,000 to endow a new scholarship at Belmont Abbey College in honor of Charles E. Zeigler Sr., the company’s former chairman, president and CEO. Zeigler was also a member of the Abbey’s board of trustees and has a long history of support for Belmont Abbey College.

Ultreya

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, each first Saturday after the 5:15 p.m. Mass. For details, call the parish office at (828) 284-8338.

Vicariate Youth Retreat

BREVARD — “Stir Up the Flame,” a retreat for Asheville Vicariate middle- and high-school youth, is Aug. 28-30 at Camp Kahdalea. Cost is $50, which includes meals, lodging, use of camp facilities, and conference sessions. For more information or to register, contact your parish youth minister or call Camp Kahdalea, (828) 884-6834.

Financial Seminar for Surviving Spouses

CHARLOTTE — A financial seminar for men and women whose spouses have died is Sept. 12 from 9-11:30 a.m. at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Daniel J. Taylor, founder of a Charlotte-based financial firm specializing in working with the widowed, facilitates. Future seminars will take place at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on Oct. 10 from 9-11:30 a.m.; and at Huntersville United Methodist Church, 100 Ranson Dr., Huntersville, on Nov. 7 from 9-11:30 a.m. To register for any of these seminars, call Sister Therese Galligan, (704) 362-5047, ext. 216, or Caryn Cusick, (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

Parish Carnival

CHARLOTTE — The annual St. Ann Parish carnival is Sept. 18 from 5-10 p.m. and Sept. 19 from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on church grounds, 3635 Park Rd. Highlights include raffles, rides, bingo, clowns, food and refreshments, and music. A teen dance will take place Sept. 18. Antique automobiles will be at the carnival all day Sept. 19, and Charlotte team mascots will be on hand at lunch time. Raffle prizes include vacations, airline tickets and golf lessons.

Weigh Down Workshop

CHARLOTTE — A 12-week, Bible-based weight loss seminar begins at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., with a free introductory session Sept. 17 at 7:15 p.m. For more information or to register, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins Oct. 16. For further information, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Ecumenical Concert Event

CHARLOTTE — “One in the Spirit,” an all-ages, ecumenical concert event featuring seven local Christian music groups, is Aug. 22 from 1-6 p.m. at Marshall Park in uptown Charlotte. Bishop William G. Curlin will welcome concert-goers at 1 p.m., and families are encouraged to bring picnic lunches to the park. The performers are Centro Católico Hispano choir, St. Matthew Catholic Church’s Alive in the Spirit Choir, Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church’s gospel choir, the United Methodist Church Brass Band, Forest Hill Presbyterian Church’s A Few Young Fisherman, Cavalry Church’s Praise Works Choir, and Cornerstone Baptist Church’s choir. Admission is free, and donations will be accepted. The rain date is Aug. 29.

Silver & Golden Anniversary Celebration

CHARLOTTE — Couples married 25 or 50 years in 1998 will be honored at the 19th annual diocesan anniversary Mass and reception on Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. in St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. Bishop William G. Curlin will preside over the Mass. Call your parish office to be included.

The 1998-99 fiscal year’s officers of the North Carolina Knights of Columbus State Council met recently in Charlotte. Pictured left to right are Anthony Petite, state treasurer; Luther J. Stultz, past state deputy; Philip Lamendola, state warden; John A. Harrison, state deputy; David Onofrio, state advocate; Father Frank O’Rourke, state chaplain; and Robert J. Singer, state secretary.

Charismatic Mass

CLEMMONS — A charismatic Mass is celebrated Aug. 31 at 7:15 p.m. in Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. For details, call Carolann Darling at (704) 998-9842.

Catholic Television Programs

GREENSBORO — Dominican Father Michael Burke presents a series of half-hour programs on the Catholic faith and spirituality on GCTV, Greensboro Community Television, each Sunday at 6 p.m. Episodes are repeated each Thursday at 7 p.m. The programs are produced by the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C. If you have comments, call the producer, Mark Hite, at (919) 821-9734.

Life in the Spirit Seminar

GREENSBORO — A “Life in the Spirit” seminar is Aug. 28 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. and Aug. 29 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The Aug. 29 schedule includes Mass and dinner. For more information, call Freda Mandarano, (336) 454-8831.

Young Adult Ministry

GREENSBORO — The young adult ministry at Our Lady of Grace church meets at Helen’s House on parish grounds, 2205 West Market St., each first and third Sunday of the month after the 7 p.m. Mass. For more information, call Julia at (336) 856-9664.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — Marriage Encounter is a weekend experience designed for married couples to strengthen their marriages and deepen their relationships by concentrating on open and intimate communications between husband and wife in an atmosphere of trust and confidence. The next weekends are at the Catholic Conference Center Sept. 18-20 and Nov. 6-8. For more information, call Michael or Stacey Holcomb at (704) 844-8181. For reservations, call Tom or Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

Latin Mass

HIGH POINT — A Latin Mass is celebrated at Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., each first Friday at 7 p.m. The rosary is prayed at 6:30, and Benediction and adoration follow the Mass.

House of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — “The Servant Leadership of Jesus” is a Sept. 18-20 retreat for men. “God’s Spirit in Nature” is a Sept. 28-Oct. 4 retreat including daily prayers and reflection that connect with a variety of recreational activities. All retreats are at the Jesuit House of Prayer. To register or receive more information, call (828) 622-7366.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — “Eat, Drink & Be Merry — A Spirituality of Sabbath Eucharist” is a Sept. 4-6 retreat focusing on work, rest and renewal in the context of celebration and true Sabbath. Cost is $95. “Heaven and Earth are Filled” is a Sept. 24-30 nature retreat focusing on God’s glory, love and creative Spirit against the backdrop of the autumn mountain setting. Cost is $260. To register, get more information or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (828) 926-3833, or send a fax to (828) 926-1997.

Christian Music Concert

MOORESVILLE — Contemporary Christian rock band Age of Faith is in concert Aug. 22 at 8 p.m. at St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. This is an all-ages event, and admission is $5 per person. Refreshments will be available. For more information, call Diana Hollenback at (704) 664-7762.

Catholic Discussion Program

MOORESVILLE — A discussion program for anyone interested in learning about the Roman Catholic Church and who lives in the vicinity of south Iredell County is each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., beginning Sept. 10. For details, call the parish office at (704) 664-3992.

Young Adults Fellowship Group

WINSTON-SALEM — Plans are underway at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St., for the formation of a group that will tend to the spiritual needs of adults in their 20s and 30s. For details, call Jonathan Lehman at (336) 760-0651.

Around The Diocese

Group Rosary Gatherings

MONROE — The Knights of Columbus host a scriptural rosary at the grotto Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St.

NEWTON — A group rosary is prayed each first Sunday at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St., after the 10 a.m. Mass. For more information, call the parish office, (828) 464-9207, weekdays between 9 a.m. and noon.

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited in the convent chapel at St. Leo the Great Church each Wednesday in the convent chapel at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave.

World And National News Briefs

Aging Population Said To Demand Changes In Health Care

ATLANTA (CNS) — Catholic and other not-for-profit health care institutions can lead the way in making the changes necessary to treat an increasingly aging and chronically ill U.S. population, according to the top official of the Catholic Health Association. Father Michael D. Place, CHA president and chief executive officer, told the American Health Planning Association in a speech in Atlanta that health care faces "a sea change in the type of needs that will predominate, with chronic illness and functional disability becoming more and more prevalent." He said that within the next three decades, the over-65 population will increase from 12 percent to 20 percent of the population, or from 32 million to 70 million people.

Most Holy Year Visitors Will Be From U.S., Say Rome Authorities

ROME (CNS) — Travelers from the United States are expected to form the largest block of foreign Holy Year pilgrims and visitors to Rome, said the city's jubilee planning agency. The preparation committee, in conjunction with the Italian tourism ministry, issued provisional year 2000 tourist estimates Aug. 4, saying the number of Italian and foreign visitors to the city of Rome is expected to surpass 26 million in the jubilee year.

Brooklyn Diocesan Immersion Language Program A Big Draw

NEW YORK (CNS) — Students in a total immersion summer language institute offered by the Brooklyn Diocese came from as far away as Corpus Christi, Texas, and Sioux City, Iowa, and from countries in Europe and Latin America, according to its director. Father Michael J. Hardiman said the annual six-week session at the diocesan Institute of Languages and Cultures drew 67 students from 19 U.S. dioceses and eight other countries this summer to learn Italian, Spanish or Creole, or to study English as a second language.

Publisher Takes Book Off Sales List After Vatican Inquiry

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (CNS) — The Liturgical Press in Collegeville has removed from its sales list a book titled "Woman at the Altar," which promotes women's ordination. The removal came after St. Cloud Bishop John F. Kinney received a letter of inquiry about the book last March from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Bishop Kinney acquired a copy of the book, read it, and shared the letter with Benedictine Father Michael Naughton, Liturgical Press director. Bishop Kinney said the Vatican congregation requested that the book "not be disseminated further."

Mexican Commission Member Says Paramilitaries Led To Disbandment

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — A member of a Mexican commission that tried to seek a resolution to the conflict in Mexico's southern state of Chiapas said the commission disbanded because of intensified paramilitary activity. "We couldn't continue to negotiate at the table when arms were on top of it. As one local peasant said, 'You can't dialogue when there's a gun in your face,'" said Onesimo Hidalgo, 34, a member of the disbanded National Mediating Commission, known locally as CONAI. Hidalgo was in Milwaukee in late July speaking to church groups and others about the current strife in his homeland. Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de Las Casas, in Chiapas, resigned June 7 as head of the commission. The commission disbanded the same day. The commission had sponsored peace talks between the Mexican government and the mainly indigenous Zapatista movement, which began an uprising in January 1994.

Knights Convention Focuses On Fidelity To Church, Family

CINCINNATI (CNS) — Christian faith requires belief, commitment and confidence from those who would accept Christ's invitation to follow him, Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk told Knights of Columbus at their 116th international meeting in Cincinnati. "Faith is not a simple thing. There are several aspects that have to be in place if we are not to falter," Archbishop Pilarczyk said in his homily at the opening Mass for the convention, which ran Aug. 4-6.

U.S. Bishops' Imprimatur Withdrawn On English Version of Psalms

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Under instructions from Rome Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland has withdrawn the U.S. bishops' imprimatur from "The Liturgical Psalter," an English translation of the Psalms prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy. Bishop Pilla, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued the decree of withdrawal Aug. 6, declaring that the text should no longer be represented as approved by the NCCB and the imprimatur should not be printed with it in the future. Sources indicated the use of inclusive language for God, what translators call a "dynamic equivalence" approach to the translation, and unauthorized uses of the translation in liturgy were among key issues behind objections to it by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Guatemalan Bishops Urge Release Of Evidence Against Priest

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — Guatemalan bishops have urged judicial officials to release evidence against the priest charged with the murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City. The bishops said the government investigation of the murder was inadequate and reiterated their belief that the murder was politically motivated because of Bishop Gerardi's extensive investigations of human rights abuses. "We expressly emphasize our dissatisfaction for the way in which this case has been conducted," said an Aug. 7 statement issued by the bishops' conference. The bishops criticized an "unnecessary" judicial gag order placed on the reasons for the arrest of Father Mario Orantes.

Chinese Church Aids Victims Of Worst Flooding In 50 Years

HONG KONG (CNS) — The Catholic Church in various places in central China has been doing what it can to shelter and comfort Catholics uprooted by flooding that has devastated areas along the Chang Jiang River. In the worst-hit province of Hubei, Bishop Petrus Zhang Boren of Hanyang has visited and comforted several thousand Catholic peasants suffering from the worst prolonged flooding along China's longest river since 1954, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "The peasant Catholics are in a difficult situation. Half of them have moved to safer places in higher altitudes or to their relatives' homes, as their homes were soaked in water and farmlands submerged under floodwaters brought by torrential rains," Bishop Zhang told UCA News.

Young Survivor

A nurse cares for a 2-year-old girl who was rescued from the wreckage of a building that collapsed in a bomb attack on the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, Aug. 7.

CNS photo from Reuters

Catholics, Pentecostals Issue Statement On Evangelization

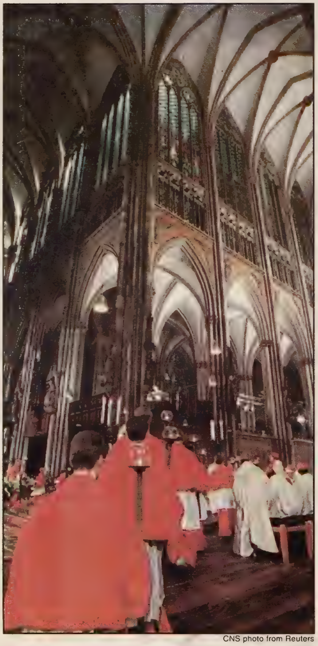
WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a landmark report on evangelization, participants in the international Catholic-Pentecostal dialogue agreed that all Christians are called to witness the Gospel to others. While affirming evangelization, they rejected proselytism, which they defined as "a disrespectful, insensitive and uncharitable effort to transfer the allegiance of a Christian from one ecclesial body to another." Expressing sorrow at "the scandal of a divided witness," they said they hoped their work together would reduce Catholic-Pentecostal tensions, bring greater mutual respect and understanding, and point "toward possibilities of cooperation in mission for the sake of the Gospel." The dialogue members confronted some of the most divisive issues between Catholics and Pentecostals, especially in some parts of the world such as Latin America, where Catholic and Pentecostal leaders have often been harshly critical of one another.

Jewish Leaders Urge Removal Of Crosses After Cardinal's Statement

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Israeli and Jewish leaders continued to press for removal of crosses recently erected outside the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz, in Poland. They welcomed Polish Cardinal Jozef Glemp's call for a halt to the erection of crosses near the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz and urged the Polish Catholic Church to take responsibility for ending what they see as an insult to the memory of Jews executed at the camp. "We welcome the intention to stop the desecration of the memory of the Jewish victims of Auschwitz, and we hope the same kind of wisdom will prompt them to remove all of the existing crosses," said spokesman David Bar Ilan.

Study: Despite Reports, School Violence Not Showing Steady Rise

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The number of school shootings was lower in 1998 than five years ago, says a new study. The study, called "School House Hype," said the media's focus on school shooting incidents has been taken out of context and is causing public policymakers and politicians to ignore the root of the problem. "A much more pressing issue for those concerned about the safety of children in America is the threat of everyday gun violence," said the study conducted by Justice Policy Institute, a criminal justice research group. The study was paid for by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which supports juvenile justice efforts. It collected data on fatal school shootings from federal agencies and the National School Safety Center at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.



CNS photo from Reuters

Cologne Anniversary

A procession makes its way to the altar to mark the 750th anniversary of the Cologne cathedral Aug. 15 in Cologne, Germany. Archbishop Konrad von Hochstaden laid the foundation stone of the Gothic cathedral in 1248.

Hundreds Log On To Vatican Web Site To See Pope Speak Live

By LYNNE WEIL

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Several hundred people managed to get past technical obstacles and tune in to the first-ever live Web casts of Pope John Paul II, Vatican officials said.

As the pontiff recited the noon prayer on the feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15, people with the proper software who were logged on to the Vatican Web site could see and hear him.

"Unfortunately, there was such a tremendous demand that not everyone who wanted to take part in this event could," a Vatican spokesman, Father Ciro Benedettini, said Aug. 17.

The priest said the Vatican planned to expand its capacity to upload audio and video material via the Internet before the end of the summer. Meanwhile, users had trouble getting through in the first two days of the new service.

A Vatican source estimated that about 300 users at one time can access the live Web casts.

Vatican Radio's regularly scheduled programs in English, Italian and French were also being broadcast live through the Web site, with a few seconds' delay.

The site includes a comprehensive list of radio reports and video images meant to be made available through an electronic archive. A program guide shows the Web cast schedule of the pope's public appearances during the next few weeks, mostly general audiences and Sunday noon prayers.

To receive the audio and video signals, users must first download cost-free "RealAudio" and "RealVideo" software available from a Web site, the address of which is posted on the Vatican's own site.

Two new icons have been added to the Vatican's home page: a loudspeaker and a few frames of film, indicating audio and video capabilities reachable at the click of a mouse.

The Vatican also plans to make available sound and pictures from papal visits abroad and solemn celebrations in St. Peter's Basilica.

After several years in preparation, the Web site went on line on March 30, 1997, an Easter Sunday. It offers copies of important Vatican documents, papal speeches and other files. Initial reports from the Vatican indicated that users were most interested in information about Pope John Paul.

Users in 50 countries accessed the site an average of 7 million times per month in its first year. Services are available in Latin, English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese and Polish.

The Vatican Web site is at www.vatican.va.

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 7 Number 44 • August 28, 1998

Activists Say Military Force Is No Answer To Combat Terrorism

By PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Reconciliation and mediation ought to replace military force in dealing with terrorists, say peace activists from Catholic Worker, Pax Christi, Maryknoll, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and other organizations.

Early in the afternoon of Aug. 20, President Clinton announced U.S. military strikes against terrorist bases in Afghanistan and Sudan aimed at the groups believed responsible for bombing U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya on Aug. 7. Within hours, peace activists from those groups, the International Action Center, the International Socialist Organization and others had taken to the White House sidewalk to protest.

Marie Dennis, director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, said the question of what the government should do when faced with imminent threats of terrorism is difficult, but ultimately, retaliating with violence for violence is not the answer.

"We should dig deeper into why terrorists behave the way they do," Dennis said. "The bombings in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam are a terrible tragedy for the people of those countries and for the entire world. But my concern is that we are merely heaping more violence upon violence."

Dennis said members of Maryknoll in the Middle East in particular have been learning about and promoting conflict resolution and alternatives to violence. The U.S. government ought to pursue similar efforts, she said.

The problems that lead to terrorism "are deep and wide, they have horrendous roots," she said. "We're not going to be able to resolve it quickly, with military strikes."

"Retaliation is not a practical or effective way of responding," Dennis said. "It's like the death penalty — it's not effective and it's not a deterrent."

Early that evening, as the president addressed the nation from the Oval Office to further explain why he ordered the missile attacks, about 70 people carrying hastily drawn signs walked a loop in front of the White House. They chanted various slogans loudly enough to be heard in the background of live news reports from the media stakeout area on the lawn.

"Nonviolence or nonexistence," read one sign. Others said: "Collateral damage equals dead humans," "How do your bombs differ from theirs?" "Pax Christi — Violence ends where love begins," and "Killing does not save lives."

Some signs echoed sentiments linking the military strike to Clinton's domestic troubles — his revelations earlier in the week about his relationship with former intern Monica Lewinsky. They read: "No war for Monica," "Hey, is that a blood stain?" and "Wag the Dog."

Eirik V. Frederick Harteis, of the Washington-area Pax Christi group, admitted it may seem inadequate to simply prescribe peace in the face of terrorist threats, but that "the teachings of Jesus would call us to move away from an 'eye for an eye' mentality."

"What we've done today is create a situation that's nothing but retaliation," he said. "How long can we continue with this tit-for-tat approach?"

One of the marchers, Njoki Njehu, is a native of Kenya who has lived in the United States for 10 years. She saw the U.S. attacks in Sudan and Afghanistan as an example of "two wrongs don't make a right."

See **Activists,** page 3

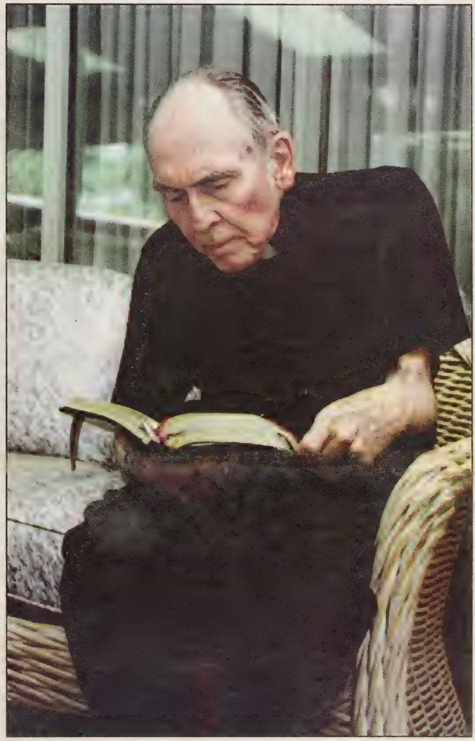

Photo by Joann Keane

Even In Retirement

Priests continue to remember the people they served for so many years. Msgr. Arthur Duncan prays daily for the intentions of the people of the Diocese of Charlotte. After 51 years as a priest, he fondly remembers the hundreds of baptisms, first Communions, and marriages he celebrated during active ministry. **See related stories, pages 8-9.**

Remarks On Papal Assassination Plot Linked To 1995 Incident

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials said they were not sure what U.S. President Bill Clinton was referring to when he blamed Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden for trying to assassinate Pope John Paul II.

But according to reports from the United States and the Philippines, the president was alluding to an aborted bomb plan during the pope's 1995 visit to Manila, Philippines, for World Youth Day.

Clinton made his comments as he announced bombing raids Aug. 20 against targets in Sudan and Afghanistan. Speaking of bin Laden and "groups associated with him," the president blamed them for a number of attacks and said they had also "plotted to kill the president of Egypt and the pope."

The Vatican press office had no comment on Clinton's remarks. Privately, officials said they were uncertain about the reference, since a number of alleged papal plots have surfaced in recent years, in several countries.

One Vatican source, however, said the reference was probably to the evidence that has emerged from Manila. In February of 1995, a month after the papal visit, Philippine police said they had foiled an attack on the pontiff when they discovered an apartment in the city used by terrorists and stocked with material for bombs, a timer and false identification papers.

The Philippine police believed the terrorist cell included some 20 people, including Kuwait-born Ramazi Ahmed Yousef, who was later arrested in connection with the World Trade Center bombing in New York. They said they believed the group had planned to blow up a U.S. airliner during the pope's visit.

Following Clinton's latest remarks, The Washington Post quoted unnamed U.S. intelligence officials as saying Yousef and others had, in fact, planned to bomb the pope during the Manila visit, using a fragmentation bomb and a timer.

While the intelligence sources provided no direct evidence between the al-

See **Papal Plot,** page 3

A Tribute To Priesthood

The following is the homily given at Msgr. Felix Kelaher's funeral Mass, presided over by Bishop William G. Curlin Aug. 24 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. Father Frank Cintula, pastor of St. John Baptist de La Salle Church in North Wilkesboro and St. Stephen Church in Elkin, gave the homily.

Remembering the words once spoken by Mother Teresa, "we are not called to be successful; rather, we are called to be faithful." In the lifetime of a priest, these words take on special meaning. For from the first call to "come follow me," to the final call to "come join me at the heavenly banquet," the life of a priest is filled with surprise, excitement and especially joy.

In order to follow Christ closely, a priest is asked to give up family, father, mother, brother, sister and even himself to gain a new family of God — and God himself. ... This new relationship has many opportunities to grow stronger and deeper spiritually. Each gathering is a special moment, a sacred time, for where two or three are gathered in his name, the Lord is present also. Each Sunday, as they gather with the priest to pray and offer themselves in thanksgiving, a stronger bond is forged to nourish them for the life of witness to which they all have been called.

During these special, sacred moments, both priest and community experience a bonding which causes further joy and excitement in their lives. All are enriched by these gatherings.

At times we gather with the priest to celebrate the baptisms of new members of God's family, or to receive the body and blood of our Lord for the first time. What an exciting time, filling their hearts with joy.

At any time or by appointment, we are blessed as community and/or individual to gather with the priest to confess our sins, receiving God's mercy and absolution from our sins. We are invited to witness and celebrate when two people pronounce the vows of love and fidelity until death. What excitement and joy fills the heart at these sacred moments.

There are other times, very sacred, somewhat sad and tense, but comforting as the priest anoints in preparation for what might be the final transition from this life to the next. How reassuring and joyful it is knowing we have prepared properly for this glorious journey.

Finally, the great moment has arrived for Msgr. Felix Kelaher, our priest, brother, family member and friend. In the general instructions for the order of Christian funerals we read, "Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just. The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral." And in the preface of the Mass for the dead, we hear these consoling words: "Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended."

What a gift life has been for all of us. What a joy and how exciting to know it will change into eternal joy and wonderment full of new heavenly surprises. And no matter how we have succeeded, be glad — we managed to be faithful.

As we come to a close, we are reminded in the instruction on the funeral liturgy, "a brief homily based on the readings should always be given, but never any kind of eulogy." With your permission, just one short personal note on Felix, who never was short. I was reminded by a mutual friend ... (that) Felix always said these three words, and I quote: "God is good." A short statement for a rather tall man — someone I always had to look up to.

Finally, we end with the words of Jesus: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I solemnly assure you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit... If anyone would serve me, let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be. Anyone who serves me, the Father will honor."

So long, Felix. Farewell, friend. May you rest in the peace of Christ until we meet again.

Monsignor Felix Kelaher, Retired Diocesan Priest, Dies At 80 Years Of Age

HIGH POINT — Monsignor Felix Robert Kelaher, who served the Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh during his 50 years of priesthood and was pastor emeritus at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, died Aug. 19, 1998, at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, N.C. He was 80.

Monsignor Felix Robert Kelaher

Born Nov. 2, 1917, in Phillipsburg, N.J., he was the son of the late Philip F. Kelaher Sr. and Alice Smith Kelaher.

Msgr. Kelaher was ordained a Franciscan priest at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Altoona, Penn., on May 22, 1948. He came to North Carolina in 1965, first serving the Diocese of Raleigh as associate pastor of Infant of Prague Church in Jacksonville. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Raleigh in 1969. He next served as pastor of St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine. He served that diocese until the formation of the Diocese of Charlotte in 1972. Other pastoral assignments in western North Carolina included Sacred Heart Church in Brevard; St. Eugene Church in Asheville; St. Mary Church in Shelby; and St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. Msgr. Kelaher also served as vicar of the Gastonia Vicariate, and later as vicar of the Charlotte Vicariate. He became a monsignor in 1988. In June 1991, Msgr. Kelaher was granted retirement from active ministry at his own request. Msgr. Kelaher was a fourth degree member and former chaplain of the Knights of Columbus.

Msgr. Kelaher is survived by a sister, Alice K. Joyce of Easton, Pa.; two nieces, Mary J. Coopersmith and Marjorie C. Kelaher; two nephews, Richard F. Joyce III and James S. Kelaher Jr.; and a sister-in-law, Claire M. Kelaher. He was preceded in death by two brothers, James S. Kelaher and Philip F. Kelaher.

A vigil service was held Aug. 23 at St. Patrick Cathedral with Msgr. William Pharr presiding. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Aug. 24 by Bishop William G. Curlin and priests of the Diocese of Charlotte at St. Patrick Cathedral. The Knights of Columbus served as honor guard and pallbearers. Interment was in Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Harry and Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, N.C. 27260.

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Scripture

Readings for the week of August 30 — September 5, 1998

Sunday
Sirach 3:17-18,20,28-29
Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24
Luke 14:1,7-14

Monday
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday
1 Corinthians 2:10-16
Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Luke 4:38-44

Thursday
1 Corinthians 3:18-23
Luke 5:1-11

Friday
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Luke 5:33-39

Saturday
1 Corinthians 4:9-15
Luke 6:1-5

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37 Killed In Massacre At Catholic Mission In Congo

By LYNNE WEIL

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Thirty-seven people, including at least 10 church workers, were killed in an armed attack on a Catholic parish in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

MISNA, a Rome-based missionary news agency, said the massacre occurred Aug. 24 in Kasika, in the eastern part of Congo, the former Zaire. Among those killed were a priest, Father Stanislas Bwabulakombe; three nuns, at least two of whom reportedly belong to the Congo-based Daughters of the Resurrection order; a seminarian; and five lay people.

The MISNA report was released at the Vatican press office Aug. 25.

MISNA speculated that the massacre could have been carried out by Rwandan-backed Congolese rebels in retaliation for an earlier attack on their camp.

The rebels had just started the fourth week of a drive to oust Congolese President Laurent Kabila, whose troops were being reinforced by soldiers from neighboring countries.

Pope John Paul II prayed for peace in Congo during his Sunday blessing Aug. 23, the same day that African leaders recognizing Kabila's right to retain power issued a call for a cease-fire in the strife-torn country.

Pope John Paul said, "I make a heartfelt appeal to those engaged in conflict that they do not deprive civilians of the necessary means of survival and avoid atrocities and massacres, looting and depredation."

Activists, from page 1

Although she feels a personal tie to the Aug. 7 bombings that killed more than 250 people and wounded 5,500 others, mostly Kenyans, Njehu said the result of the U.S. attacks would be to simply make the terrorists more anxious to strike back.

"If this was a deterrent, when the U.S. bombed Libya (in 1986) there wouldn't have been any other attacks against us," she said.

In a press release, Jesuit Father John Dear, executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, condemned the U.S. action and called for nonviolent responses to terrorism that respect international law.

"Violent retaliation and further bombings only inflame the existing hatred and violence, rather than removing them," the statement said. "They do not build peace and security in Africa or anywhere."

A commentary by Father Dear in USA Today on Aug. 21 said a better, nonviolent approach to terrorism would address the underlying economic, political and social causes of it.

American Muslim groups also questioned the decision for military action without seeking nonviolent approaches.

"We regret that this step will result in the rise of anti-American sentiment throughout the world, of the American public's lack of confidence in the Clinton administration and the danger of divisiveness in our society," said a statement from the Muslim Public Affairs Council.

> "Violent retaliation and further bombings only inflame the existing hatred and violence, rather than removing them," the statement said. "They do not build peace and security in Africa or anywhere."

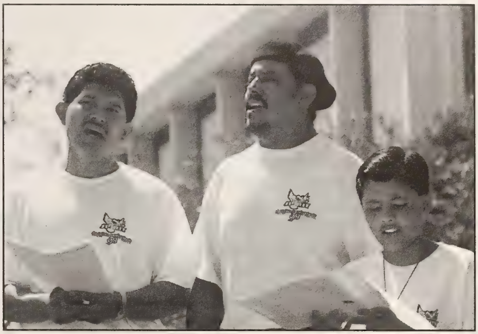

Photo by Patrick Henry

"One In The Spirit"

The Centro Catolico Hispanic Choir were among the groups that performed at "One in the Spirit," an ecumenical concert held Aug. 22 at Marshall Park in Charlotte. The event featured several local Christian music groups. Sponsored by the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte (CECC), the event attracted an estimated 600 people throughout the afternoon. "We accomplished what we wanted — to have an interdenominational get-together of fellowship and gospel music," said Gary Mauney, CECC chairperson. "We hoped to break down the barriers that existed between us and other faiths, and we did that (too)."

Papal Plot, from page 1

leged plot and bin Laden, they said Yousef had financial, ideological and personal connections to the "network" run by bin Laden, the newspaper reported. Thus the reference by Clinton during his televised speech.

The Vatican has never commented on reports of a plot against the pope during the Manila trip.

In recent years, the pope has allegedly been the target of other plots and threats. When he visited Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in 1997, local police said they found and deactivated 23 mines beneath a bridge on the papal motorcade route. Turkish terrorists were blamed at the time, but no one was ever arrested.

In Italy the same year, several alleged papal plots were reported, on the basis of leaks made by Italian intelligence services. In Bologna, where the pope visited in September of 1997, police were said to have foiled a terrorist team. Sketchy in detail, these reports met with alarm and skepticism in Italy.

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Pro-Life Corner

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— John Paul II,
Evangelium Vitae

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

August 30 — 11 a.m.
Mass and Picnic
Our Lady of the Americas Church, Biscoe

September 2 — 4 p.m.
Mass and Dedication of Altar with Holy Trinity Middle School Faculty and Staff
Charlotte

September 3 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Philip Neri Church, Tega Cay, S.C.

September 6 — 3 p.m.
Listening Session with Parents and Family Members of Gay and Lesbian Catholics
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
(See news brief, page 14)

September 8
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Man's Freedom Must Be In Harmony With God's Will

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Aug. 19.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, we reflect today on how the Holy Spirit directs creation and human history to their ultimate goal. God calls man to bring the divine work to completion through the work of his intelligence and will. Man, however, must use his freedom in harmony with God's will and overcome the disorder which sin has introduced into human life and into the world. The Holy Spirit makes this possible by bringing about a profound personal and community renewal.

St. Paul teaches that Christ redeems and sanctifies through the Spirit, who transforms the heart and social relations of those who accept the Gospel message. The Spirit enables us to recognize ourselves and the whole of creation as coming through God's hands.

He not only gives us a share in the filial relationship which Jesus enjoys with the Father, but he also raises up and perfects human activity in the universe. Thus in a real, though mysterious and indirect way, creation, too, is destined to enter into the freedom which God offers. Consequently, the Holy Spirit is the true hope not only of man but also of the created world.

I cordially welcome the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors present, especially those from Ireland, Hong Kong, Japan and the United States of America. I gladly invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ upon you and your families.

Pope Appeals For Peace In Congo, Warns Against Wider Conflict

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II appealed for an end to fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, warning that the conflict could spread to other African countries.

The pope made the appeal during a Sunday blessing Aug. 23, the same day that a cease-fire call was issued by African leaders, who fear the war may widen. Rebels in Congo are reportedly receiving help from Uganda and Rwanda, while the government has been aided by forces of Zimbabwe and, allegedly, Angola.

"In recent weeks, the violence in Africa shows no sign of diminishing," the pope told a crowd of pilgrims at his summer residence outside Rome. He said the deteriorating situation in Congo was especially in his thoughts.

"I make a heartfelt appeal to those engaged in conflict that they do not deprive civilians of the necessary means of survival and avoid atrocities and massacres, looting and depredation," he said.

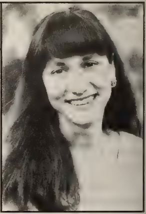
He urged all parties in the Congolese struggle to commit themselves to dialogue and negotiation.

"This is the way that is human, reasonable and still possible, capable of leading to a peaceful and lasting solution and preventing the conflict from spreading beyond the borders of the country," he said.

He expressed his closeness to all those suffering in the fighting and prayed to Mary that peace would reign in the region.

Family Matters

Eileen Marx



The Summer of 40

With great dread and trepidation I put on my newly purchased pair of drug store reading glasses and faced my family spectacled for the first time.

"Oh Mom, you look so young with those on," said my 8-year-old son, Bobby. "They look excellent," piped in my 6-year-old daughter, Teresa. I made a note to remember their kind remarks when I dished out the ice cream later that evening.

All my family members had been heard from except my husband, Joe, who is usually more than generous in his compliments. "I'm reserving comment for now," said Joe. Not the response I was looking for. I listened to a snippy, "Oh you just wait til you think that all medicine labels were written for mice rather than people," coming out of my mouth. I realized that the conversation had once again returned to an ongoing theme of this summer — getting older.

This is the summer I turned 40, and, as the countdown began, I heard more than my share of unsolicited comments about how it's all downhill from here. I'm not crazy about the need for the glasses I now require, but I haven't experienced the panic, the depression and the aches that I'm told I should feel upon entering my fourth decade. Instead, I've had some wonderful opportunities this summer to spend time with lifelong friends and family members and to be thankful for the countless ways they have touched my life.

Earlier this summer, my four college roommates and I gathered overnight for the first time in a few years. The way the jokes were flying, we could have easily been sitting around our dorm room in Boston rather than a Long Island restaurant.

The following weekend I was able to visit with two of my closest high school friends. Teri , her husband and two children had just returned from their first year in Indonesia. They had fascinating stories to tell about living through the overthrow of the Indo-nesian government. Erin had her own fascinating stories to tell of what it was like to be a first-time mother at 39.

It was easy to face 40 as my husband and my good friend, Janet, arranged for a surprise birthday weekend filled with family and friends. It was such a warm and loving reminder of what matters most with each passing year: the loving presence of family and friends, good health, a deepening faith and a growing awareness of self and others. As I looked at a wonderful photo collage that my mother had made for me, I wondered how the baby in the high chair clutching a blanket with her chubby fists could possibly be turning 40.

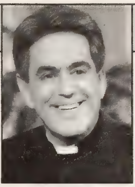
This has been a summer when I took special notice of what our culture tells us we're entitled to as we grow older — a luxury car, a wrinkle-free complexion, a diamond necklace and a lifestyle free from the worries of the rest of the world. There's nothing wrong in wanting to live long and well here on earth, but to focus on the superficial rather than the spiritual is to miss why God has blessed us with this extraordinary gift of life.

As I continue to grow older—reading glasses and all — my prayer is "Lord, that I may see." I pray that I will never lose sight of the responsibility I have to reach out to my family, friends, neighbors and others in need of my help. May I see the need to offer not simply an outstretched hand but a compassionate heart to those in pain. I pray that I will never become blind to the role each of us has in building up the kingdom of God in our own lives and in the life of others. Please help me to see the big picture rather than becoming short-sighted with trivial misunderstandings and disagreements. Let me see clearly that each day I am given is a great and glorious gift from God.

Eileen Marx is a freelance writer from NJ.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Walking on Water

One thing members of the clergy learn very quickly is that trying to preach a sermon that is both good and pleasing to everyone is like trying to walk on water.

After delivering a carefully prepared sermon, a certain visiting preacher stood outside the church alongside the pastor. There he received the usual greetings from many of the people who were filing out.

It was the sort of ritual that occurs every week in many churches. The preacher preaches and the people line up when it's over to shake hands and say, "I enjoyed the sermon." This is just what was happening, until that visiting preacher was confronted by a parishioner who said, "That was a terrible sermon."

Although somewhat befuddled, the clergyman kept his composure, even as he watched the man get back into line so that he could have another shot at him. When the man came up the second time he said, "The stories you told in your sermon were dull and boring. I've been hearing them since I was a little boy."

This time the host pastor tried to redeem the embarrassing situation. He called his guest preacher aside and whispered into his ear, "Pay no mind to that man. He's not very bright. He just repeats what he hears everyone else saying."

There are times when your effort to do the right thing, to make a good job of a sermon or whatever it is you are called to do, is difficult and frustrating. This is true in my life and in your life, too.

Trying to be a good mother or father, trying not to hold a grudge, trying to kick some awful habit, trying to deal with a serious illness, trying to come to terms with the terrible grief that follows the loss of a loved one — all can seem as impossible as trying to walk on water. We feel nothing solid underfoot. We have the terrible sensation of being sucked down into dark depths.

During these hard times you might think about that scene from the New Testament where Jesus amazed and terrified his disciples by walking on the water. Peter and the others were so afraid that Jesus had to calm them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." When Peter asked Jesus if He would let him do the same thing, Jesus simply said, "Come." And he did.

Then Peter "noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'" (Mt 14:30-33)

The same thing happens to us. When things begin to go against us, when the burden becomes heavy and we feel our spirits sinking, we lose faith. Fear gets in the way. We become convinced that we are attempting the impossible.

If we had to depend on ourselves alone, any tough situation would be beyond us. But when God asks something of us, He is ready to help us to do what seems impossible in our eyes, yet not in His eyes.

So trust Him, hold on — and keep walking.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Seeing as God Sees," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Balancing Sense of Sin With Sense of Worth

Q. *I liked your analysis of mystery in our Catholic newspaper some weeks ago. You pointed out that one cannot attempt to "solve" a mystery of faith by denying or minimizing one part and exaggerating the other.*

The balancing act may not be comfortable or as neat as we would like, but that is the nature of mystery.

However, I'm disturbed about all the warm fuzzies young people hear today about God's love, when we don't hear much about sin and hell.

How do you impart a sense of mystery without minimizing one part? Young people are self-assured, but underneath they, like the rest of us, are engulfed in fears, violence and insane pressures. They're groping for help, not pious platitudes.

Someone wrote that the frenzies of chaos, creation, disobedience, disaster, solitude and evil, rendered bland in churches and synagogues, are restored to terrifying proportions in the half-light of movie theaters.

Why do millions want to sink vicariously with the doomed souls aboard the Titanic? And why do priests today not want to talk about sin?

A: You state very thoughtfully the dilemma everyone faces who wishes to properly represent those two mysteries, the reality of sin and the reality of God's faithful compassion, which in the end are simply facets of the mysteries of good and evil.

I must admit I don't know the solution, and I don't think anyone has the perfect answer. It is often easier to state a problem (and sometimes the problem we state isn't the real one at all) than it is to give a responsible and adequate response.

I believe by far most priests, and I know I am one, sincerely and thoughtfully attempt to bring the Gospel faithfully to people where they are, with our homilies and other teaching opportunities. That we often, or most of the time, do not succeed as we would like I also admit.

After nearly 45 years as a priest, I am convinced that people, including young people, live much of their lives today plagued by fear and hopelessness, and a sense of helplessness against the cosmic evils that pour on us every day.

We do need to acknowledge and speak of sin. The challenge for parents and all of us, however, is to do so in ways that will lead not to more despair, but to hope and holiness, and deeper faith in God.

As one theologian wrote a few years ago, speaking of this responsibility, it does no good to tell people they are drowning. They already know that. What they need is someone to tell them why they shouldn't just go ahead and sink.

It seems to me we sorely need to reflect carefully and prayerfully on how we can faithfully bring the Gospel of Christ to this condition, which results in so much loss and conflict even in our church. Until now, we've hardly begun effectively to do so.

Father John Dietzen is CNS columnist.

Parish Diary

Father Peter Daly

Peace Sign

In every Mass, Catholics turn to one another and wish each other peace. Most of the time this remains only an abstraction, but sometimes the prayer for peace takes on flesh in the behavior of people and the policy of nations. When it does, it deserves to be celebrated.

That is why I want to say one final word about my visit to Costa Rica this summer: "Peace."

Costa Rica is a unique example in the Western Hemisphere of Christian teaching in action. This small country, about the size of West Virginia, with a population of 3.2 million, is living the Scriptural goal of beating swords into plowshares.

For the last 50 years, Costa Rica has not had a military. It abolished the army in 1948 following a failed military coup. The nation is totally neutral.

The money saved by not having a military is wisely spent on two important needs, health care and education.

As a result Costa Ricans have a life expectancy of 76 years for women and 72 for men, nearly equal to the United States, and a literacy rate of 93 percent, higher than the United States (U.S. Department of State statistics).

Education and health care are universally available to every citizen, paid for by a social security tax.

Just walking down the street you can see the difference. In Costa Rica you see none of the groups of children begging or idle, or the crippled and lame children often seen in Africa or the Middle East as a result of war or disease or lack of schools. While Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador literally have been bleeding to death in civil wars and military-sponsored terrorism, Costa Rica has been living peacefully only a few miles away.

The result is that people want to go to Costa Rica. It has twice as much tourism as any of its neighbors.

While I was in Costa Rica, the town councils of a few Nicaraguan villages along the border actually voted to secede from Nicaragua and join Costa Rica. Great is the attraction of peace and prosperity.

How has this happened? I don't presume to know. But I see that the ethic of peace takes the same kind of promotion and praise that we give to our military.

For example, in Costa Rica, instead of signing off the broadcast day with symbols of military power, the local television signs off with pictures and songs of peace: families together, school children playing, fathers holding babies and crops being harvested.

On roads and bridges I saw plaques which pointed out that the improvement was the "fruit of peace" and that the country could not afford it if it had to pay for a military.

Peace is even advertised. As you enter San Jose from the airport, there is a big billboard on the main street that proclaims, "La Paz comienza en nuestros hogares" (Peace begins in our homes).

Real peace takes real risks. But the sign is right. Peace does begin in our homes and churches. Our sign of peace is more than a gesture, it is our prayer and the Lord's will.

Father Peter Daly is a CNS columnist.

The Church As Your Beneficiary

By JIM KELLEY
Diocesan Director of Development

As Catholics, we share the commitment to serve Christ here in the Charlotte Diocese. Regardless of whether we are single, married, or raising a family, or planning for retirement, another commitment we share is to help our family and other loved ones along the way.

So, from a realistic financial point, how can we honor both commitments? One of the first ways is to realize that neither commitment takes away from the other. In fact, they complement one another.

Throughout our lives, we work to take care of ourselves and those we hold dear. Through stewardship, we reaffirm our love for, and abiding faith in, God and the church.

Expand Giving Options

Each individual brings his or her talent, energy and resources to the work of the church. We are stewards of material possessions as well: cash, certain securities and bonds, some mutual funds, real estate, and personal property.

Yet you may be surprised at the variety of other assets that make welcome gifts to your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agencies, the diocese or the diocesan Foundation. Although cash gifts and gifts by will may be more familiar, other cash-giving vehicles can be just as effective and practical if you:

- Have a savings account at a bank, credit union, or savings and loan association.
- Use certificates of deposit (CDs) as part of your savings strategy.
- Own life insurance policies or commercial annuities through life insurance companies, banks, or other financial institutions.
- Have a retirement or pension account.

Retaining Control And Rights

The safety of your accounts, policies, and annuities will not be threatened should you choose to make them payable to support Catholic causes when you no longer have a need for the funds. You will maintain complete control of, and access to, the principal, interest, and earnings from these accounts and policies.

For example, you may be interested in creating what is referred to as a "trust savings account" the next time you make a savings deposit or purchase a CD.

This simple agreement permits you to retain all rights to the principal in your account and all income it earns. At death, whatever remains in the account goes to your choice of parish, Catholic school, Catholic agencies, the diocese, or the diocesan Foundation.

In fact, your financial institution may also be able to put your account in your name with the designation of "in trust for" or "P.O.D.' (pay on death) to the church. You may have heard this type of arrangement referred to as a "Totten Trust," which may be loosely compared to owning your account jointly with the church. During life, you have full control and access, with any money in the account at death going directly for church use.

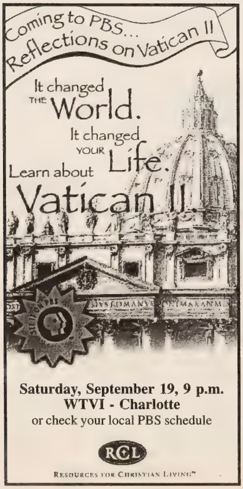
Ask a representative of your financial institution or life insurance company about methods available to you for naming a charitable beneficiary. Additionally, we are available to help you explore giving options as a way to continue your loving support of the work of Jesus. Please contact me or my associate, Cindy Rice, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203, (704) 370-3301 or 370-3320.

Catholic Digest Opens 1998-99 Poster Contest For Kids

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — For the third year in a row, Catholic Digest magazine is sponsoring a poster contest to help kids show by artwork what they can do to make the world a better place. The annual Kids Care Too! Poster Contest is open to children in kindergarten through eighth grade and will be judged in three categories: kindergarten through grade 2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8. The deadline for entries is Dec. 1.

Winners will receive cash awards, with matching awards going to their favorite charity. The winners, along with their parishes and schools, will be featured in Catholic Digest.

For contest rules and information, write Kids Care Too!, c/o Catholic Digest, 2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1081, or call (651) 962-6724, or visit www.CatholicDigest.org.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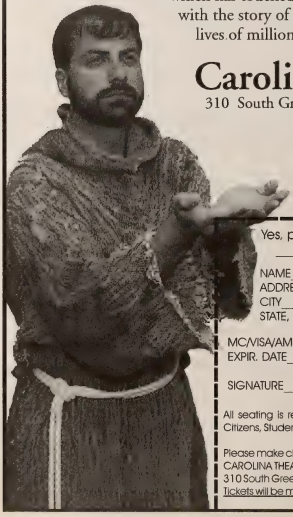

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Entertainment

CNS photo from Warner Bros.

Actor Ralph Fiennes portrays John Steed in the action-adventure "The Avengers." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Wholesome Entertainment In "Air Bud: Golden Receiver"

By HENRY HERX

NEW YORK (CNS) — Last summer's talented canine basketball star turns into a gridiron sensation in the pedestrian sequel, "Air Bud: Golden Receiver" (Dimension). The story centers on eighth-grader Josh (Kevin Zegers) who becomes concerned when his widowed mom (Cynthia Stevenson) starts dating the town's new veterinarian (Gregory Harrison).

When the junior high football coach (Robert Costanzo) discovers Josh has a good throwing arm, he adds him to the squad. But when he discovers Josh's dog, Buddy, can snag any pass and scamper for the goal, the coach relies on Buddy to turn his inept team of losers into state champions.

Complicating matters are a hammy pair of comic villains (Nora Dunn and Perry Anzilotti) who are stealing talented animals for a Russian circus and become determined to make Buddy its star attraction.

The dognappers succeed on the eve of the championship game, but Buddy easily outwits them and gets to the stadium when his team needs him most.

Directed by Richard Martin, the story is an artificial mix of dog antics, a boy troubled over his mom's possible remarriage and some broad comic relief that doesn't jell with anything.

The halting, slow-paced results offer some wholesome entertainment, including the message that school sports are for fun and not the glory of winning. But all that really matters here are the gridiron antics of its four-legged star.

Though patience is required as the padded story unfolds, there are enough scenes of the golden receiver to delight juveniles of all ages.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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Movies Online

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Exorcist" (1974)

Strong screen version of the William Blatty novel about the demonic possession of a young girl (Linda Blair) and the attempts of two priests (Jason Miller and Max von Sydow) to exorcise the devil from her. Directed by William Friedkin, the movie is on shaky ground theologically and its special effects are horrific but the result is an exciting horror fantasy for those with strong stomachs. Its graphic violence, obscene references and foul language make it strictly adult fare. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Men With Guns" (1998)

Powerful drama of a troubled Latin American country where an idealistic physician (Federico Luppi) sets out to visit the novice doctors he had trained to care for the rural poor, but he despairs after finding they have been killed or driven off by soldiers or guerrillas, though his selfless example comes to inspire others. Writer-director John Sayles explores the spiritual strengths and human weaknesses of people struggling to survive the calamities of civil war. Subtitles. Brief violence and occasional rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Napoleon" (1997)

Colorful talking-animal picture of a young puppy (voice of Jamie Croft) in Sydney, Australia, who gets carried away by hot-air balloons into the outback, where he learns the wonders and dangers of the wilderness while making his way home with the help of some friendly animals. Directed by Mario Andreacchio, the puppy's adventures include some scary moments along the way, but his mostly happy encounters with an exotic variety of Australian wildlife will appeal especially to young children and animal lovers. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Niagara Niagara" (1998)

Tortured tale of runaway teen lovers (Robin Tunney and Henry Thomas) turns into tragedy when the girl runs out of her Tourette's Syndrome medication and substitutes liquor and pills in a vain attempt to take the edge off her wild outbursts.Directed by Bob Gosse, the formula road movie evokes some sympathy for the afflicted teen in what is otherwise a tired story of outcasts on the run. Brief sexual encounters, much substance abuse, frequent profanity and continuous rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Artisan, rental)

"The Real Blonde" (1998)

Scattershot romantic comedy about a fashion make-up artist (Catherine Keener) and her live-in love, a struggling actor (Matthew Modine), whose relationship is tested by new romantic interests. Writer-director Tom DiCillo is better at mocking the superficial worlds of fashion and entertainment than in developing interesting central characters. Sexual situations with occasional nudity, frequent rough language and intermittent profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"A Sunday in the Country" (1985)

Warm, insightful French production about a Sunday in the spring of 1912 when an aged artist (Louis Ducreux) in his country home near Paris is visited by his dull son, even duller wife and their three lively children, then are joined by the painter's unmarried daughter (Sabine Azema) who is the old man's delight. Though nothing out of the ordinary occurs, director Bertrand Tavernier's marvelously discerning study of family relationships probes the bafflements and complexities of human love and ambition. Subtitles. Various levels of enjoyment for all ages. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Village of Dreams" (1998)

Lyric Japanese movie about 8-year-old identical twin brothers whose family in 1948 moves to a rural village where, treated as outsiders, the lonely boys spend their free time exploring the surrounding countryside whose wonders spark their imagination and drawing abilities, eventually leading both to successful careers as artists. Director Yoichi Higashi has created a compelling, impressionistic picture of childhood, beautifully photographed with often poetic, sometimes surreal imagery as the brothers engage in pranks, enjoy fishing and skinny dipping, experience the cruelty of other children and have brief encounters with the spirits of nature and Japanese mythology. Subtitles. Sexual references and occasional nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"We all need mentors who lead and guide us ..."

Pastor Reflects On Brother Priests' Contributions

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CLEMMONS — At 55, Father Frank O'Rourke is more than a decade away from being eligible to retire from administrative pastoral duty. So as the Diocese of Charlotte's annual priests' retirement and benefits collection approaches, his thoughts turn more to those clergy who have made an impact on his life — and the life of the church in western North Carolina.

"In my years as a priest, I have experienced many blessings," the pastor of Holy Family Church in Clemmons recently told parishioners in a parish newsletter. "One blessing is to share a special bond of friendship, a fraternity with other priests."

Father O'Rourke said he has a special place in his heart for elder priests who have ministered in the diocese. "We all need mentors who lead and guide us by example," he explained. "One of the priests who inspired me is Father Tom Walsh," his predecessor as pastor of Holy Family Church.

Father Walsh ministered in Clemmons from 1990 until he retired from administrative duty in the summer of 1996. Ordained in May 1953, Father Walsh served in parishes and in other administrative roles throughout North Carolina for more than 40 years. He now resides in Allegany, N.Y.

"In coming here upon his retirement, I recall feeling very comfortable picking up where Father Tom left off," Father O'Rourke said. "His good sense and good judgment, willingness to explore options, desire to be faithful to the teachings of the church, and a compassion for others have long been qualities that identified him as a good priest."

Father O'Rourke has experienced Father Walsh's legacy of kindness for more than two decades. "When I was ordained in 1975 he welcomed me, and has been a mentor of special virtue and character," he said.

Father Walsh is among the retired clergy whose needs are met in large part by the annual priests' retirement and benefits collection, scheduled this year for Sept. 12-13.

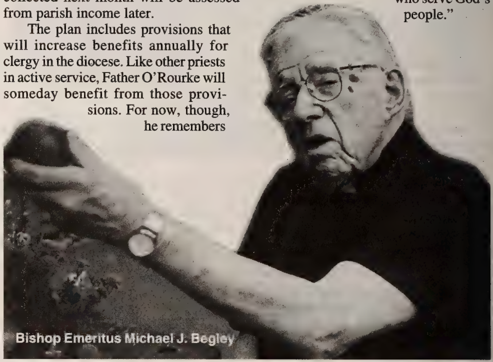
Proceeds will perpetuate the diocese's clergy retirement plan, enhanced last year in consideration of increasing health care, housing and other costs of living. Retired diocesan priests receive monthly benefits, and a percentage of the collection goes to retirement funds of religious orders whose priests serve in the diocese.

The average retirement age for priests in this diocese is 70.

This year's collection target is $645,879. Each parish and mission has been assigned 3 percent of its annual offertory as its goal; what funds are not collected next month will be assessed from parish income later.

The plan includes provisions that will increase benefits annually for clergy in the diocese. Like other priests in active service, Father O'Rourke will someday benefit from those provisions. For now, though, he remembers those who served before him.

"I hope you will respond generously, seeing the face of Father Tom and those priests who have inspired you on your journey of faith," he told parishioners, asking that they join him in praying that retired priests "receive the hundred-fold promised for those who serve God's people."



Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley

Rev. P. Patrick Gavigan

Photos by Joann Keane

Diocese of Charlotte Retired Priests

Most Rev. Michael J. Begley
Bishop Emeritus
Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Rd.
High Point, NC 27260

Rev. Ramon Berg
2450 Morgan Mill Rd.
Brevard, NC 28712

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Burke
207 Eagle Rd.
Belmont, NC 28012

Rev. Msgr. Arthur Duncan
Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Rd.
High Point, NC 27260

Rev. Vincent Erb
Regency Park Towers #813
1001 Easton Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Rev. P. Patrick Gavigan
Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Rd.
High Point, NC 27260

Rev. Joseph Kelleher
148 St. Dorothy's Lane
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Rev. Conrad Kimbrough
620 S. Ellis St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Rev. Edmund D. Kirsch
3515 Golf Haven Terrace
Sebring, FL 33872

Rev. Msgr. Anthony Kovacic
411 Dogwood Lane
Belmont, NC 28012

Rev. Bernard Manley
28 Edgemont Rd., #14
Asheville, NC 28801

Rev. Joseph McCarthy
Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Rd.
High Point, NC 27260

Very Rev. Richard T. McCue
P.O. Box 153
Hampton, NH 03842

Rev. Guy Morse
c/o Adele O'Connell
794 Park Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

Rev. Edward O'Dougherty
Tubbercurry, Sligo, Ireland

Rev. Charles Reese
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Niceville, FL 32578

Rev. Msgr. John Roueche
590 Central Dr.
Southern Pines, NC 28387

Rev. Edward Sullivan
3400 Eastern Blvd. H-9
York, PA 17402

Rev. Thomas Walsh
12 N. 6th St.
Allegany, NY 14706

Providing For The Future Of Retired Priests

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

In an interview with The Catholic News & Herald, Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the diocese, talked about the priests retirement policy and about changes affecting the annual collection.

In just a few weeks, the Annual Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection will be in the hands of members of the Diocese of Charlotte. During the weekend of September 12-13, this second collection asks for our generosity.

What is the retirement fund?

The priest retirement fund provides monthly retirement benefits for our retired priests. It's more than a retirement plan; this is our way of providing for the priests who have served us faithfully for so many years.

Is this retirement fund for all the priests — diocesan and the many order priests serving our faith needs?

Each of our retired diocesan priests receive monthly benefits through this plan. And, as you mention, the diocese is blessed with the service of many different religious order priests. Therefore, we also help support the retirement funds of the represented orders. Our diocesan contribution to these religious orders also comes from this annual collection.

How do you determine the amount needed to fund the retirement plan?

In much the same way as most retirement plans. In our case, an actuarial firm (hired by the diocese) performs an actuarial valuation of the plan from which the amount needed is derived. This involves projecting the future retirement benefits of all diocesan priests based on anticipated benefit levels and the projected years of retirement. Essentially, we are providing for the future retirement of those priests who are currently working. This insures the funds will be available when a priest becomes eligible for retirement benefits.

This annual retirement collection was revised last year; why the change?

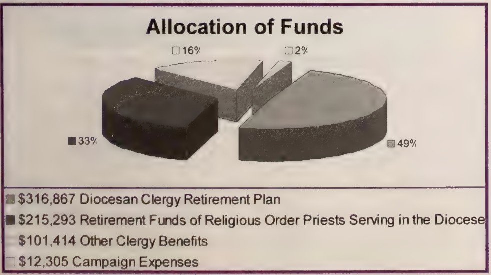
In an effort to better meet the needs of retired diocesan priests; we first examined and addressed a much-needed cost of living increase, which now is adjusted annually based on the consumer price index. The increased collection also provides a substantially larger contribution to the retirement funds of the religious orders serving in the diocese. To help raise these needed funds, the total amount was assigned to each parish in the diocese based on 3 percent of their annual offertory.

How was the response to that collection?

Our response rate was not where it needed to be, as we received about half of the necessary amount.

What does that mean? And how do you deal with a shortage in the goal?

Last year, the shortage was collected from parish funds. This year, the same plan is in effect, and we are asking our faithful of the diocese to be as generous as possible. A healthy collection lessens the impact to an individual parish.



Priests Continue To Serve Church Past Retirement Age

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

LEXINGTON — Father Joseph Kelleher likens himself to the Energizer bunny: At age 70, he's still going, and going and going.

Father Kelleher, who officially "retired" in June, is now administrator of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton and continuing his duties as chaplain of Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem.

"I'll celebrate a Mass for freshmen on Sept. 8, then say Mass to open the school year on Sept. 10," he said. "I still truly enjoy ministering to the students."

As the longest-ordained priest in service for the Diocese of Charlotte (he will celebrate his 45th anniversary in December), Father Kelleher knows firsthand about the duties of ministry.

"The role of priests is to give God, Christ, and the church a human face," he said.

With the shortage of clergy that exists today, Father Kelleher is committed to serving Bishop William G. Curlin and the people of the Diocese of Charlotte as long as there is a need. "You never cease to be a priest," he said. "You always have concern for the salvation of souls."

"When I get to heaven, I'll keep on working too," he joked.

Father Kelleher's passion is that he loves ministering to the church family. "I'm addicted to people," he said.

Like Father Kelleher, Jesuit Father Robert Paquet is not thinking about ceasing to be an active priest even though he is well past retirement age.

"I'll be 82 next week (on Sept. 2)," he said. "It's never dawned on me about retiring. I want to keep doing priestly work."

Father Paquet, who is beginning his 10th year in residence at St. Peter Church in Charlotte, still maintains a full schedule. He celebrates 5 p.m. Sunday Mass each week, hears confessions every Wednesday, makes regular hospital and nursing home calls, and visits the homebound. He calls the time spent with others good for the soul.

"Sometimes I come out more refreshed than the patient," he said.

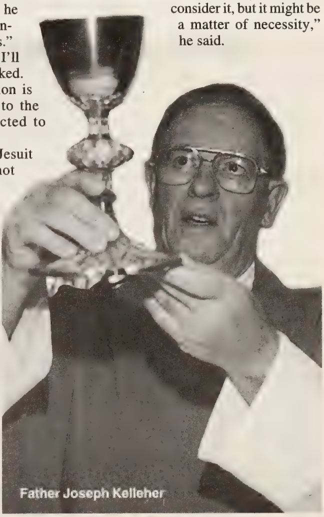
Ordained to the priesthood in 1945, Father Paquet spent his early years of ministry teaching at Jesuit high schools in Philadelphia, Scranton, Pa., and outside Washington, D.C. His parish work included ministering to churches in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Londontown, Md.

Before coming to Charlotte, he also spent 2 1/2 years serving the Raleigh Diocese at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Ahoskie, N.C.

"The parish had two missions, one in Plymouth 45 miles away, the other in Scotland Neck 35 miles," Father Paquet said. "The other priest and I split the duties. I traveled about 10,000 miles a year (between the churches)."

Father Paquet termed his years at St. Peter's "very rewarding" thus far. "I've received much inspiration from the parishioners and from people from other parishes I've met," he said.

Even though retiring is not a priority, Father Paquet admits it is on the horizon — someday. "I won't consider it, but it might be a matter of necessity," he said.


Father Joseph Kelleher

> "The role of priests is to give God, Christ and the church a human face."
>
> – Father Joseph Kelleher

People In The News

McCorvey, 'Jane Roe' Of '73 Abortion Ruling Fame, Now A Catholic

DALLAS (CNS) — Norma McCorvey received the sacraments of holy Communion and confirmation and was fully accepted into the Catholic Church at a private Mass Aug. 17 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Dallas. McCorvey, who was the "Jane Roe" of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision in 1973 that legalized most methods of abortion, was joined by approximately 60 of her family members and close friends from her pro-life involvement. Dominican Father Edward Robinson, who instructed McCorvey for nearly two months, concelebrated the Mass with Father Frank Pavone, international director of Priests For Life and a major player in McCorvey's conversion to Catholicism.

U.S. Nun Wins Honorary Title Of Citizen In Sao Paulo, Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS) — U.S. Holy Cross Sister Angela Mary Carey has received the honorary title of citizen of Sao Paulo. Sister Carey, a Chicago native, has lived in Sao Paulo since 1965 and works with underprivileged children in one of the slums of the city. "It is very moving to be chosen to be a citizen of a city which I love," Sister Carey said at the Aug. 17 ceremony. The nun said the title is also a recognition of her work at the Youth Education and Orientation Center in the slum known as Favela 20. The center, founded in 1978 by Sister Carey and a sociologist, Luis Carlos Santos, helps children stay away from violence and drugs by offering ballet classes, theater workshops and a soccer school.

Nun Says Needle Exchange For Addicts Makes Sense

PATERSON, N.J. (CNS) — Sister Christine Reyelt, a New Jersey physician, says she supports the idea of needle exchange programs for drug addicts as a way to limit the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. From her perspective as a nun, a doctor, and medical director of a care center for people with HIV and AIDS at St. Joseph Hospital in Paterson, well-implemented medical exchange programs make good sense, she said. "Do we want these people to die because of their addiction?" asked the nun, a Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth, in an interview with The Beacon, Paterson's diocesan newspaper.

From 'Terrible' To 'Holy' Twin Priests A First For South Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — When Father Wayne Dawson was ordained a priest in Cape Town, he and his brother, Redemptorist Father Ivan Dawson, became the first twin priests in the South African church. "In the neighborhood we were known as the 'Terrible Twins'; now we are called the 'Holy Twins,"' Father Wayne said. Archbishop Lawrence Henry of Cape Town ordained Father Wayne July 11 at Holy Redeemer Parish in Cape Town. Father Ivan — who for the past two years worked in Kansas City, Mo., and previously in Portland, Ore. — attended his twin's ordination with a small delegation of American priests and friends. Father Ivan was ordained a Redemptorist priest at the same church in 1995.

Prison Time May Yield New Cause For Nun Jailed For SOA Protest

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Living in prison is a learning experience, according to Sister Rita Steinhagen. "The longer we are here, the smaller the place gets," Sister Steinhagen said in a telephone interview with The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, from the Federal Prison Camp in Pekin, Ill. Sister Steinhagen, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and 24 others who protested at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Ga., on Nov. 16, 1997, were sentenced to serve six months for trespassing. Now she has a second cause to protest: the U.S. prison system. "What is ludicrous about this is that this is a misdemeanor," she said.

Catholic Editorialists Take Clinton To Task

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic editorialists took President Clinton to task following his belated acknowledgment that he had an improper relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Some editorialists also challenged the American people to regain a moral compass and demand a higher standard of both themselves and their leaders. "Unless Americans are willing to affirm their own moral underpinnings, we can guarantee that they will be betrayed again," said The Evangelist, diocesan newspaper of Albany, N.Y. "Polls show that large numbers of Americans are not bothered by perjury, don't think adultery is damaging, find nothing wicked with a boss having sex with an intern, and bear no ill feelings toward someone who pointed at them and lied in a tone of voice that implied it was they who were doing something wrong," the editorial said.

CNS photo from ABC

God Squad Looked At To Help 'Good Morning America'

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — ABC is looking at the "God Squad" to help pull its struggling morning show, "Good Morning America," out of the ratings doldrums. The God Squad — Msgr. Thomas Hartman of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., and Reform Rabbi Marc Gellman of Temple Beth Torah in Dix Hills, N.Y. — are part of what "Good Morning America" executive producer Shelley Lewis called part of "an incredible cast of experts, of family members" available to hosts Lisa McRee and Kevin Newman. Msgr. Hartman and Rabbi Gellman have been discussing religious issues on both the weekday and Sunday versions of "Good Morning America" since 1995. They appear about every other Sunday on the Sunday version, and about 20 times a year on the weekday version. They are also frequent guests on Don Imus' nationally syndicated morning radio program.

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Farmers On Strike Demand Apology After Cardinal Charges 'Terrorism'

By JONATHAN LUXMOORE

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Striking Polish farmers, who have blocked roads and railways, demanded an apology from Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Warsaw after he accused them of "terrorism."

"The primate's words prove he's ill-informed about the agricultural situation," a Solidarity Farmers Union leader, Roman Wierzbicki, told Poland's Gazeta Wyborcza daily.

"It's the government's behavior toward farmers that should be called terrorism. If something is agreed at a common table and the agreement isn't implemented, then farmers are left desperate," Wierzbicki said.

He was reacting to a homily given Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption, by Cardinal Glemp in which he vigorously criticized the protesters before a crowd of 250,000 pilgrims at the national Marian shrine of Jasna Gora.

"Hasn't something gone wrong in the consciences of farmers, when they can gaze with such equanimity on destroyed crops?" Cardinal Glemp asked. "Hundreds of people are being made to waste their time, tools and health. This is the beginning of terrorism — forcing benefits for oneself through the innocent suffering of others. Democracy isn't like this," he said.

Farmers began sporadic protests in late July, with backing from sections of the Solidarity union, demanding additional outlets for selling produce and a reduction in harvest imports from abroad. Polish government officials canceled talks with strike leaders Aug. 20 and warned that protesters could face criminal charges unless roads were reopened. However, strikers threatened a nationwide blockade if no negotiations were held by Aug. 28.

Poland's Rzeczpospolita daily reported Aug. 21 that a farmer had hanged himself at Malbork after waiting in line for two days in an unsuccessful attempt to sell his crops.

Although farming employs a quarter of working-age Polish adults, it fails to meet the economic needs of 80 percent of rural families, according to a 1998 report by the Polish church's agriculture committee.

Rural poverty levels are twice as high those of the city, and nearly half of all households depend on state pensions and benefits.

A Catholic Church commission, chaired by Auxiliary Bishop Roman Andrzejewski of Wloclawek, has helped fund irrigation schemes and other village projects.

However, with most farmers working in uncompetitive units of less than 12 acres, only a third of country people have said they have any confidence in government programs.

In several messages, Pope John Paul II has recognized the hardships accompanying market reforms and urged rural communities to defend their interests together.

Speaking Aug. 20, the leader of Poland's militant farmers "Self-Defense" movement, Andrzej Lepper, said he was demanding an apology from Cardinal Glemp during the country's early September Harvest Festival.

Statement on Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students and Personnel

Schools in the Diocese of Charlotte, mindful of their primary mission as effective instruments of the education ministry of the Church, and witnesses to the love of Christ for all persons, shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, physical condition, national or ethnic origin in the employment of personnel and administration of the educational policies, admission policies, loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.

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Seminar Helps Put Face On Prison Ministry

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — Bill Matevie, chaplain for Mecklenburg County Jail North, has a career with limitless demands, a job that can be an emotional roller coaster. Yet Matevie, like so many others in prison ministry, is driven by the Gospel — to give comfort and love to society's outcasts.

"I read from a Bible that tells me to love everyone," said Matevie, who coordinates prison ministry for the Charlotte Diocese and recently conducted a prison/jail ministry seminar at the Catholic Conference Center.

Volunteers and representatives from throughout the diocese attended the all-day event which focused on the theme, "Putting a Face on Prison Ministry." Several speakers presented unique perspectives on the ministry — chaplain, volunteer, family member and inmate.

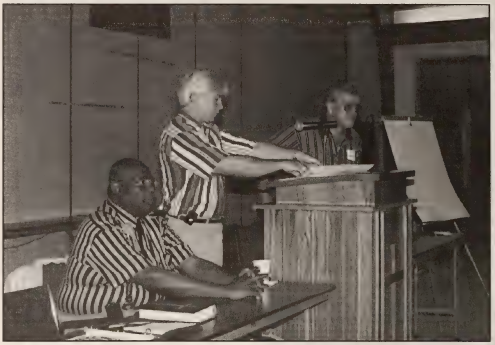
Photo by Kathy Schmugge
Prison chaplains Tyrone Scott, Charlie Davis and Bill Matevie address volunteers at the "Putting a Face on Prison Ministry" seminar held recently at the Catholic Conference Center.

Charlie Davis, who played running back for the Washington Redskins in the 1960s, gave gripping testimony about his job as a chaplain for the state prison in Charlotte. "People need to be lifted up when they are at their lowest point. A simple card can get a person through the day," Davis said, illustrating how little things can have a profound effect on someone who is incarcerated.

The state prison chaplain told several heartbreaking stories where inmates turned their lives around in prison, only to find themselves back behind bars soon after their release. Although such events can be discouraging, Davis impressed upon volunteers that the smallest act of kindness has an impact, even when it is not apparent. Through the years, the prison official has recognized his limitations and learned to find joy in the little successes. "I have a sense of accomplishment when I can say, 'For this moment I am able to give to this inmate what he needs from God,'" he said.

One of the most compelling testimonials came from "Kim", a former inmate who spent over two years in prison for a drug-related offense. The soft-spoken young woman conveyed her life's tragedies and successes, taking full responsibility for her fate. "If you have quiet moments, God will talk to you. He tried to talk to me but I wasn't ready to listen. I was too busy and always on the run. When I went to prison, I had no other choice but to hear Him," she said, adding the experience was necessary for her spiritual awakening.

Kim also made a plea for those still in jail who desperately need the volunteers to help them find God in their lives. "The reason that I am redeemable is not the fact that I am 'out', but that I am alive and breathing. Never give up hope," she said, choking back her emotions.

Kim attributed her success on the "outside" to two people, the volunteer who taught her computer skills and Matevie, who comforted her when her grandmother died and she was unable to attend the funeral. "I couldn't even say good-bye to her, but Bill Matevie was there for me," she said, wiping away tears. "In this life you have to touch people, or what does living mean?"

Discussion also centered on the "them" versus "us" attitudes which build walls between inmates and the rest of society. "The only difference between 'them' and 'us' is that they got caught," said Dennis O'Madigan, a St. Leo the Great Church parishioner in Winston-Salem. The attorney became a prison ministry volunteer 20 years ago after seeing someone sentenced to life in prison.

"We are all called to be compassionate and forgiving to one another, yet at the same time, recognize that there must be consequences for our actions." Matevie said. The chaplain sees the ministry as a vocation which provides many ways for individuals to touch the lives of those in prison or jail, making it a place where a searching soul can hear God.

Sundays Offer Christians Glimpse Of Eternal Life, Says Pope

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — By keeping Sunday holy, Christians can remind themselves of Christ's resurrection and of their own future in the next world, Pope John Paul II said.

Speaking during a Sunday blessing Aug. 23 at his summer residence, the pope said Sunday should give people a glimpse of eternal salvation. It is the day that "reveals the sense of time" to Christians, he said.

"Every day, each one of us is forced to realize how quickly the time of one's life slips away. And while we look at the great periods of history, how can we help but ask ourselves about our future, about what awaits us, about the frontier we're moving toward?" he asked.

He said the Christian should be heartened by knowing that Christ has given to time a new and positive meaning, which in a sense conquers the trials and risks of mortality.

"Christ is stronger than sin and death! And Sunday, by constantly reminding of his resurrection, is a down payment on the future — a consoling certainty and a prophetic reference to the day in which Christ will come in glory," he said.

Reflecting a point he made in his recent document on Sunday, the pope said the faithful will have a better sense of their own identity as Christians if they meet their obligation of attending Sunday Mass.

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Remember Roots Of Labor Day, Bishop Urges

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The backyard barbecues celebrating Labor Day are an appropriate place for remembering the roots of the holiday and the continuing need to protect workers' rights, according to the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Domestic Policy Committee.

"The low-wage workers who cleaned the chickens and picked the strawberries for our Labor Day feast probably cannot afford to purchase the fruits of their labors," wrote Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., in his committee's annual Labor Day statement.

Most agricultural workers, as well as janitors, window cleaners, hotel housekeepers and workers in health and child care "have no pension other than Social Security and no health insurance," he noted.

Americans who question whether workers need to organize in this country any longer fail to see the true situation, Bishop Skylstad said.

"Many migrant farmworkers lack not only a decent wage, health care and retirement benefits, but some live in wretched housing, contend with dangerous machinery, handle hazardous farm chemicals and work long hours," he wrote.

"These seasonal crop workers — those who pick the strawberries, melons, apples and other picnic delights — are especially vulnerable to exploitation because of their mobility and tough new immigration laws."

Quoting from Pope John Paul II's 1981 encyclical, "Laborem Exercens," ("On Human Work"), Bishop Skylstad noted that the church supports the right of workers to form unions and bargain collectively.

"The experience of history teaches that organizations of this type are an indispensable element of social life, especially in modern industrialized societies," the pope wrote. Referring to previous U.S. bishops' statements on labor, Bishop Skylstad noted that just as Catholic teaching calls on employers to treat their workers with dignity and respect, laborers and unions must not just seek economic gain but contribute to the common good.

CNS photo by Mimi Forsyth

A farmworker plants pineapples in a field in Hawaii. Americans mark Labor Day Sept. 7.

"Catholic teaching challenges them to see their work as part of their Christian vocation to transform the world in the light of the Gospel," he said.

He quoted the U.S. bishops in their 1986 pastoral letter "Economic Justice for All": "Workers must use their collective power to contribute to the well-being of the whole community and should avoid pressing demands whose fulfillment would damage the common good and the rights of more vulnerable members of society."

Bishop Skylstad urged people to remember the low-wage laborers who provide food, often by working long hours in horrible conditions.

Issuance Of New Ruthenian Church Laws Delayed

By JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At the Vatican's request Archbishop Judson M. Procyk of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh has "postponed until a later date" the issuance of new legislation governing the Ruthenian Catholic Church in the United States.

In a letter to his priests the archbishop said the Vatican Congregation for Eastern-Rite Churches asked for more time "to evaluate, review and consider" the 59 statutes, which had been slated to take effect Sept. 1.

He did not say whether any specific statute caused Vatican concern, but news reports on the statutes had focused on one which declares that marriage will no longer be an obstacle to priestly ordination in the U.S. Ruthenian Church.

One report appearing on the Internet misrepresented the decision as a unilateral move by the Ruthenian bishops without Vatican authorization. In fact Archbishop Procyk promulgated the new laws only after he had submitted them to Rome and received the required notice of reception from the Congregation for Eastern-Rite Churches.

The statutes cover many other facets of church life as well, from catechetics to lay apostolate, from diocesan and parish structures to priestly life and ministry, from lay ministry to holy days and days of abstinence.

Father Michael Jude Wytish, archdiocesan communications director, read Archbishop Procyk's letter announcing the delay in the laws to Catholic News Service by phone. He said it was sent to priests of the Pittsburgh Archdiocese Aug. 21.

He said it would be the responsibility of the bishops of the other Ruthenian dioceses — Passaic, N.J.; Parma, Ohio; and Van Nuys, Calif. — to notify their priests and people of the delay.

Asked if the statute paving the way for restoring married clergy in the U.S. Ruthenian Church was the cause of the delay, Father Wytish said that to his knowledge no specific reasons were given.

He said, however, that "it was not the immediate plan of the bishops to ordain married men." He said they approved the statute so that, should they agree in the future to begin accepting married men as priesthood candidates, the legal obstacle would be removed.

Like other Eastern Catholic churches, the Ruthenian Church has a tradition of both married and celibate clergy in its homeland, near the Carpathian Mountains in western Ukraine. Monastic clergy are celibate, but typically most parish clergy are married.

Large numbers of Ruthenian Catholics immigrated to the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Latin-rite bishops who objected when married Ruthenian priests arrived to serve the immigrant communities asked Rome to require celibacy for all Ruthenian clergy ordained in the United States or sent to serve there.

The Vatican initially resisted but in 1929 issued a final order requiring celibacy of Ruthenian clergy serving in the United States. The rule was also extended to cover priests of all Eastern rites serving in the West. It has been estimated that the restriction led to the exodus of more than 200,000 U.S. Eastern-rite Catholics to the Orthodox Church.

The new statute notes that the Eastern churches have been directed to return to their original patrimony in all areas of church life. It declares that in accord with that principle the "special restrictive norms" prohibiting married priests will cease to be in force when the new legislation takes effect.

By a series of unusual historical circumstances, the Ruthenian Church is the only Eastern Catholic Church in the United States which has the relatively self-governing status of a church "sui iuris." Others, including the much larger Ukrainian Catholic Church, are linked in their churchwide governance to a patriarchal see or other higher church jurisdiction in their homeland.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Parish Plans "Blast"

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church plans its fifth annual "Blast" for Sept. 20. The event will include food, fun, games for all ages, and a raffle for a four-day cruise to the Bahamas. One-thousand chances will be sold at $5 each. For more information, call (828) 684-6098.

Natural Family Planning

ASHEVILLE — A free introductory session on natural family planning is Sept. 1 from 7:30-9 p.m. at Catholic Social Services, 35 Orange St. Call Ann Mines, (828) 258-8807, for reservations or more information.

Knights Present Holy Angels Foundation With Check

BELMONT — The North Carolina Knights of Columbus recently presented a check for $7,500 to Holy Angels Foundation director Lynne Rayburn. The money was raised through the Knights' annual Operation LAMB fund-raising campaign. Holy Angels, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, provides a variety of care to children and adults with severe mental retardation and physical handicaps.

Mercy Sisters Receive New Members; Another to Profess Vows

BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of North Carolina announced that two women have become new members. Joann Margaret Ury was formally received at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont Aug. 7. Jenette Sevillo will be received Sept. 26 at Mercy Heights Convent in Hagatna, Guam. Both begin a period termed an apostolic novitiate. The Sisters of Mercy also announce that Sister Lisa Atkins will profess final vows Sept. 26 in Belmont.

Ultreya

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, each first Saturday after the 5:15 p.m. Mass. For details, call the parish office at (828) 284-8338.

Natural Family Planning

CHARLOTTE — The Couple to Couple League begins a four-part course on natural family planning Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. For details and to register, call Alex or Maria Muñoz at (704) 849-0891, or Richard or Carmen Cashman at (704) 552-1334.

Retrouvaille

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins Oct. 16. For further information, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Parish Carnival

CHARLOTTE — The annual St. Ann Parish carnival is Sept. 18 from 5-10 p.m. and Sept. 19 from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on church grounds, 3635 Park Rd. Highlights include raffles, rides, bingo, clowns, food and music. A teen dance will take place Sept. 18. Antique and classic automobiles will be at the carnival all day Sept. 19, and Charlotte team mascots will be on hand at lunch time. Raffle prizes include vacations, airline tickets and golf lessons.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated in St. Patrick Cathedral Sept. 13 at 4 p.m. Prayer teams meet at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows the Mass.

Financial Seminar for Surviving Spouses

CHARLOTTE — A financial seminar for men and women whose spouses have died is Sept. 12 from 9-11:30 a.m. at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Daniel J. Taylor, founder of a Charlotte-based financial firm specializing in working with the widowed, facilitates. Future seminars will take place at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on Oct. 10 from 9-11:30 a.m.; and at Huntersville United Methodist Church, 100 Ranson Dr., Huntersville, on Nov. 7 from 9-11:30 a.m. To register for any of these seminars, call Sister Therese Galligan, (704) 362-5047, ext. 216, or Caryn Cusick, (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

Weigh Down Workshop

CHARLOTTE — A 12-week, Bible-based weight loss seminar begins at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., with a free introductory session Sept. 17 at 7:15 p.m. For more information or to register, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

Silver & Golden Anniversary Celebration

CHARLOTTE — Couples married 25 or 50 years in 1998 will be honored at the 19th annual diocesan anniversary Mass and reception on Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. in St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. Bishop William G. Curlin will preside over the Mass. Call your parish office to be included.

Children's Clothing Sale

CLEMMONS — A children's fall and winter clothing sale is Sept. 11 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sept. 12 from 9-11 a.m. (with special items at half-price) at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Maternity, infant and children's clothing, toys and baby equipment will be available. Proceeds will benefit parish and community children's programs. Call (336) 945-4948 for more information.

Crafters Needed For Christmas Bazaar

DENVER — Crafters and artisans are needed to create and sell items for Holy Spirit Church's Christmas bazaar Nov. 21. Tables can be rented for $30 each. For details call Eva Ferrara, (704) 892-4787.

Cursillo Weekend

GREENSBORO — The Men's 50th Annual Cursillo Weekend is at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., Sept. 17-20. The team is seeking support and active involvement from volunteers. If you are a Cursillista and are interested in supporting through prayer and other means, call Tommy Barnhart at (336) 766-0377.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — Marriage Encounter is a weekend experience designed for married couples to strengthen their marriages and deepen their relationships by concentrating on open and intimate communications between husband and wife in an atmosphere of trust and confidence. The next weekends are at the Catholic Conference Center Sept. 18-20 and Nov. 6-8. For more information, call Michael or Stacey Holcomb at (704) 844-8181. For reservations, call Tom or Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

Bishop Meets Parents, Families For Listening Session

HICKORY — Bishop William G. Curlin meets with parents and families of gay and lesbian Catholics to listen to their concerns and personal stories Sept. 6 from 3-5 p.m. in the Catholic Conference Center. For further information, call Sister Judy, (704) 523-0331, or Father Gene McCreesh, (704) 372-6808.

Seniors Day of Reflection

HICKORY — Catholic seniors are invited to a day of reflection Oct. 14 at the Catholic Conference Center. Father Anthony Marcaccio, priest secretary to Bishop William G. Curlin, directs. The event includes a continental breakfast, lunch, fellowship, faith enrichment, and a closing Mass celebrated by Father Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor. Cost is $10. For reservations and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 Monday-Thursday by Oct. 5.

Latin Mass

HIGH POINT — A Latin Mass is celebrated at Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., each first Friday at 7 p.m. The rosary is prayed at 6:30, and Benediction and adoration follow the Mass.

House of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — "The Servant Leadership of Jesus" is a Sept. 18-20 retreat for men. "God's Spirit in Nature" is a Sept. 28-Oct. 4 retreat including daily prayers and reflection that connect with a variety of recreational activities. All retreats are at the Jesuit House of Prayer. To register or receive more information, call (828) 622-7366.

Police Chief to Address Hispanic Community

HIGH POINT — Louis Quijas, High Point police chief, addresses the Hispanic community after the 12:30 p.m. Mass on Sept. 13 at Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Drive. For more information, call the parish office at (336) 884-0244.

Catholic Discussion Program

MOORESVILLE — A discussion program for anyone interested in learning about the Roman Catholic Church and who lives in the vicinity of south Iredell County is each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., beginning Sept. 10. For details, call the parish office at (704) 664-3992.

Parish "Fiesta"

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church, on NC 321 in Newton, hosts "Fiesta '98" Aug. 29 beginning at 7 a.m. Included are a yard sale, rides, food, games, entertainment, petting zoo, crafts, raffles, bingo and a silent auction at 6:30 p.m.

Multicultural Celebration

TAYLORSVILLE — Holy Trinity Church, 665 Main St., sponsors a "multiculture night" Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. The event includes a buffet for a variety of ethnic food samples, and souvenirs and artifacts from a diversity of countries. Admission is free; participants are asked to bring a favorite ethnic dish or one that represents their culture. Call Nick or Mary Baker, (828) 635-8371, for more information.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish, school, agency and organization news briefs and releases for publication in the Diocesan News Briefs page. Please limit submissions to 200 words. The deadline for the News Briefs page is 10 days before the publication date.

Around The Diocese

Young Adults Ministry

ASHEVILLE — A group for young adults aged 20-40 meets at St. Eugene Church, 1 Culvern St., each third Saturday after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Young adults from all Asheville-area parishes are invited.

GREENSBORO — The young adult ministry at Our Lady of Grace Church meets at Helen's House on parish grounds, 2205 West Market St., each first and third Sunday of the month after the 7 p.m. Mass. For more information, call Julia at (336) 856-9664.

WINSTON-SALEM — A young adults group for men and women in their 20s and 30s meets regularly at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St. For details, call Jonathan Lehman at (336) 760-0651.

RCIA Commission Presents Workshops

The RCIA Commission of the Diocese of Charlotte recently conducted workshops on Christian initiation at Sacred Heart Church in Burnsville, St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, St. Barnabas Church in Arden, and St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte. Participants, numbering about 115, were parish coordinators and team members involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process through which men and women enter the Catholic Church. Included were segments devoted to discernment, sponsors, prayer, the lectionary cycle and planning retreats. The commission comprises eight clergy and laypeople involved in RCIA in the diocese.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

Vietnamese Vigil

Vietnamese-American Catholics pray below an image of Our Lady of La Vang on the steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Aug. 21. Thousands gathered for a two-day celebration marking the 200th anniversary of the Marian apparition in Vietnam.

Rule Requiring Championship Play On Sundays Overturned

SUPERIOR, Wis. (CNS) — The NCAA Division I board of directors voted Aug. 11 to amend legislation requiring championship play on Sundays. Reinstatement of the "BYU rule" allows schools with written policies against Sunday competition for religious reasons to inform a particular sports committee before championship competition begins. The championship schedule will then be adjusted to accommodate that institution. However, as part of the amendment to proposal 98-32, the board established a waiver process for sports committees to appeal the rule if they believe the success of the championship might be compromised. On April 22, the NCAA Division I board of directors voted to eliminate the BYU rule, which allowed schools to avoid scheduling championship games on Sundays. Schools such as Mormon-run Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, prohibit their sports teams from competing on Sundays.

Croatian Bishops Stress Importance Of Cardinal's Beatification

ZAGREB, Croatia (CNS) — Croatian bishops released a letter explaining the significance of the beatification of controversial Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac during Pope John Paul II's upcoming pastoral visit. "With this letter, the Croatian bishops wish to emphasize the qualities of the Servant of God that make him worthy for elevation to the altar of the Blessed in the Catholic Church, that have very powerful significance and messages for the present church and general society of our homeland," said Bishop Antun Skorcevic of Pozega, general secretary of the Croatian bishops' conference. He spoke Aug. 14 at a news conference where the letter was issued. The pope is scheduled to visit Croatia Oct. 2-4. The planned beatification of Cardinal Stepinac has caused protest because he initially supported the puppet regime established by the Nazis in Croatia during World War II.

U.S. Church Sees Tragedy In Oregon's First Assisted Suicide Stats

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A state agency's announcement that 10 people have died after requesting assisted suicide under Oregon law "confirms the tragic path on which the practice of medicine and the doctor-patient relationship is headed," the Oregon Catholic Conference said. "Sadly the ministry of health care has been abused by the violation of medical ethics in the killing of terminally ill persons by their physicians," said an Aug. 18 statement from the Portland-based conference, which represents Oregon's Catholic bishops. "We pray for the souls of the deceased," the statement said. "We pray also for the physicians and others who assisted in these suicides that they may reconsider their professional ethics and their participation in these deaths."

Seoul Archbishop Asks Korean Catholics To Aid Flood Victims

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — Archbishop Nicholas Cheong Jin-suk of Seoul has appealed to Catholics to help victims of the flood disaster in South Korea with a spirit of love and sharing. "It is high time for us to remember those who are in great difficulty and to console them," Archbishop Cheong said in an Aug. 15 message for the feast of the Assumption. His remarks were reported by UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Archbishop Cheong's message touched on various national concerns. Early August flooding in various parts of the country, including the Seoul area, left more than 240 people dead or missing and up to 150,000 displaced or homeless.

U.S. Churches Set To Tackle Global Warming Issue

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics will be among Americans of many denominations involved in a strategy to tackle the issue of global warming, the gradual warming of the Earth that scientists say is being caused by the emission of greenhouses gases. Although the U.S. bishops as a conference will not be participating for at least a while, Catholics are part of an effort in the Midwest to organize interfaith efforts in nine states. A Midwest interfaith climate change conference is also scheduled for Oct. 25-26 in Columbus, Ohio, for environmental leaders in the region and to prepare religious environmental leaders to mount a campaign to go beyond the conference.

Havana Catholic Paper Publishes First Edition In Two Years

HAVANA (CNS) — A Catholic publication that disappeared two years ago after its first issue reappeared in mid-August with the promise of becoming a "regular voice for the Catholic Church" in the capital city of Havana. A new edition of Aqui la Iglesia (Here, the Church), which appeared once in early 1996 as the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Havana, was distributed Aug. 16 in several city parishes with a new design and a column by Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino. "From now on, this will be a regular publication that will exist as a permanent contact between the chancery and Catholics in the city," said Eduardo Meza, editor of Aqui la Iglesia. He said Aqui la Iglesia will be distributed on a monthly basis in all Catholic parishes in Havana.

Indian Bishops Express Condolences For Landslide Victims

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India expressed condolences after more than 225 people, including Hindu pilgrims, were killed in a landslide in northern India's Uttar Pradesh state. More than 60 pilgrims to the Hindu holy place of Kailash-Mansarovar, a mountainous area along the Indian-Chinese border, were feared killed when a landslide struck Malpa village, about 175 miles northeast of New Delhi, Aug. 18. "The church prays for the souls of those who perished in the natural calamity," said a bishops' conference spokesman, Father John Vallamattam. He added that most of the dead were "poor villagers and devout Hindus." Father Vallamattam blamed illicit logging for landslides in the state's hill villages and said the disaster was man-made. People and governments should ensure "that they do not upset nature in any way," he added.

Novena For Life Part Of Efforts Against Partial-Birth Abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics throughout the United States are being asked to join in a novena for life from Sept. 7, the vigil of the feast of the birth of Mary, to Sept. 15, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. At least one of the nine days is likely to coincide with debate in the U.S. Senate on overriding President Clinton's veto last October of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. The House overrode the veto July 23 by a 296-132 vote. The "9 Days for Life" novena, prepared by Father James Moroney, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy, asks Mary to bless "all mothers, especially those wearied by life and overcome by the suffering they bear for their children."

Chief Rabbis Appeal To Pope For End To Crosses Dispute

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Israel's chief rabbis appealed to Pope John Paul II for help in solving the dispute over crosses being erected by Polish Catholic activists next to the former Auschwitz concentration camp in southern Poland. Meanwhile, the Polish government announced Aug. 18 that it had canceled the lease on the land, taking legal control of the site in an effort to end the quarrel. Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Meir Yisrael Lau met with a group of priests from the Rome-based San Egidio Community in Jerusalem Aug. 18 and handed them a letter for the pope. He did not make the letter public, saying he wanted the pope to read it first. The San Egidio Community often has been involved in mediating international disputes.

Priests, Sisters Tend To Spiritual Needs Of Circus Family

DALTON, Mass. (CNS) — Father Jerry Hogan's parish is a five-ring circus. Literally. "I do weddings, baptisms and a lot of counseling. I've got the basics you'd have in any parish," said Father Hogan, who for most of the year is the "pastor" for a tight-knit community of Catholics and others who work in the nation's circuses. Father Hogan, a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, is technically an itinerant chaplain paid by the U.S. Catholic Conference. But to the nearly 4,000 Catholic workers in the circus industry, he's their parish priest. "Circus folks are a very family-oriented, closed community. They've been burnt by the stereotype, so they tend to be leery of 'townies' on the outside," he said during a summer visit to the American Legion grounds in Dalton.

Religious Urged To Integrate Social Mission In Parish Life

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — The church's social mission needs to be integrated into parish life, not further isolated, the secretary of social development and world peace for the U.S. bishops told men and women religious meeting in Milwaukee. "The social mission (of the church) helps the parish do more and be more," said John Carr. "We need to integrate, not isolate our social mission." Carr addressed one of the 13 workshops at the triennial joint meeting of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, held Aug. 20-23 in Milwaukee.

CNS photo by Nancy Czabala, New Catholic Miscellany

Miss Teen USA, Vanessa Minnillo (right), talks to reporters alongside first runner-up Jennifer Gilliam. Minnillo, a senior at Bishop England High School in Charleston, S.C., won the teen pageant over 51 other contestants.

Catholic High School Student Crowned Miss Teen USA

By NANCY CZABALA

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — A vibrant senior at a Charleston Catholic high school was crowned Miss Teen USA 1998 Aug. 17 in Shreveport, La.

The Miss Teen USA pageant had been scheduled to air the same day, but was postponed to Aug. 18, due to President Clinton's address.

Vanessa Minnillo, 17, won out over the other 51 contestants, as she answered interview questions and displayed her poise in the bathing suit and evening gown competitions, all while having fun.

A student at Bishop England High School in Charleston, she received scholarship money and a year's contract with a talent agency, a total of cash and prizes worth about $150,000.

After graduating in the spring, Minnillo is headed for college, but she says of her future, "Maybe the big screen one day."

A member of St. Joseph's Parish in Charleston, she is active in sports and takes part in the school's Christian Students Ministering Creatively program, Habitat for Humanity and the Special Olympics. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Junior Beta Club.

As she arrived home at the Charleston International Airport Aug. 19, the teen-ager walked off the plane, on which she said she was bumped up to first class, to TV cameras and cheers from hometown fans.

"It's amazing," said Minnillo, who added that all the excitement of the week began to settle in as she greeted her friends, family and supporters.

She said of winning the pageant: "I won by being me; I'm not going to change."

Her first beauty pageant was the state competition in October of last year.

Catholic Colleges Listed Among Best Christian Colleges

WASHINGTON (CNS) — High school seniors and their parents now have one more book to consult for advice on the best colleges across the country.

A guide called "America's Best Christian Colleges 1999," published by John Culler & Sons in Camden, S.C, lists and describes 87 colleges, including 18 Catholic institutions.

Also making the list were 19 Baptist schools, 11 United Methodist schools, and a handful each of Lutheran, Presbyterian, Mennonite, United Church of Christ, Assemblies of God, interdenominational and other faith-based colleges. The Quakers, Reorganized Latter-day Saints and Free Methodists each had one school on the list.

The selected schools were chosen from a national survey of 1,658 colleges and universities and based on the high school grade point average and scores from the Scholastic Aptitude Test and College Testing Service Exam.

According to the book's introduction, there is no measure to determine that a college or university is Christian. At face value, it notes, it could be hard to tell the difference between public and Christian colleges when both might have chapels on campus or offer religion courses. What sets the schools apart, it says, is that "Christian colleges emphasize the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as an important part of the education of the total person."

The book also answers specific questions regarding Christian colleges, such as: Are students required to attend religious services? No. Are all faculty members of a Christian college members of that denomination? No. Are Christian colleges more strict than public colleges and universities? Maybe yes and maybe no.

The book even offers guidelines on applying for loans and on what to pack for the dorm.

The descriptions of the 87 colleges include statistics such as enrollment figure; student/faculty ration; percentage of faculty with doctorates; in-state/out-of-state mix of student body; tuition fees, names of the president and admissions officer; and address and phone number.

There are also campus photos and a description of the school provided by the institution itself promoting why a prospective student should choose it.

For example, the University of Notre Dame's description notes the college's high emphasis on athletics, but it also says, "There is so much more to Notre Dame than sports."

The Catholic colleges listed include Bellarmine College, Louisville, Ky; Benedictine College, Atchison, Kan.; Carroll College, Helena, Mont.; Gannon University, Erie, Pa.; Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles; Marquette University, Milwaukee; Mercyhurst College, Erie; Mount Marty College, Yankton, S.D.; Providence College, Providence, R.I.; Rockhurst College, Kansas City, Mo.

St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N.Y.; St. Martin's College, Lacey, Wash.; Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, Calif.; Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala.; University of Mary, Bismark, N.D.; University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.; University of San Francisco, San Francisco; and Villanova University, Villanova, Pa.

For information on how to get a copy of, "America's Best Christian Colleges 1999," call the publisher, John Culler & Sons, at (803) 432-2001.

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